



# The Tribune.

(Sanmarga Bodhini.)

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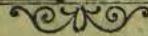
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ATCHUVALY, JAFFNA. SATURDAY JANUARY 29.

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## The Tribune.



ATCHUVALY, JAFFNA,  
SATURDAY, JANUARY 29TH, 1921.

### OUR NATIONAL ASPIRATION.

There is no denying the fact that an irresistible moral wave is passing over India and Ceylon. We are on the eve of a great upsurge. The leaders of the people are imbued with the idea that if we would not lag behind by centuries we should recognise our individuality as a self-contained, distinct unit among the nations of the world. They have caught the modern shibboleth: Progress, and would at all costs move with the times. This is no doubt a legitimate aspiration. The village, the township, the country, the nation—this is the basis of a fellowship as intimate in its coherence as it is sacred in its institution. Whether we will it or no the inexorable law of "the struggle for existence" lays upon us the imperative duty of uniting our forces to maintain our own growth as a people whose lot has been thrown together by the community of certain things. And this constitutes what we call our national aspiration.

It has been sometimes asked: Can India present any solid basis for being welded into a nation? This is a question which betrays lack of the knowledge of what India has actually been throughout past history and what the future has in store for her. It is true that from the point of view of blood India comprises many races. Broadly speaking there are three groups of races: the Aryan, the Dravidian and the Mongolian. But in the course of ages these races have been so far blended, aside from only some hill tribes which are quite a negligible quantity, that what actually obtains as any distinction at all is more of language than of blood. That blood distinction itself gives way before common political interests has been exemplified in such remarkable instances as England and France. The latter nation is the resultant of some fifty races of more or less opposing tendencies. The diversity of languages too yield to the operation of higher interests in cementing different people together as we see in the central powers of Europe. India has indeed had no chance for any extended unification in the past although sporadic efforts in that direction have demonstrated its possibility under the great Asoka before the Christian Era and under the first Moghul rulers in later times. There is a greater object lesson, however, in our own days. It is the India of British times. The unification of India, barring a few states, under the King-Emperor of Great Britain is a *fait accompli* neither blood nor language nor even the caste system and

religious tenets standing in the way. And India is unified not by being thrown in and blended with other units of the empire but as a self-contained unit possessing potentially her own constitution and her self-government. We say potentially for it is a privilege rooted in the very nature of things and if she has now awakened to her sense of a privilege denied to her so long and is demanding self-government within the empire she is demanding the most natural thing in the world.

Now what about the caste system and the variety of religious tenets among the peoples of India? Do these constitute hindrances in the way of India's national unification? Our answer is an emphatic No. Caste division and religious diversity never stood in the way of any single Native State, in divided India being a self-contained, stable political unit. They need not stand in the way of a self-contained, stable, united India. Caste distinction is essential a grouping of trade unions. If in an unguarded hour Indians have made anything more of an otherwise harmless institution and have invested it with a religious aspect and an inhuman tyrannical tendency they have more than paid for it by the long periods of benighted backwardness which they have passed through; but the institution itself, we affirm, has nothing to contribute for or against India's nationhood. Such too is religion. There have been most flourishing kingdoms in India and their condition was not affected by the fact that their subjects professed a variety of faiths so long as internal strife were avoided by the various religionists going their way in peace. Religion has its own sphere. National affairs theirs. What was no hindrance in a self-contained kingdom in India can be no hindrance in a self-contained united India. Local nationalists who fancy that this religion or that will interfere with their aspirations and who cry down certain faiths as inimical to their interests are therefore fighting a man of straw set up by themselves.

### Editorial Note.

**The Council Election.**—The two candidates for the Northern Seat have sent us copies of their manifestoes stating their claims for election and their views on public questions. They have dealt with various questions, one of them being concerned with taxation. This is a very important question on which a very close study should be made. No one has so far studied this question so closely as to say what percentage of the income of the average farmer, trader, artisan, mechanic, clerk or business man, goes to the public exchequer. A valued correspondent to a local paper discusses on direct and indirect taxation including railway tariffs, postal and telegraph rates, court fees and stamps, import and export duties, licensing fees etc. A closer study of these questions is highly desirable and we must be armed not only

with facts but also with figures if we want to convince government of the desirability of revised taxation. We bring this question of taxation as an example to show what an amount of labour a Council Member has to put forth in discussing the various questions. He should not be a mere speaker to the gallery but a keen student of politics, who will be armed with facts and figures.

In sending a representative to the Council, the elector must not be swayed by motives of friendship or favouritism, or by caste or creed prejudices, and must not abuse his sacred right by voting against his conscience. Let him not pass this opportunity of taking part in the administration of his land, voting for the candidate whom he thinks fit to represent people's views and wants to the Council.

### In Search of my Turban.

(By R. S. N.)

One night, our Vishama—a prominent member of Vambar Mahasabha was travelling in Railway 2nd class compartment. He was lying in the lower berth. That day all the compartments were super-crowded. The train stopped in station. "Bloody damn fools" "damn you" were the sweet and melodious words that reached Vishama's ears. Suddenly with a push, Vishama's compartment was opened. In came an Eurasian. "I say, you fellow, I have reserved this compartment, you get out" uttered the Dorai. Vishama coolly took his Chellappetty and began to chew betel leaves. Dorai's anger knew no bounds. The Railway inspector an Indian was in a dilemma. Vishama pretending ignorance of English asked the Inspector in Tamil, what the Dorai says. After hearing his say, Vishama asked him to advise the Dorai to occupy the upper berth or to clear out. With great difficulty, Dorai yielded. Yet he was burning with his original anger. He occupied the upper berth. Little later Vishama pretended sleep. Dorai took Vishama's turban from coat-stand and threw it out. In ecstasy he drank a cup of whisky, puffed a cigarette and really slept. In a few hours Vishama alighted at his destination.

At dawn our Dorai awoke, when he hurried for getting out, he looked for his hat in the coat stand. In its place he found a paper with the following sentence. "Mr. Dorai! your hat has gone in search of my turban."—P.N.

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The following gentlemen have paid their subscriptions for the year:—

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## Local News.

**Weather.**—Heavy rains causing floods occurred on the 17, 18, and 19th Inst. At Vadamaradchy the rains caused great damage to the onions and tobacco plants. Generally in the District the paddy crop ripe for harvest also suffered by the last week's rains.

**His Excellency's Visit** which was postponed on account of the inclemency of the weather, is we understand again fixed for the 2<sup>nd</sup> proximo. It will be a private one.

**The Supreme Court.**—The 1st session of the Supreme Court of the Northern circuit is, we understand, fixed for the 2<sup>nd</sup> proximo. It has not transpired who will be the Judge to preside at the sessions. The *Cause Celebre* of this session is the Vadducoddi murder case.

**Official.**—Mr. B. Constantine, Govt. Agent, accompanied by Gate Mudr. M. S. Ramalingam and Mr. Raja Sandrasagra, Interpreter Mudr. District Road Committee, was at Pt Pedro on the 1<sup>st</sup>, and 2<sup>nd</sup> instant, on the Road Tax Exemption duty.

**Price of Rice.**—Government control will come to a close during the week. Already vessels have arrived with paddy. There are also some stocks held by merchants which are seized by Government and will be relieved as soon as the Govt. stock is exhausted and control removed during this week. We trust that the price of rice will fall with the trade going into the hands of the merchants.

**Ante-Nuptial**—Mr. W. F. Ratnacopal, Supdt. of Minor Works, Jaffna, was entertained at a dinner at the Ridgeway Hall on the 7<sup>th</sup> Inst. by his friends. Covers were laid for nearly 75 persons.

**A Success.**—We are glad to learn that the Rev. Fr. B. John, o.m.i., of St. Patrick's College, has come off successful in the Intermediate Science Examination.

**Plague at Kayts.**—A case of plague occurred at Narantami with fatal result during the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of this month. Inspector Somaundram of the Jaffna Local Board was specially sent and there are no further instances. The patient was a fresh arrival from Colombo.

**A Well-merited Promotion.**—We are very pleased to learn of the appointment of Mr. J. L. Stanislaus, son of Mr. A. Jacobpillai of St. Anne's Villa, Kayts, as Chief Clerk, Treasury, in succession to Mr. S. E. Muller, promoted to the Civil Service. Mr. Stanislaus counts only about fifteen years of service and his promotion is said to be unique for one so young. His selection being due to sheer merit, the appointment is a popular one in the Department. The post is in the special class of the Clerical Service and carries a salary of Rs. 4,000 p.a. Our congratulations to Mr. Stanislaus on his rare achievement.—J.C.G.

**Departmental Examination.** for the Sanitary Inspectors took place on the 25th inst at Colombo. Inspector A. Philips from Kayts, Mr. Harward from Pt Pedro and Mr. S. Somaundram of Jaffna Local Board appeared for this examination.

**Retirement of a Chief Headman.**—M. Muttucumaraswamy Mudaliyar, Managar of Temmaradchy, has been asked by Govt. to retire on sixty years age limit. The Maniagar was one of our model chiehs.

**The Jaffna Sugar Refinery.**—Mr. A. E. Jordan, Asst. Director of Industries, Madras Circle, in a letter to the "Madras Mail" referring to the defunct refinery at Valyedditurai, states:—

It was only recently that an attempt was made to establish a sugar industry in Ceylon and a refinery was put down to deal with palmrya jaggery, but owing to the cost of manufacturing in Ceylon by the process and to the wrong design of the plant, the refinery closed down. The Ceylon refining plant was purchased by a firm in the North of India, and machinery is now at work under different conditions. The blunders that have been made in putting down wrongly designed sugar factories is largely responsible for the backward state of the sugar industry, and there is no reason now that there is no competition from bountified beet sugar why a successful sugar industry should not be established in Ceylon, and for that matter in the Madras Presidency, if the proper methods were to be adopted. Ceylon like Mauritius, could easily grow 30 tons of cane per acre which would yield from 2 to 2½ tons of refined sugar.

**Appointment.**—Mr. R. Aluwihare has been appointed Additional Police Magistrate Jaffna, Kayts, and Mallakam, with effect from January 21.

**Provincial Road Committee 821.**—The "Goyt Gazette" announces that His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint Messrs. J. H. Vanniasingham, J. Cherubim, W. M. Muttu Welopitiya, M. S. Ramalingam, Gate Mudaliyar, and C. M. Sinnayah, Adigar as members of the Northern Committee for the year.

**Suicide for fear of a warrant.**—On the 20th inst. a young man of Kerudavil on hearing that there was a warrant against him at the instigation of his own relatives, took it into his head to end his life by committing suicide. He threw himself into a well in spite of the attempt made by some people to check his rash act. Unfortunately the well was broader at the bottom and the man never came up. When his body was taken out it was found that there was still some life left. But a doctor, it is said, who was near-by would not attend to the case, before some one assured him of his fees. Thus a life was lost!

**The Jaffna-Pt Pedro Road.**—We invite the attention of the P.W.D. to the Jaffna-Pt Pedro road for which inferior metal is being used. This is an important road by which mails are carried and the road is so uneven and muddy during the rainy season that it makes passers-by very uncomfortable.

**Chicken-pox.**—It is reported that a severe outbreak of chicken-pox has occurred at Mathatal and the number of patients suffering from this disease is said to be over 100.

**The Clerical Examination.**—It is understood that Government has decided to allow members of the Postal Clerical service to compete at the Clerical Examination on the same terms as outside candidates, but the Government is not prepared to waive the examination fee of Rs. 10 in the case

of these candidates. Hitherto no members of the Clerical service were allowed to take up the Clerical examination and they recently positioned Government on the subject. The present decision is the result of that memorial.

## Obituary.

The death occurred two weeks ago of Mr. R. Arumugam of Columburai, retired F.M.S. Officer. The late Mr. Arumugam identified himself in every public movement in the F.M.S. which tended to the public good, and when he came over here a few months ago he had large programme of his own for public service here.

Another death took place in the middle part of this month of Mrs. Manickavasagar of Columburai and sister of Mr. V. M. Saravanamuttu, Proctor S. C. Kandy, and of Mr. V. M. Kanagaratnam, Planter, Johore.

We regret to record the death of Mr. S. Johnpillai, retired planter, Puttalam, which occurred at Colombo on the 5th inst. The late Mr. Johnpillai was a brother of the late Mr. S. Abras, headmaster, St. Patrick's College, Jaffna, and of the Rev. Brother S. Philip, of St. Henry's School, Ilavali.

## Personal.

Mr. Clement A. S. Mather of the metropolitan Bar paid a flying visit on Saturday to his family at Jaffna.

Mr. K. Somasundran, Proctor s.c. who went to Burma last month in connection with a case has returned.

Mr. Retna Mailvaganam, Maniagar of Valikannam East is on 3 weeks' leave, owing to ill health and Mr. S. M. Coomarasooriar is acting for him.

## General News.

## The University College Opens.

The University College opened on Monday under the supervision of Mr. E. Evans, Acting Director of Education. The Intermediate Students' Classes began at 8 a.m. and went on till 6.30 p.m. with a break from 12 noon—1 p.m. for breakfast. The Final Course students began at the same time and broke up at 4.30 p.m. with the same interval. The Intermediate Botany Classes will be held at the Medical College three days in the week and the final classes will be held at St. Joseph's College. Chemistry and Physics Classes are being held at the Technical Schools and the Zoology Class at the Colombo Museum.

It is understood that Mr. A. N. Strachan, C.O.S., who has obtained first class honours and a Medal in Classics will be appointed to lecture in Greek.

Only students who have passed the London Matriculation Examination or who have secured exemption from that examination were eligible for registration for the full course in Arts and Science. This restriction do not apply to those who wish to join the classes for special subjects only.

The fees are Rs. 50 per term for the Intermediate or the Final course for the London University Examination in Arts, Science or Economics; or Rs. 15 per subject per term.

## SUBJECT AND LECTURERS.

The following are the subjects and lecturers.

English Language and Literature.—Rev. H. Highfield, M.A. (London), M.A. (Cantab); Mr. W. A. Samerwickrama, B.A. (London); Rev. W. S. Senior, M.A. (Oxon).

Latin.—Mr. L. H. W. Sampson, B.A. (Oxon); Mr. W. A. Samerwickrama, B.A. (London).

Mathematics.—Mr. U. D. R. Caspersz, B.Sc. (London); Mr. F. H. V. Gulasekharan, M.A. (Madras).

Zoology.—Dr. Joseph Pearson, D.Sc. (Liverpool) B.Sc. (Victoria), F.R.S.E. F.L.S.

Physics.—Professor A. E. Graut, M.A. (Oxon) B.Sc. (Wales).

Botany.—The Very Rev. M. J. Le Goc, B.Sc. (London); M.A. (Cantab) Ph.D. (Rome).

Chemistry.—Professor W. N. Rae, M.A. (Cantab) F.C.S.

Education.—Rev. D. J. Nicholas Perera, M.A. (London), B.Sc. (Lond.)

Economics.—Mr. C. H. Collins, B.A. (Lond.) F.C.S.

Logic.—Mr. W. T. Stace B.A. (T.C.D.), O.C.S. French and German.—Mrs. Kularatne (Cambridge Modern Languages Tripos); Mr. T. L. Minor.

Constitutional History.—Mr. P. de S. Kularatne B.A. B.Sc. LL.B. (Lond.)

Geography.—Mr. L. McD. Robison, M.A. (Manchester).

Goods Traffic on the Railway.

A big decrease has been recorded in goods traffic on the Railway. The figures for October, 1920, show a decrease of 4,233 tons of rice, 1,920 tons of tea, 7,973 tons of manure and 6,283 tons of other goods as well as decreases in other produce, compared with the month of October 1919. There was an increase of 2,832 tons of coconut produce, 632 tons of rubber and 106 tons of cocoa.

Donation of a Library.—Sir Ponamalai Arunachalam has donated to the University College, the library of his late son, Mr. A. Padmanadha, who died in England recently. The library which is to be called "Bibliotheca Padmanadha," numbers over a thousand volumes and will be of the utmost value to students. Foremost in the collection are the works of reference which include dictionaries and encyclopedias. There are also Tamil, Sinhalese and Sanskrit dictionaries, histories and biographies of every description, standard editions of Greek and Latin authors and books on English literature. The volumes are handsomely bound and are in good condition. The gift is a most magnanimous one.

## The Colonial Office.

London, Jan. 21. It is now definitely announced that Mr. Churchill will succeed Lord Milner at the Colonial Office.

## Grants to English Schools.

Last week's "Government Gazette" contains the amendments to the Code for Aided Schools which came into force on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 1920. It gives the increases in the rates of grants.

## A Remarkable University Scholar.

Mr. A. G. Ranasinghe, University Scholar from St. Thomas' College in 1919 has completed his Studies in a little more than one year. This opens up the question whether another student should not be sent to cover the unexpired portion of the period of scholarship. There is precedent for this. The principle of granting to another student the benefit of a University education when the Scholarship winner completes his studies before the full period, Several applications have been received by Mr. E. Evans, Acting Director of Education, from students. The matter is now under the consideration of Government.—C. M.L.

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