

CEYLON DAILY NEWS

1918—1943

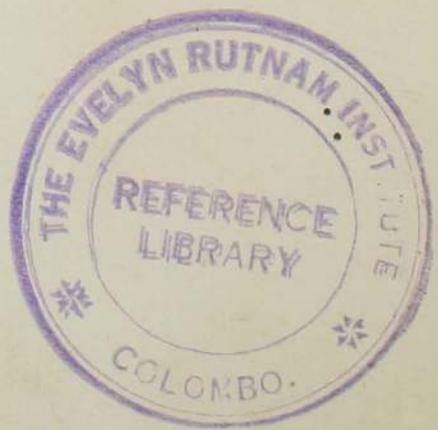
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CEYLON DAILY NEWS

1918—1943

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VOL. COLOMBO, THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 1918. PRICE FIVE CTS. NO. 1

and that, and able to discuss difficult questions of politics, philosophy, science with ease and lucidity. Men have deliberately abandoned lucrative professional careers to devote themselves to the service of their country on a mere pittance.

In the Ferguson College of Poona, for example, you see some of the best intellects of India bonded by self-imposed vows to "political power." They are engaged in imparting the benefits of higher education to students too poor to enter the Government College. Among the Professors of that College was the illustrious Mr. G. K. Gokhale who taught there for twenty years until he entered the world of politics, his life consecrated to the service of India. The present Principal of Ferguson College, Mr. P. Ramalingam, a Cambridge Senior Wrangler, is one of many men of the Gokhale type. So also Gokhale's successor in the office of President of the Servants of India Society, Mr. S. Srinivasan, a Member of the Council, and the Vice-Chancellor, who has as his colleagues in that Society a splendid band of self-sacrificing workers. Then there is the eminent Gandhi, the noble personality in the public life of India, whose priceless services to her in South Africa and at home are known throughout the Empire. There are hundreds of others in all parts of India, less prominent but not less zealous, pursuing to silence their tasks in education or politics or social service, and seeking no reward. Why is it that Ceylon does not breed such men? Why are our educated youth all wedded to ease and luxury? Why do they make missions, no more, rather than their goal? Is it because the traditions and ideals of plain living and high thinking are less deeply rooted here than in India and have not been able to withstand the materialistic spirit and the commercialism of the West? I have, however, an unquenchable faith in the youth of Ceylon and am confident that our sad state is only a passing phase. Youth is the time of noble impulses and generous aspirations and needs not

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W. J. C. Fernando Declared with thanks
The Ceylon Daily News
THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 1918.

OURSELVES.
CUSTOM and usage seem to demand a word of ourselves before we begin. What the exact necessity is for the editor we are not too curious for the moment to inquire, but we would much rather prefer to be judged by what we are able to do from day to day for the information and edification of our readers than by any mere professions we may make in the experience of our new enterprise. But this much we may say that it will be our endeavour to make this paper in every respect worthy of the trust and confidence we to-day ask of the general public. Much of the history of its birth is known, and it will therefore be no great secret to divulge if we say this paper comes into existence to defend no party feelings, bolster up the interests of no clique or sect. It is in no way pledged to any particular person or any individual's particular interests. It appeals for support to the general public in its public, with no limitations of creed, or class or race—and it will be its supreme pleasure and duty to provide for that public a source of information, on a reliable, honest and clean, and a medium by which its wants, its aims and aspirations may be placed before those best able to relieve those wants and answer those aspirations. That is our aim. We shall follow it whole-heartedly.

NEW YEAR HONOURS.

THE NEW YEAR Honours appear to range over a larger field than we have hitherto seen during the course of the war. They seem to be not confined to those who have been rewarded for work in connection with the war, but to include men who have achieved distinction in other branches of literary and intellectual effort. Prominent among the former was Sir Laid ROBERT CECIL, whose name of the office of Under-Secretary of Foreign Affairs has been one of the most conspicuous names of the War Ministry. Sir ROBERT has brought to the forefront of his parliamentary and official duties his special aptitude for an imperial talent for foreign affairs. The Barony conferred on Sir FREDERICK SMITH strikes us as somewhat novel. Perhaps the reason for conferring it is that the presence of the Attorney-General is required in the House of Commons. His intimate study and knowledge of International Law makes him a fit and suitable apart from the substantial which his brilliant Parliamentary gifts invariably render to the Government. The recognition extended to literature and the arts is, in accordance with the British tradition, more orthodox than during the knighthood conferred on JOHN GALSWORTHY, a distinct distinction that the British public trusts him quite unhesitatingly and perfectly respectable. He has flitted with certain vital problems in a number of which our view was thought out, but is now cleared to be appreciable. Sir ANTHONY HOPE, the other knight, has consistently sought to amuse, and has never failed to succeed. The *Jolly Antiques*, in its perfect Frenchness, is an apt and masterly way in Gallic phrases and vivacity were a revelation in English language. The same spirit for aptness which secured on the Presidency of the Oxford Union, has won him a knighthood.

SIR JOHN LAVERY has portrayed the pretty faces of the women of the governing classes of England, with the same charming and delicate touch with which in ANTHONY HOPE has portrayed their pliant manners. SIR JOHN LAVERY's wife has not been the least provocative of the painter's many inspirations. Lately she is the architect of the New Delhi. Her knighthood is a recognition of the importance of the more decorative aspects of Empire-building.

Clean Shirts and Victory.
Dr. Woods Hutchinson, speaking at the All-India Congress, was addressing the audience on the subject of "Clean Shirts and Victory." He said that the war had been practically eliminated. The days that took it in hand during the war with Russia, and now that the practice of giving our troops clean shirts will be maintained, it will be maintained. The days that took it in hand during the war with Russia, and now that the practice of giving our troops clean shirts will be maintained, it will be maintained.

Indian Capital in Ceylon.
HELPING FORWARD LOCAL INDUSTRIES.
There has been much mystery over the sale of the Havelock Mills—the enormous mill at Pointe-Gaillard—but it has at last been disclosed that Messrs. Paulsen Bros. have bought it for certain Indian capitalists. The expectation is that the old mill will be converted, not that the machinery will be sold, but that the machinery will be converted into a spinning mill to be placed in the hands of the Government, which will be required to purchase it.

Narrow Escape of Emperor Karl.
OUGHT TO BE IN TORRENT AND SWEET OVER WEIR.
A telegram from Geneva describes an exciting episode in the escape of the Emperor Karl from the hands of the Austro-Hungarian Emperor and the King of Bulgaria to Geneva. According to the Official Agency, the Emperor Karl's car, in attempting to cross the border, was stopped by the Swiss army, and the Emperor was forced to flee. He was seen to be in a state of great distress, and was seen to be in a state of great distress.

Judge and Value of Dreams.
DECISION FOR ELDEST SON IN CERIOUS WILL CLAIM.
An interesting pronouncement on the subject of value of dreams was made by Lord Alton of Liverpool yesterday in giving judgment in the Wick dream will case. The plaintiff in the case, Thomas Davison, was the eldest son and heir of the late Thomas Davison and the defendant was the widow and other children. After Mr. Davison's death he would be found to be a younger son. Lord Alton said that as the result of a dream he found his father's will in a box of a book.

A MESSAGE FROM SIR PONNAMBALAM ARUNACHALAM.

The Ceylon Daily News is fortunate in the time of its birth. New forces are at work among us, a new era is dawning for our country. She needs the devoted service of all her children and will, I am confident, find none more zealous in her cause than the new Daily. Our work has only just begun and an immense deal lies before us which will try us to the utmost. We have, it is true, made a good, if tardy, beginning. During the year just closed we have organized the movement for Constitutional Reform. The great Conference of 15th December, 1917, will be a landmark in the history of Ceylon. In our memorial to the Governor and the Secretary of State, we have voiced our immediate political needs and indicated our goal. That goal is Responsible Government on the lines of the self-governing Dominions. As a first step to it, we have asked for individual reforms. There is good reason to believe that our efforts will be crowned with success. At all events, they will not, and must not, cease until the goal is reached.

In our zeal for political reform we must be on our guard against making it our end. We seek it only as a means to an end. We seek it

Not to Win Rights, but to Fulfill Duties.
—Justice to ourselves and to our country. "The Theory of Rights," said Mazzini.

"My motto is to work for the good of my country. It is not my path by means of which I am to be judged, but the end to which I am to be judged. I am to be judged by the measure of the good which I have done for my country. I am to be judged by the measure of the good which I have done for my country."

The ideal and teaching of our great writers, Tamil and Sinhalese, the lives of our parents and grand parents, were all in the direction of simple living, of the rich sharing their wealth and comforts with the poor.

Robert Knox, who lived twenty years among the Sinhalese, in the seventeenth century, says of them that they are "very hardy both for diet and weather." Again "Riches are not here valued, nor make any the more honourable, for many of the lower sort do far exceed their brethren (his term for noblemen) in nature, but it is the birth and parentage that ennobles." Of the women, "They are in their suit and behaviour very high, stately in carriage, yet they hold in no esteem to admit of meanness to come to speech of them. They are very shy and it is a disgrace to them to be prodigal, and their pride and glory to be accounted near and saving."

Although they be as stately they will by their hand to do some work as is necessary to be done in the house, notwithstanding they have slaves and servants enough to do for them. Five pence exists in all literature that that drawn by the Tamil Poet-saint Tiruvalluvar of the four-hundred leading on earth a consecrated life, just in all his dealings, love the very life of his soul, and with himself, patient and kindly to all simple in living, liberal in his benefactions, desiring the touch of evil, self-controlled and pure.

We have travelled far from these standards, certainly in the towns. Look at the houses in the Ouzumman Gardens, The utterly Bourgeois Ideal they embrace, the vulgar show and frillery among the suburban villas of a fourth rate English town. They are all their poisonous influence far and wide and are the greatest obstacle to that

Simplification of Life
which in our country's most urgent need. In Ceylon-English education has so multiplied our wants increased the complexity of our life and demoralized us, that these things ought to be radical, deliberate and devoted to the service of the greater part of their time in earning money to supply those wants, and spend their leisure not in intellectual culture or public work, but in idleness. It is not so in India. One does not see there the same rage for the materialistic aspects of European life and the complicated and expensive trainings. There is certainly a higher level of real Western culture, and of scholarship and research which scarcely exists in Ceylon. In some places I have met men in the circles of highly educated men, leading the simple lives of their forefathers on farms that would hardly keep souls of our young men in socks

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A QUARTER OF A CENTURY

WE celebrate today the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the "Ceylon Daily News", of which the first issue appeared on January 3, 1918. In two and a half decades the historian may trace in the life of a nation important social, political and economic changes; and changes no less vital, developments no less revolutionary, may be discerned in the life of a newspaper deriving from such a nation the raw material of its news and views and dedicated to the service of the national interest. There are older papers than the "Ceylon Daily News" not only in Europe but even in the East (indeed our sister journal the "Ceylon Observer" can claim to be one of the oldest surviving English papers east of Suez) but there are few distinguished by more rapid progress or a more significant place in the public life of the country. We have come a long way—and that not only technically—since our modest beginnings in 1918. The story of that adventure is related more fully in the following pages. Here it only remains to draw attention to the principles which we have endeavoured to keep before us during this eventful period and the traditions which it has been our task and privilege to establish and maintain.

"A full entertaining and untainted supply of news of every kind; readable, well informed and disinterested advocacy of causes on their merits; a vigilant sense of the common weal directing its power of discrimination"—these were the principles for which the London "Times" on the occasion of its 150th anniversary claimed to have won the sanction of experience. We may without vainglory claim to have kept these ideals consistently before us and to have gone far towards creating, where both public opinion and journalistic ethics were undeveloped, a tradition in comparison with which the development of our machinery of production, organisation and distribution, though great, is comparatively unimportant. In our pages too readers could always rely on finding "not an unattainable impartiality but the more dynamic virtue of good faith." The part played by

the Press in moulding public opinion and influencing public policy gives it a great power for good or ill. The Fourth Estate is indeed, as CARLYLE held, "a ruler of the world, being a persuader of it"; and this authority confers the obligations of a privilege and a professional code—a responsibility to exercise power for the common good and not to abuse it in the service of any narrow sectional, communal or personal interest.

We believe that we have discharged this responsibility; and if in the exigencies of war we have had perforce to "slim" our pages and cut down some of the features which have given the "Daily News" its distinctive character, we are keeping intact for the service of the country in the future the principles and traditions which have always been at its disposal in the past. It is yet early to predict what political and other experiences Ceylon may undergo at the conclusion of the war. Many important issues have been in abeyance "for the duration," and no doubt epoch-making changes are pending when they come to the fore again. We look forward to the post-war years and to the next twenty-five years of our own life in the confident expectation of momentous events and with a full sense of what our responsibility will be in reporting and commenting on them and in influencing the forces that will bring them into being. Few of those who read or helped to produce the first issue of the "Daily News" twenty-five years ago could have foreseen what it would grow to be today; and perhaps of today's readers few can measure its future destinies. We shall be proud if we can continue to deserve the public support which has enabled us to become what we are.

Fifteen Years as London Correspondent of the "Daily News"

A MOMENTOUS PERIOD IN THE HISTORY
OF CEYLON

By Frederick Grubb

I AM honoured by the invitation to contribute a short article to the 25th Anniversary Number of the "Ceylon Daily News", with whose fortunes it was my privilege to be associated almost from the beginning. 25 years make up a small sector in the life of a nation, but the period covered from 1918 to the present day has been a momentous one in the history of Ceylon, as of the world in general, and it has certainly provided opportunities for progress in the sphere of journalism, of which it may be fairly claimed that full advantage has been taken by the Associated Newspapers of Ceylon. All who are concerned in the welfare of the Island will join in congratulating those responsible for the direction of these journals upon the success hitherto achieved and will wish for them a record of even greater triumphs in the future

A Fine Tradition

My own connection with Ceylon dates back to many years before the "Daily News" was even thought of. I remember quite well when the Fergusons were a power in the land. It was John Ferguson who, in the eighties and nineties of last century, impressed members of Parliament with his sturdy public spirit and independence of character. Ceylon was a terra incognita in those days to most people over here, and

there was abysmal ignorance, even in official circles, of the real conditions which prevailed in the Island. But under the Fergusons the "Observer" became what I may call the "Manchester Guardian" of Ceylon. In what was then my callow youth I was serving the late W.S. Caine, M.P., as private secretary, and I know well how much he and some of his colleagues (notably Sir Charles Swann, one of the Radical members for Manchester) depended upon John Ferguson for information and guidance when they raised Ceylon questions in Parliament, as they frequently did.

The fine traditions of those days were to a large extent taken over and expanded by the "Daily News" upon its inauguration in 1918, and it was in accordance with the fitness of things that the enterprising proprietor should add to his laurels a few years later by acquiring the long-established "Observer", thus running the two journals (or rather three, if we include the "Dinamina") side by side without sacrificing the distinctive individuality of either. There will be none to question the great part which this notable team have played in the development of Ceylon since the last Great War.

Happy Relations

When I was asked to become the London Correspondent of the

"Ceylon Daily News" in the spring of 1919 my hands were already pretty full, for I had been acting in a similar capacity over many years for "The Hindu" of Madras and other well-known Indian newspapers. But I did not find it in my heart to refuse such a flattering invitation (for I may say quite frankly now that I was never trained for journalism), and by a judicious re-arrangement of my work I managed during the next fifteen years to serve this paper to the general satisfaction. I hope, of all concerned Certainly the pleasure of reviewing that eventful period is enhanced by the recollection of the happy relations which always existed between my chief in Colombo and myself. There were some delicate episodes in public and Parliamentary affairs during those years, but I think I may claim that no word of mine ever got the "Daily News" into trouble. Neither the Editor or his correspondent was at any time in danger of letting the other down.

The London Correspondence of a Ceylon newspaper is necessarily a very different proposition as compared with that of an Indian journal. In writing about India one is always bewildered by the mass of material available, but in the case of Ceylon for weeks on end in those days it was rather like making bricks without straw. However, the problem was eased for me, in large measure, by my previous acquaintance with Ceylon questions and by my personal friendship—extending over many years—with some of your leading citizens, among whom none has a higher place in my esteem than that of Sir Baron Jayatilaka. I will name three others out of those who have gone to their reward, viz., Sir James Peiris, Sir Marcus Fernando, and Dr. C. A. Hewavitarne, to all of whom I was greatly indebted, especially during their frequent visits to London,

for the inspiration and advice which they were always ready to give.

Deputations From Ceylon

It was part of my duty, of course, to keep in touch with the public men who came from Ceylon at various times, whether they were engaged on political deputations, religious missions, or mercantile pursuits. Nothing of



MR. FREDERICK GRUBB, London Correspondent of the "Daily News" from 1919 to 1933.

interest to Ceylon was ever consciously allowed by me to pass unnoticed. The London Letters of the "Daily News" from 1919 to 1933, in addition to recording the wider drama enacted on the Parliamentary stage, furnish a succinct but comprehensive account of all that happened here appertaining to Ceylon. Politics inevitably took the leading place in my weekly correspondence, though events of general or social interest

were never over-looked. I remember how busy I was when one of the earlier Reform Deputations, headed by H J C. Pereira, came out to put the case of Ceylon before members of Parliament and the Colonial Office. Two men later to become Ministers were included in that deputation, and all of them were ready enough to avail themselves of the medium of our London Letters whenever there was anything of public interest to be communicated to Ceylon. Meetings in the lobby of the House of Commons or at the National Liberal Club (where visitors from India and Ceylon were always welcome) were held at frequent intervals and undoubtedly gave opportunity for many useful interchanges.

Those were the days when the panicky excesses of officialdom in 1915 were still rankling in the breasts of the Ceylonese people. The Colonial Office was always too prone to turn a deaf ear or a cold shoulder to even the most moderate representations. Deputies from Ceylon, whatever their standing in the estimation of their fellow countrymen, were regarded with suspicion by successive Secretaries of State. I remember how one of the latter (who still sits in the House of Commons) did his best—or his worst—to disparage in the eyes of his Parliamentary colleagues Sir Baron Jayatilaka by making him out to be no more than a dangerous agitator who had better be kept at arm's length. But those who were in the dock then are on the bench now. Truly the wheel has turned since those reactionary times, and we may soon hope to see it complete the full circle.

The Donoughmore Commission

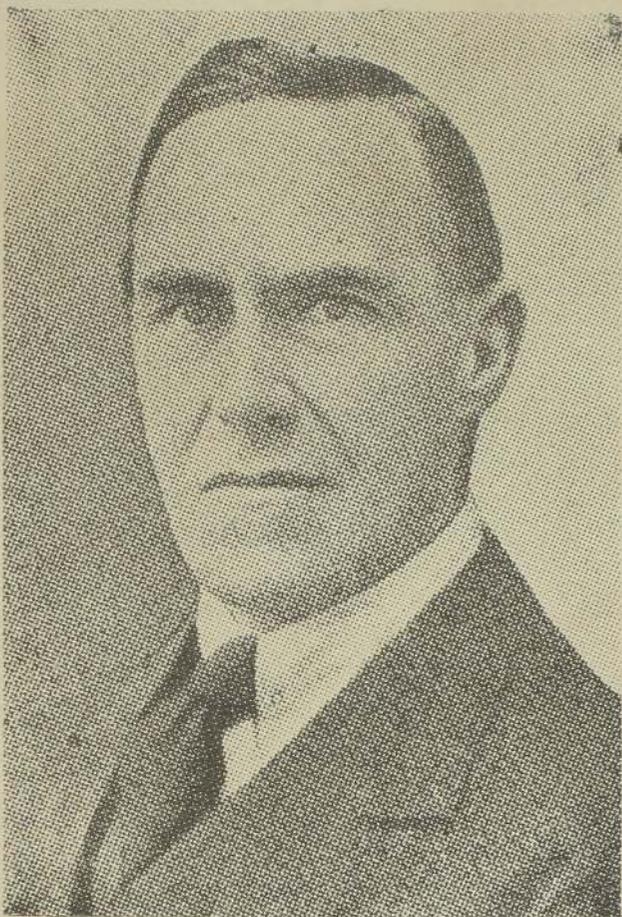
An outstanding event in my time was the appointment of the Donoughmore Commission, for much of my correspondence had to do with what led up to it and what came out of it. Two members of the Commission, Dr.

(now Sir) Drummond Shiels and the late Sir Geoffrey Butler proved to be very helpful 'communicants' in the later stages of the inquiry, though they were always careful, as was indeed their duty, not to disclose improperly information of what was being said and done behind the scenes. We knew that in Drummond Shiels particularly we had a friend upon whom Ceylon could rely. Not only then but on many other occasions he has, through the medium of interviews, etc., shown both his strong sympathy with your aspirations and his willingness to aid a journalist legitimately in search of news.

A Noteworthy Scoop

There is no need for me in this article to discuss the recommendations of the Commission and what followed, most of which is common knowledge. But I shall never forget the hectic hours the London Manager (Mr. Douglas Shaw) and I spent in the House of Commons lobby one afternoon in July, 1928, when, through the kindness of Col. Wedgwood (who had a real claim at that time to be regarded as M.P. for Ceylon) we were enabled to obtain an early summary of the Commission's Report, embodying the main features of a Constitution now so familiar to your readers. We knew that our rivals would also be quick on the scent, but by prompt action there and then we succeeded in getting in before them. In less time than it takes to tell the story we had dug out the pith of the Commission's recommendations and almost before the information had reached the Government of Ceylon, thanks to our immediate cablegrams, the "Daily News" was able to publish the substance of the Commission's proposals. For this expeditious action we were generously commended by those who were mainly concerned, and our competitors magnanimously acknowledged that the "Daily News" had brought off a real scoop.

Whenever and wherever the affairs of Ceylon were under discussion I was invariably on the spot. A London Correspondent is bound to be "all things to all men" if he wants to get the news, and his professional perambulations have to be frequently at top speed. The annual gatherings of the Ceylon Association in London and of the (Anglican) Colombo Association were occasions I rarely



Colonel (now Lord) Wedgwood, who was referred to as "the M.P. for Ceylon".

missed, and I was a constant visitor at the Buddhist Mission near Regent's Park. For many years the most regular attendant at the meeting of the Association of Ceylon Students was the "Daily News" representative, until in fact I came to have a closer acquaintance with its activities than some of its own officials. As the founder of this journal had been one of the pioneers of the Students' Association many years before, this

was as it should be, though I think, on looking back, that my accounts of its proceedings were often more lengthy than their intrinsic importance deserved. But no doubt the Association served, and is still serving, a useful purpose the fruits of which we may hope are being seen in the public life of Ceylon today. The annual dinner of this organization was always an outstanding event in the year's doings, for on these occasions we had usually the opportunity of hearing the views of leading British politicians or distinguished visitors from India or Ceylon. Among the guests at these convivial functions, in addition to most of the Ceylonese leaders already named were the present Lord Halifax (then Mr. Edward Wood), Mr. Herbert Morrison, C. F. Andrews, Sir Hugh Clifford and Mr. Srinivasa Sastri—to mention only a few of the representative personalities who were thus honoured. I forget whether Ramsay MacDonald was ever a guest of the Association, but I remember how readily he gave me a sympathetic message for the people of Ceylon on the eve of one of his several visits to the East. Unfortunately, he was not to fulfil the expectations we formed of him.

Parliamentary Service

When I was short of material directly relating to Ceylon I could always fill up with paragraphs about India, for the affairs of that country were front page news during the whole of my fifteen years' service. The two spheres could be easily dovetailed as readers in Ceylon were naturally interested—as they must always be—in all that concerns their great neighbour. It was my lot to be mixed up with Indian politics for nearly fifty years, during the greater part of which time I was knocking about the House of Commons. Perhaps there are few persons living who can claim a longer acquaintance than I can with the purlieus of Parliament. I have seen generations of members come and go, and I became

quite well known to the police (the "A" Division at any rate). The only member of Parliament still flitting about Westminster who was also there when I began operations is Mr. Lloyd George, now the Father of the House and, as ever, one of its most commanding figures.

This long familiarity with the legislative hub of the Empire and the facilities for obtaining information thereby afforded, greatly assisted me in my work for the Press, and I doubt whether I could have been better placed for rendering useful service had I been a member of Parliament myself. An alert spectator often sees most of the game. In passing I may say that I had some little part to play, jointly with Sir Howard D'Egville and the late Sir James Peiris, in formulating the suggestions which led to the establishment of a branch of the Empire Parliamentary Association in connection with the Ceylon State Council.

A Dramatic Era

And what a dramatic succession of incidents in world affairs I had to cover during that period! The Great War was over before I joined the staff of the Associated Newspapers, but its long aftermath furnished ample material for graphic despatches. As regards India there was a never-ending series of crises and developments sufficient to monopolise any number of cablegrams and letters. There were the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms of 1919 to be dealt with, the tragic occurrences in the Punjab leading to notable debates in both Houses which I was privileged to hear and describe: the growing demand for full Swaraj and the repercussions to which this gave rise in England; the Simon Commission, the three Round Table Conferences, the shaping of the Government of India Act in the Joint Select Committee and the exciting Parliamentary debates which followed thereon. All these

events aroused the deepest interest in Ceylon, and I did my best to interpret them in a liberal and understanding spirit.

Throne of the Kings of Kandy

The Royal Palaces were not immune from the inquiring activities of the "Daily News" Correspondent. Prominence had been given in these columns to the question of securing



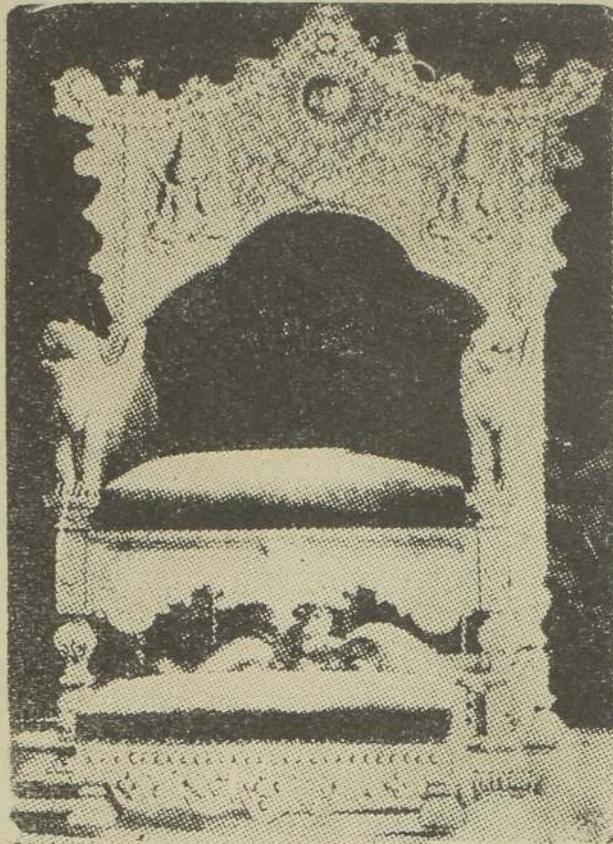
MR. D. E. SHAW, London Manager, Associated Newspapers of Ceylon, Ltd.

the return of the Throne of the Kings of Kandy to its rightful home.

I went to Windsor Castle for the purpose of ascertaining the exact location of this and the other historic regalia, and as a result of that visit I was invited to interview the King's Private Secretary at Buckingham Palace. I saw Lord Wigram on more than one occasion, and the outcome of the negotiations, following a resolution passed by the State Council, was the restoration of

the Throne and the Crown jewels to Ceylon, as reported in these pages at the time.

This striking episode, in which the late King George V took a personal interest, provided me with material for an article on the same subject which appeared in the London "Times". The "Daily News" is at any rate entitled to some credit



THE KANDYAN THRONE—part of the regalia restored to Ceylon by King George V.

for the part which it took in a restoration that was long overdue.

A Many-Sided Job

The commodious offices of the Associated Newspapers, situated in the heart of Fleet Street, were always available, of course, to the London Correspondent, but I generally found it more convenient to do the major part of the work in my

little sanctum at Wimbledon where my wife and I always kept open house for visitors from Ceylon. I never used a typewriter. Everything was done in my own handwriting (which was fortunately fairly legible), and I invariably preferred to act as my own office-boy. Often enough, however, I had to go much further afield, and there were few parts of London which I did not penetrate in my quest for news. It was part of my duty, or so I deemed it to pass on any item of interest affecting the Colonies at large, which in itself was a task of some magnitude.

Late Hours at Westminster

All this varied work meant late hours at Westminster, repeated interviews with M.Ps. interested in Ceylon (for they were glad of my help in drafting parliamentary questions), frequent conferences at the National Liberal Club and other places where Ceylonese foregathered, and attendance at social functions of all sorts and sizes.

To give the full story of these thrilling years would be to write my London Letters all over again. Enough has been said to show that I was able to make some contribution to the building-up of the well-deserved reputation of the "Daily News" in the world of journalism, and if the personal element has figured rather prominently in this narrative it was unavoidable in the circumstances. Suffice it to say, in conclusion, that I look back with most pleasurable feelings upon my long association with this journal and those of your readers who may live to celebrate its Golden Jubilee will, I am sure, have no less reason to appraise in high terms the outstanding service which the "Daily News" has rendered in so many ways to the people of Ceylon.

The Birth of a Newspaper

THE "DAILY NEWS" IN THE MAKING

By *D. R. Wijewardene*

IT has been suggested to me that I should take this opportunity to recall the circumstances of the birth of the "Daily News" and some of the more important incidents of its career. Twenty-five years is a long time in the life of an individual and there are only three members of the present large organisation, including a peon, who were responsible for the first issue of the "Daily News" which was published on January 3, 1918.

It is not possible to deal with the subject adequately without providing a background of autobiography; but I must apologise in advance for anything in the following account that may appear unduly personal.

My interest in politics began during my undergraduate days at Cambridge. There were other kindred spirits, from India, Ceylon and other parts of the East, who felt the surge of the nationalist revival in Asia. There was a wave of unrest in India as a result of Lord Curzon's action in partitioning Bengal, and prominent Indian leaders came over to England and addressed meetings to enlighten the British public on the situation in their country. Amongst them there was Lala Lajpat Rai, a great nationalist and scholar, who had been deported under an obsolete law. Bepin Chandra Pal and Surendranath Banerji, generally known as the silver-tongued orator of Bengal, drew large audiences. There came to England also Mr. Gopal Krishna Gok-

hale, a member of the Imperial Legislative Council, a statesman who made great sacrifices in the service of his country. His was a towering intellect and he was as respected by the rulers as he was loved by his countrymen. He impressed on me that every educated young man, Indian or Ceylonese, had a part to play in the public life of his country and must be prepared to make sacrifices for his country's welfare.

I met Mr. Gokhale often at the National Liberal Club and had many long and interesting talks with him on political questions of the day. He asked me to accompany him on his great mission to South Africa as one of his Secretaries. To my great regret I was not able to accept the invitation.

A Friend of Ceylon

IT was during this period that the Liberal Party had come into power with a phenomenal majority and hope revived in all subject countries of an amelioration of their political condition. One could not walk into the National Liberal Club without treading on the toes of Cabinet Ministers and Members of Parliament. A change from that anti-Asiatic feeling which was at its height, following the assassination of Sir Curzon Wylie, an official of the India Office, was overdue.

One of the best friends Ceylon and Indian students had in London in those days was Mr. F. H. M. Corbet, to whom I owe a great debt of gratitude for many kindnesses. He had many influential friends in and outside Parliament. Incidentally, it

was in Mr. Corbet's chambers—he was born in Ceylon and as a lawyer used to appear before the Privy Council before he came out to India as Advocate-General of Madras—that I first met E. W. Perera, who was even then a keen politician and displayed many of the qualities which gave him a leading position in the legislature many years later.

Every mail from Ceylon brought news of popular discontent with the reactionary administration of Sir Henry Mc Callum who had Sir Hugh Clifford as his Colonial Secretary.

Mr. Corbet showed me the ropes in the delicate task of interesting Members of Parliament in the domestic affairs of a Crown Colony. Amongst those whom I was able to interest were Sir Henry Cotton, who put the first questions in the House of Commons on the desirability of extending the principle of representative government to Ceylon, Sir John Jardine, Sir Herbert Roberts, afterwards Lord Clwyd, leader of the Welsh Liberals, and Mr. A. Mc Callum Scott, all of them stout champions of subject peoples.

Reforms Mooted

THE first Reform deputation, which was received by Colonel Seely (now Lord Mottistone) on behalf of the Marquis of Crewe, the Secretary of State, was arranged by E. W. Perera and myself with the help of Mr. Corbet. We succeeded in persuading Mr. H. J. C. Pereira, who had booked his passage to leave for Ceylon in a few days, to lead the deputation which was introduced by Lord Courtney. It resulted in the grant of the so-called Educated Ceylonese seat in the Legislative Council, the only one for which the general population of the Island could elect a member.

Two years later I organised a second deputation. This time it was to meet Mr. Lewis (afterwards Lord) Harcourt and protest against the establishment of numerous toddy taverns in various parts of the Island. Sir

Baron Jayatilaka and Sir Marcus Fernando, among others, put the case for the Ceylon temperance movement. Sir Marcus (he was knighted many years later) had come to England after the reverse he suffered in the election for the Educated Ceylonese seat and I had the pleasure of putting him up for election to the National Liberal Club.

When I returned home, after being called to the Bar, I was brought into close contact with most of the prominent political leaders of the time. But politics had not got beyond personal and communal issues and what there was of it came chiefly from the Law Library at Hulftsdorp. There were, among the leaders of the legal profession, men who were eminently fitted for political leadership, but the legislature had not yet made any considerable demands on this reservoir of talent. Fresh from a sojourn in a more exhilarating political atmosphere, I was anxious to see a more positive approach to local problems. The Ceylon National Association, the oldest political organisation in the Island, was dormant and inactive. I was elected to the Secretaryship and, putting my energies into its revival, succeeded in making it a live force in the country. Together with Sir P. Arunachalam and Sir James Peiris I helped to organise the Social Service League of which I was one of the three Secretaries.

The Riots

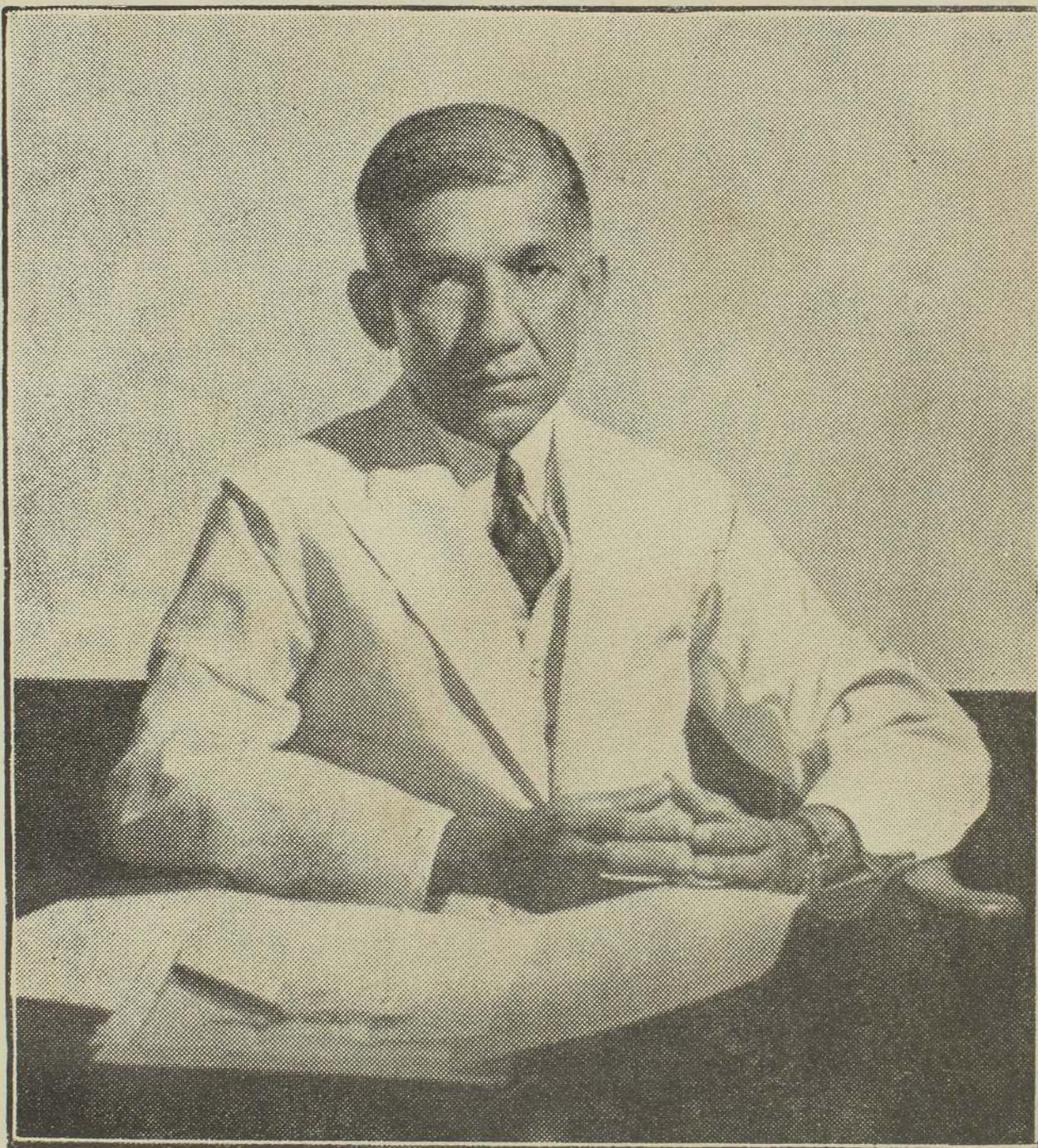
IN 1915 there came the Riots. No event of the past century had a more potent influence in shaping the mind of a people than the brutality with which the Riots were suppressed. The effect was similar to that of the partition of Bengal by Lord Curzon and the Jallianwallabagh incident. The Riots marked the point when the people of Ceylon decided that without political freedom, any relation between the ruler and the ruled was one of master and slave.

I can do no better to describe the injury which official action caused, than quote some extracts from a letter written by Mr. Eardley Norton to

Mr. Bonar Law, Secretary of State for the Colonies. Mr. Norton was perhaps the greatest English advocate to grace the Indian Bar and was retained to defend several of the people who were charged before the Courts Martial. I make no apology for quoting these somewhat long extracts

authority for redress, Mr. Norton wrote:

“To the tragedy of a complete surrender of jurisdiction uncontrolled by any form of appeal, and the consequent degradation of a Governor's high office, must be added the comedy of His Excellency praising be-



MR. D. R. WIJEWARDENE

as they express the views of an impartial critic and a patriotic Englishman.

Of the way the Governor had degraded his high office and powers and the utter futility of appealing to local

fore the Legislative Council the cool sagacity and prompt action of the General. It would take more than one Governor to undo the good done to the British Administration of many patient years, but one Governor has

it in his power, and the present Governor has exercised it—to bring British Administration temporarily into horror and contempt.....

“A very long experience of India has taught me the uselessness of looking to local authority for redress against injuries caused by the local powers. They are rich in words but poor in deeds. Their own prestige is the object nearest their hearts. Judging the Governor by what he has done in the past, I should expect little from his prescience or his courage. Both were put to the test by the recent riots, and both have broken down. I do not wish to base my views upon any but the five cases in which I have been personally concerned. Judged by these, His Excellency and his advisers have been suffering from so acute an attack of treasonitis that nothing short of a complete change of venue from Ceylon to England, where there is, at any rate, still some trifling show of independence and courage, can in any measure atone for misdeeds which it shames me as an Englishman to recall.”

Contrasting the events in Ceylon with his experiences in India, Mr. Norton said:

“As I heard the witnesses’ statements and reviewed the circumstances under which the laws had been superseded and I was being called upon to plead for men who might without judicial control be shot or hanged, I realised the profound responsibility of my situation as I had never realised it before, and I reverently thanked the Almighty that I lived in India. I have laboured for thirty-six years through periods of grave political anxiety and suspense. I have appeared in numberless cases where many men’s lives have been lost. I have seen the civil magistracy under pardonable stress call out the armed forces in Bengal, Madras and Bombay to send out crowds with short shrift to their last account.

“I have had to perform the melancholy duty of prosecuting misguided Indian youths for attempts to subvert British administration through-

out the country. I have known senior officers of the Civil Services shot dead. I have noted that a Viceroy was assassinated almost to the point of death with a bomb. Yet Indian authority, to its eternal credit, has never abased itself by suppressing the established Civil Court in favour of military intervention. In the most serious event the liberty of the subject has been scrupulously respected and his rights reserved, and no tribunal has ever been permitted to deal with that liberty which was not either composed entirely of trained lawyers or on which trained lawyers were not represented. In Ceylon official panic replaced official respect for the law, and the Governor with his eyes open, for no cause declared, deliberately deprived the King’s subjects of that protection which it is England’s boast shall surround the trial of the most humble offender. Can we wonder that there is widespread throughout the Island among the Sinhalese a feeling of deep-rooted, if silent, disappointment?

“I pray your courtesy for the publication of this letter despite its length. I write as no paid advocate. My legal conscience has been shocked and my moral sense lacerated by an invasion of principles which I believe most Englishmen will regard as necessary for the preservation of Municipal peace and their own national honour.”

The Aftermath

DURING the Riots I was holding a commission in the C.L.I., and perhaps due to my connection with the Social Service League and the National Association my house was searched by a private of the European Town Guard, a European Police Sergeant and a posse of Punjabi soldiers. D. S. Senanayake and his brothers, F. R. and D. C., W. A. de Silva, D. B. (now Sir Baron) Jayatilaka and C. Baturawudawe, who had figured prominently in the temperance movement and of whom four were destined to

become Ministers in later years under the Donoughmore Constitution, were thrown into prison. From now on the political history of Ceylon was to be different.

Temperance workers foresaw that without political freedom and a voice in the management of their own affairs there was no liberty. Those who were devoting themselves to temperance came over to politics and there was a great accession of workers to the political cause—and none more zealous than the present leader of the House, D. S. Senanayake.

At this time those who were responsible for governmental misdeeds attempted to drive a wedge between the Sinhalese Buddhists and Sinhalese Christians by trying to make out that the latter had no connection with the Riots. This move failed and as things returned to normal, and the Government permitted it, a great public meeting was held at the Public Hall to protest against the iniquities which had been committed. A definite move was made to prevent Sir James Peiris and other Sinhalese Christians from participating,—but Sir James, a man of high principle and sterling integrity, frowned on it.

It was at this meeting that Dr. Solomon Fernando died immediately after he had made a speech.

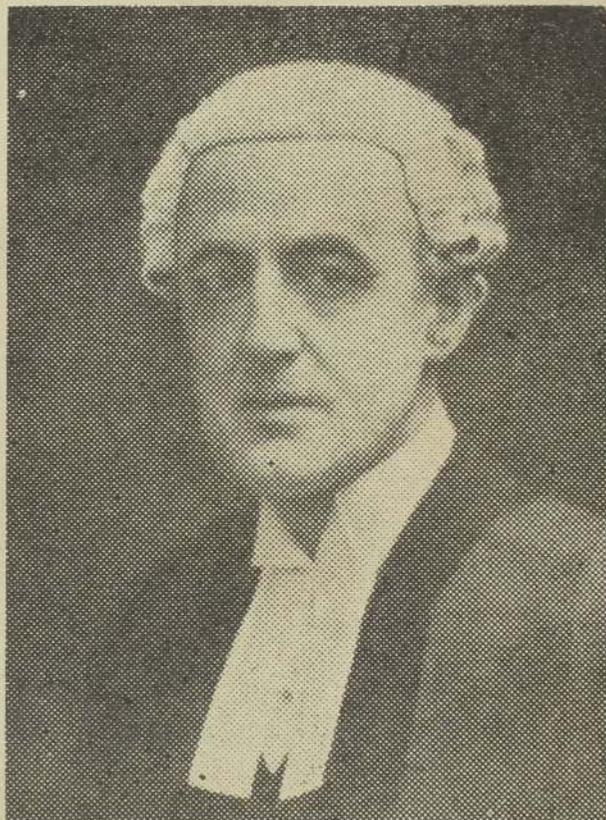
The National Association, now galvanised into life, continued to take an active interest in all political events of the day. Frequent meetings were held, memoranda drafted, memorials sent to the Secretary of State and when occasion demanded public meetings held.

The Pioneer

THE man who gave much-needed direction and drive during the next phase of the national movement was just emerging into a public career. Sir P. Arunachalam had shone brilliantly as a Civil Servant. He was a scholar, philosopher and a proved administrator. He had now

divested himself of his official habiliments and was looking round for an opportunity for service in a different field, under freer conditions. I persuaded him to deliver his epoch-making address on "Our Political Needs" at a meeting of the National Association. That address was both a starting point and a blue print for the important constitutional changes which followed, and was listened to by a large audience in the Victoria Masonic Hall.

The immediate outcome of the meeting was the formation of the Ceylon Reform League for the sole purpose of putting forward the case



MR. EARDLEY NORTON

for a substantial measure of responsible Government for Ceylon. I was joint Secretary with Mr. W. A. de Silva. Sir P. Arunachalam was our President and his habit of visiting the League's Office regularly and putting in a day's work was another instance of his sincerity and devotion to duty. The Ceylon National Association and Reform League held under their joint auspices a National Conference which voiced the demands of the country.

It was the precursor of the Ceylon National Congress which was inaugurated in the following year.

A Free Press

SUCH then was the background of my incursion into journalism. I remember how some years before, when I was still in England, Mr. Corbet emphasised to me the importance of a well-informed public opinion for which a free and independent Press was a *sine qua non*. Mr. Corbet went so far as to cable to Sir Hector Van Cuylenberg, then proprietor of the "Ceylon Independent," enquiring whether he would sell his newspaper.



MR F. H. M. CORBET

It was a few years later that I bought the "Dinamina," one of my brothers also taking a share. I had the inestimable advantage of the close co-operation of Sir Baron Jayatilaka. He not only gave me his advice and encouragement but wrote many of the leaders and special articles. The high place which the

"Dinamina" occupies today in Ceylon journalism owes a good deal to those earlier activities of Sir Baron, for the foundations of the paper were well and truly laid.

The "Ceylon Daily News," as Sir P. Arunachalam wrote in his message, published in the first issue, was fortunate in the time of its birth. New forces were at work, stirring the national consciousness. The newspapers at the time were the "Ceylon Morning Leader," edited by a clever journalist, the late Armand de Souza, the "Ceylon Observer," the "Times of Ceylon," the "Ceylon Independent" and the "Ceylonese." The last-named was started by Sir P. Ramanathan, Mr. Hector Jayawardene and others and at a later stage Mr. Francis de Zoysa, a man who never wavered from his principles, was an active Director, and always took a great interest in the "Daily News" too. The "Ceylonese" always had a vigorous nationalist policy and in make-up and presentation of news inclined to American methods. But the business side of the newspaper was sadly mismanaged and it went under the auctioneer's hammer on a writ of F. R. Senanayake's for Rs. 21,000.

The sale was fixed for a date in December 1917. I had decided to make an offer and went to the sale. F. R. Senanayake and his brother D. S. arrived shortly afterwards and as they were in a hurry to keep an appointment elsewhere F. R. asked me to bid up to Rs. 21,000, the amount of his writ. I was in an embarrassing position when I found that the bidding was not lively and the best offer was about Rs. 15,000. I bought the paper, including plant and goodwill for Rs. 16,000 and in addition paid F. R. a cheque for the difference between the purchase price and the amount of the mortgage. Many people shook their heads and said that another man was preparing to walk the streets.

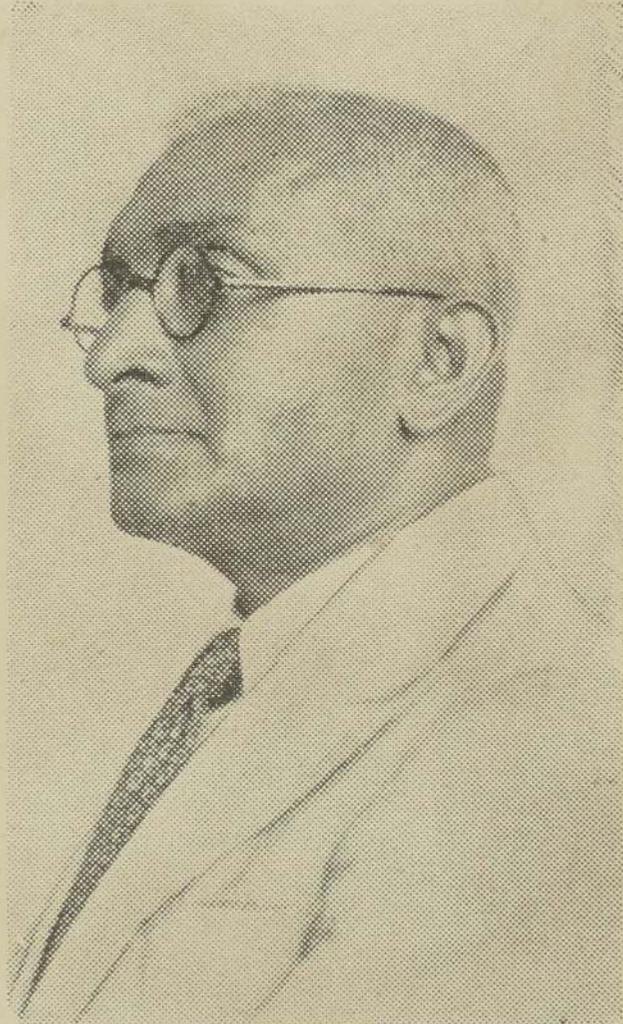
I hardly realised the problems involved in running a daily newspaper. We had not much time to prepare our first issue. It is recorded that eighteen months of careful preparation preceded the first issue of the London "Daily Mail." We had about as many hours to prepare.

I HAD been a regular reader and admirer of the London "Daily News" under the editorship of A. G. Gardiner, since my undergraduate days, and I decided to call the new paper the "Ceylon Daily News." I had no Editor although nearly all the readers of the "Ceylonese" came over, as the sales figures showed. The late F. F. Martinus, a well-known journalist of his time who had retired from the practice of his craft, might be considered the first editor as he was in charge for the first week of the paper's existence. I borrowed his services from one of my brothers for whom he was working in a business office. The great stand-by of the paper in those days was J. R. Weinman, a prolific and ready writer with an inexhaustible fund of knowledge and reminiscence. A. V. Kulasingham, now Crown Advocate of Jaffna, who had been on the editorial staff of the "Ceylonese," was editor for a brief period. He was succeeded by S. J. K. Crowther, with whose co-operation I was able to establish the paper on its present secure footing.

One of the reasons for the rapid success of the "Daily News" was the fact that it came to represent the new forces referred to by Sir P. Arunachalam. The "Morning Leader" under Armand de Souza had passed its hey-day. High officials had cultivated the friendship of the Editor and his style as a free and independent critic had suffered. The "Ceylon Independent" had failed to keep pace with the march of time. The "Ceylonese" could not survive the difficul-

ties resulting from the war and other causes owing to divided ownership and counsel.

No one who was associated with me in the publication of the "Daily News" had political ambitions. Nor did I embark on the sea of journalism to bring home any rich argosies. There are more comfortable methods of making money than the newspaper profession affords. I staked a great deal on the venture. The paper had the ideals of public service and national progress before it. In the



MR. S. J. K. CROWTHER

pursuit of those ideals the organisation which I started with a few dozen men has grown and has been established on a solid foundation.

Early Friends

THE "Daily News" was of course helped by many who were in the main current of politics. I would like to refer in this connection to the late E. T. de Silva, a contemporary of

mine in London, who wrote many editorials and special articles. His early death cut short a life which showed brilliant promise. He was a powerful speaker and had he been given the normal span of life, he would undoubtedly have been one of our leading public men.

From the earliest days the "Daily News" had many contributors whose work was greatly appreciated by readers. Leonard Woolf, the author of "Village in the Jungle", who had retired some years earlier from the Ceylon Civil Service and made a name for himself as an author and journalist in London, was among these.

Elsewhere in this Supplement Mr. Frederick Grubb writes of his long and memorable connection with the "Daily News" as its London Correspondent. He was a friend of Sir Baron Jayatilaka who arranged the appointment of Mr. Grubb during a visit to London in 1919. It is not too much to say that Mr. Grubb's weekly despatches did as much as anything else to establish the paper in the front rank of Ceylon journalism.

One of the best features of the paper for many years were the occasional and well-timed letters signed "E. J. S." Mr. Samerawickrame's influence on Ceylon politics was unobtrusive but unfailing and real. He was guide, philosopher and friend of the paper till the very last days of his life.

But the most prolific of them all was the Editor himself, whose gift of light satire found plenty of scope in his articles signed "Jacques". Crowther's connection with the paper terminated early in 1931, the year in which the Donoughmore Constitution was inaugurated. He was succeeded by H. A. J. Hulugalle, the present occupant of the editorial chair. Hulugalle had joined the "Daily News" in the first year of its existence, straight from school as a lad

of nineteen years. He grew up with the paper and, except for a brief interlude as a law student, was engaged in various departments of the "Daily News". After a brief period as Editor of the "Ceylon Observer" he became Editor of the "Daily News". His balanced judgment has served the paper well in the new era which opened with the Donoughmore Constitution.

The New Order

UP to the introduction of the new Constitution, the incentive of office did not influence politicians. Even those who went before the Donoughmore Commission with proposals for reforms did not expect that the Ministerial system would take the form it took. A wide gulf divided the bureaucracy from popular movements and the men behind them. The "Daily News" played its part as a stern critic and was never intimidated. On more than one occasion it was threatened with the big stick and various penalties were held out, but it pursued an independent policy always, while being in close contact with the political organisations of the day.

The new Constitution brought new factors into Ceylon politics. Ministers and Executive Committees now formulated policy and promoted Government measures. The "Daily News" was often obliged to criticise old friends and attack their policies when they were wrong. The last twelve years have in many ways been a difficult period for a newspaper, with the roots and traditions of the "Daily News", but it has succeeded in steering a course which, those associated with the paper believe, has been in the best interests of the public.

Such success as it has achieved during a quarter of a century is principally due to the fact that the public approved of its policy and methods, and gave it its confidence.

Twenty-five Years of the "Daily News"

THE STORY OF A CONSTRUCTIVE REVOLUTION

By Orion de Zylva

THE "Ceylon Daily News" first saw the light of day when a world war was at the crescendo which precedes swift ending. It attains its silver jubilee when an even more gigantic struggle is entering the decisive stage. It can derive great courage and faith for the future from the fact that it has come through the strains and stresses of two wars and a troubled peace with a vigour which far from diminishing has grown from strength to strength.

When the "Daily News" was published on the third of January, 1918, certain ideals were aimed at. To turn these ideals into a deed required in the doer a spirit of determination and high adventure. The way of Ceylonese journalism up to that time was for the most part crazy-paved with broken fortunes and shattered hopes. To make the prospect even more discouraging the "Ceylonese," launched a few years earlier by a group of able and patriotic men with a confidence sustained by hope, had only recently failed. But Mr. D. R. Wijewardene was not deterred by these unhappy omens. Purchasing the plant and machinery of the "Ceylonese" and engaging the services of some of its staff and other competent assistants he boldly started the enterprise he had planned and which his powers of organisation were to develop into a mighty force for the country's good.

In achieving this, he proved that any person possessed of perseverance and drive and fired by an intense desire to attain an ideal could not only command success in business but that he could make a success of a business of the most intricate and complicated

kind involved in the running of several newspapers.

To Mr. Wijewardene's everlasting credit let it be remembered that he dared and executed what was nothing less than a constructive revolution in Journalism such as it had been up to the time he entered the field. The "Daily News" was to be a newspaper with a soul. Though with convictions and opinions of its own, it was to give a fair show always to other convictions and opinions. It was meant to appeal to all thoughtful men and women anxious for the country's welfare and advancement irrespective of race or creed.

Cardinal Principle

The public is the final judge whether the "Daily News" has been loyal to this cardinal principle, and the history of its twenty-five years should show that it has no cause to flinch from that judgment. "Character" which in this connection means telling the truth as you see it after sparing no pains to find it out, and sticking to it if need be in the teeth of any storm—character was to be the very core of the new paper and independence its very breath. Its founder from the outset insisted on a vital distinction between Views and News. "Views" must be absolutely definite, but "News" absolutely impartial and untainted. This distinction, as Mr. Garvin has observed, is the very essence of sound journalism. Without it there can be no moral force and no public security. Another deliberate maxim was "to give the public what they don't want." Let not this be misunderstood. It is no reflection on any class of reader. The maxim meant that the "Daily News"

would appeal to the best in all readers by giving them what they ought to want and would want when they saw it. Further, life is more than politics. Though politics were to receive full treatment in an age jostling with serious problems both at home and abroad, the humanities were to receive their due—Literature, the Home, Art, Music, Sport and all healthy things of the open air.

Loyal Workers

The ideals upon which this newspaper was founded were sedulously fostered by a large band of workers—brilliant and able editors, loyal and enterprising reporters, efficient printers, an assemblage of eminent contributors, and, on the managerial side, a staff of experience and wisdom. They have all had some share in giving to those ideals a permanent and enduring value. Here let it be mentioned that the "Daily News" has been fortunate in its Managers, the first of whom was P. L. A. Deutrom. After him O. E. Goonetilleke, on his way from the now defunct Bank of Colombo to the office of Auditor-General and the Civil Defence Commissionership, stayed with us as Manager for a period. When he left to become Railway Auditor it was to the Law Library that we turned for his successor—G. V. Perera, who has remained Manager ever since. And to these factors of success, personal and organisational, have been added the weight and importance of an arrangement with the London "Times" which has enabled the "Daily News" to furnish its readers with articles on world affairs by writers who are acknowledged authorities on their subjects. It also carries the famous Low cartoons and the cleverest of the humorous strips extant, and has, apart from its London Letter and special cable services, provided the business public with regular commercial intelligence from Mincing Lane that has come to be recognised as the most dependable information in the financial field.

Of the day-to-day history of the "Daily News" during these twenty-

five years a big and fascinating volume could be compiled. It came into existence, as has already been said, in troubled times. It had the inevitable handicap of starting production in premises in Maradana which had definite limitations. For another thing, the cost of newsprint at the time was excessively high particularly in the case of a journal that was priced at five cents in order to encourage people whom it was making newspaper-minded for the first time in their lives to cultivate the habit. On the top of these difficulties came the heavy hand of an unimaginative censorship. The Riots of 1915 even after three years were a vivid unhappy memory, and the official mind still smarted under the indignant castigation provoked by the brutal atrocities of the Martial Law period. The Governor, Sir John Anderson, lay dying, and the administration under his lieutenant, Mr. R. E. Stubbs, saw to it that the censorship was exercised with a rigour that savoured of revenge on public opinion and put a curb on legitimate writing. It was no easy task for a paper with the principles of the "Daily News" to steer through these difficult times while yet remaining faithful to those principles. But it triumphed over the most adverse circumstances.

A New Force

The time quickly came when expansion made it necessary to detach the editorial and managerial departments and instal them in Fort offices at Queen Street in the shadow of the Clock Tower. This was in 1920. The advent of the "Daily News" into their midst made the other newspapers of the time realise that a new force was stirring in journalism. They attempted to combat it by deriding it. Their old-fashioned ideas and concepts of journalism had, however, outlived their youth and usefulness. One by one their lights flickered out.

Of the great campaigns waged by the "Daily News" throughout its career something will be found chronicled on another page. Foremost

among these causes, but only foremost, has been the political advancement of the country to the goal of self-determination. The ceaseless endeavours that have culminated in the establishment of the University of Ceylon are a proof of the keen interest the "Daily News" has taken in the sphere of educational progress; in the economic sphere the agricultural policy that has now been adopted by the Ministry runs broadly on the lines advocated by this journal for a quarter of a century. The amelioration of the condition of the masses, good living conditions and freedom from want, have always been an abiding concern. This is not the place or the pen to dwell here at length on these things.

The Grand Alliance

The work for national causes has not involved neglect of the elementary functions of a newspaper—to publish the latest news and give the authentic information. The stage was reached when thanks to the confidence and support of the reading and advertising public it was possible to spare no expense in the endeavour to provide an absolutely up-to-date newspaper. At this time (it was the year 1923) a remarkable development occurred. The proprietor of the youngest newspaper acquired and became the proprietor of the oldest newspaper. Both had much to gain from the amalgam. The "Ceylon Observer" in a state of decrepitude had been for years struggling for existence. Its consanguinity with the full-blooded "Daily News" put new life into its ageing veins to such good purpose that today the "Observer" and its Sunday offspring are lively and virile partners in the great combination that is the Associated Newspapers of Ceylon, Ltd. The formation of the Company was still to

come. The two papers had their mating-season in Baillie Street, the old home of the "Observer" under the Fergusons. The younger paper drew fresh inspiration and momentum from the traditions and alliances of the old, and there followed in due time the consummation that opened a new epoch in the history of Ceylon and Eastern journalism—the founding of the Company and the creation of Lake House which, with its carefully-planned layout and the most modern newspaper-producing plant, is acknowledged to be a model of its kind for a similar organisation in either hemisphere.

Down To Yesterday

We come to the last decade which is recent history. The repercussions of new constitutional machinery at work have made it an eventful, unquiet period. The war supervening has complicated the problems of newspaper production even more than it has complicated the problems of many other form of business. But the "Daily News" and its allied publications—today a large family with the greatly-demanded "Dinamina," the "Thinakaran," and the "Silumina" all lustily prospering—have not for a moment permitted the shocks and exigencies of the time to interrupt or interfere with the discharge of what they conceive to be and cherish as their duty of serving Ceylon and furthering its high interests. And on this morning of Jubilee the "Daily News" can look back with justifiable pride on twenty-five years of high endeavour and proud achievement. The whole story, with all its incidents, humorous and perilous, austere and gay, would make, as already said, a large book without one dead word. But in epitome this is the true account of how the soul of a newspaper was brought into being.

Period of Profound Changes

PROGRESS IN EDUCATION AND MEDICAL SERVICES

By Scrutator

THE old proverb that "the more things change, the more they are the same" hardly applies to Ceylon during the quarter century in which the "Daily News" has been in existence.

To many these brief, interbellum years have been the most remarkable in the country's history. They have seen far-reaching political and constitutional changes, recorded elsewhere in this supplement, which have associated the people of the country with its government and administration to a far greater extent than heretofore.

But no less important or remarkable is the change in the manner of life and standard of values of the nation as Ceylon strove to keep abreast of the political, economic and technological advances which have taken place in the world in the past twenty-five years.

IT is sometimes difficult to realise how short a history have things one now takes for granted in Ceylon. The man who catches a bus or, nowadays, waits impatiently for a comparatively uncrowded one to come along, seldom reflects that it is only in the last few years that buses began to knit the country together till their numbers grew to nearly 2,500 and they become a competitor of the railway and not an adjunct. The man who bemoans the petrol shortage rarely thinks that it is only in the last quarter century that motor cars became so numerous on the roads (there were over 20,000 in 1941) that

Sir Henry Blake's 1907 prophecy that the motor car would be the means of communication in those parts of the Island not served by the railway can be said to have been largely substantiated.

The railway itself has extended to Opanaike, Badulla, Puttalam, Trincomalee and Batticaloa. A new means of conveying products—the motor lorry—has become increasingly popular.

JUST as Ceylon has been linked closer together in the last 25 years, it has also been brought into closer touch with the world outside. Air mail letters are now regarded as a normal means of communication, even in wartime, but it was only in 1929 that the Air Mail service began in Ceylon, while it was not till 1935 that the first aeroplane landed in Ceylon at Ratmalana aerodrome. The telephone service now stretches not only all over the Island but, in 1935, telephonic communication was available between Ceylon and Great Britain, India, Malaya and Burma. These services have been suspended for the duration of the war. In 1939 the Island's telephone service began to be modernised and the automatic working replaced the manual working system.

THE face of Ceylon has also changed considerably since the "Daily News" first started publication, parti-

cularly the face of its capital city, Colombo.

The city has broadened out and many places which were once uninhabited are now flourishing residential suburbs. Many of Colombo's landmarks are also creations of the last twenty-five years: the now dismantled War Memorial (designed by Sir Edward Lutyens), the Town Hall, the new Customs building, the State Council and the Secretariat, the Lake House building itself, the new Royal College, the Central Y.M.C.A., and a number of banks and cinemas. to mention only a few.

The reclamation of the Beira Lake was completed, MacCallum Road and the Harbour-Lake canal came into existence. The level crossing at Parson's Road Junction—a perpetual hold-up for traffic—was removed and the present overhead road took its place. The present Fort Railway Station was also completed during this period.

The past twenty-five years have also seen attempts at town planning, strenuously advocated by the "Daily News" but unfortunately never seriously put into effect by the authorities. In 1921 Professor Patrick Geddes first reported on this question. In 1922 the Colombo Municipal Council first declared its intention of abolishing the slums and creating model tenements but the plan was never fully carried out. In 1939 town planning once again was raised with the arrival in the Island of Mr. Clifford Holliday to report on the subject. For the last three years, however, nothing has been done to put his recommendations into effect.

ONE of the most striking advances in the Island's history in the past 25 years has taken place in the sphere of education. It was in this period that higher education began in the Island, when the Ceylon University College was opened in 1921. The story of the long campaign for the creation of a full-fledged,

unitary and residential University of Ceylon and the part played by the "Daily News" in this campaign is told elsewhere in this supplement.

As far as secondary education goes, the most striking feature has been the growth of big secondary schools all over the Island. Twenty-five years ago the majority of these schools were for the most part concentrated in four towns, Colombo, Jaffna, Kandy and Galle. To-day nearly every town in the Island has at least one good secondary school.

There has also been a general increase in all types of schools in the Island in this period, while the number of scholars attending school has doubled. In 1918, there were 4,150 schools in the island; in 1940 there were 5,816. The number of scholars during this period increased from 410,307 to 819,297.



FROM its inception the "Daily News" has consistently advocated the extension of public health facilities, which have grown remarkably in the last quarter century. 1918 the year the "Daily News" was founded, also saw an influenza epidemic in the Island which resulted in many deaths, as did the other big epidemic during this period—the malaria epidemic of 1934.

One of the important advances in public health work during this period was the inauguration and extension of the sanitary services. The first health unit was established in 1926 and special Medical Officers of Health were appointed.

There was also a large growth in hospital facilities and the provision of dispensaries. The Colombo General Hospital was expanded, as were the provincial hospitals which were increasingly provided with the same facilities as existed in Colombo.

During this period under review special attention was for the first time given to maternity and child welfare. The first creche was opened in 1921.

Maternity hospitals and lying-in-homes have been built.

Another important development in creating the positive health of the community has been the beginning of Health Campaigns. An anti-malaria scheme has been developed and the anti-hookworm and anti-tuberculosis campaigns expanded to cover the whole Island. A new feature of health work is the lectures on health given in the rural areas. Certain diseases like filarisis and parangi have been practically abolished.



THE position which the women of Ceylon have occupied in the last twenty-five years is another earnest of change and improvement. The passing of the Married Women's Property Act in the early twenties put the married women of Ceylon on the same footing as their sisters in Great Britain. The Donoughmore Constitution, which gave universal franchise, also for the first time gave women the vote, and two Ceylon women have been members of the State Council. In 1933 women were for the first time admitted into the legal profession and in 1935 Ceylon's

first woman barrister took her oaths. Women have also begun to take an increasing part in the public and sporting life of the country but so far they have not made wide use of their newly gained rights.

It may safely be predicted that the changes which the last quarter century has seen in the lives of the people of Ceylon will continue and accelerate in the years to come. The war itself has brought many changes and standards of value, exposed what was antiquated and inefficient and proved the necessity of new measures.

Looking back on the past quarter century of change in the country, the "Daily News" can well consider that it has helped towards this by its consistent policy of criticising shortcomings and reactionary measures, encouraging progressive efforts, urging a high standard of public life and consistently indicating the path of political and social advance for the country. When the time comes for the "Daily News" to celebrate its fiftieth anniversary, it is confident that it will have the same feeling that it has contributed to the advancement of the country which, by then, should have progressed enormously.

The "Daily News" and the University

A LONG CAMPAIGN AND ITS SUCCESSFUL CLIMAX

By *K. Dahanayake*

IT has been well said by Wickham Steed, himself a famous journalist and a former editor of the London "Times", that the essence of policy in the editorship of a newspaper, as in the Government of a State, is foresight based on knowledge. When a newspaper, possessed of that essence of policy, discharges fearlessly its function of public criticism and the wardenship of the public conscience, it may, indeed, be said to fulfil its highest service.

Judged by this high standard, the "Daily News", in its short life, has proved to be more than a mere trustee of the public conscience. It has definitely, on various important occasions, indicated what should be the country's enlightened opinion on matters of polity and progress; and in that way it has played a distinctive part in the moulding of public opinion, and, in the final result, in shaping the trend of the history of this country.

One of the early achievements of the "Daily News" was the part it played in helping to crystallise public sentiment on the University project, especially on the question of the site.

The agitation for a Ceylon University had begun more than 30 years ago. In 1912, a Committee which was appointed to inquire into and report on the subject of secondary and higher education submitted an interim report recommending the establishment of a University College in Colombo. Four years later, a conference was held at Queen's House on November 22 and 23, 1915, and the decision was made that Ceylon should have a first-rate University. At that conference, the then Governor, Sir

Robert (later Lord) Chalmers, explained his views with regard to the new institution. "He emphasised the fact that its status as a College must be regarded as a preliminary status only, and that the ultimate aim was its development into a degree-granting University." It was to be an institution worthy of Ceylon and capable of taking its place on an equal footing with any of the great centres of learning in the world. It was agreed that it should primarily be a residential University.

Five more years elapsed, and it was only in January, 1921, that the Ceylon University College was started in Colombo.

The Government was in no hurry to convert the College into a full-fledged University. Many preliminaries had to be attended to, not least among them being the question of the site.

Question of the Site

In a letter dated February 8, 1923, the Principal of the University College, Mr. R. Marrs, writing to the Colonial Secretary, referred to the Government's intention in due course to convert the University College into a University, and proceeding to discuss the question of the site and the University buildings, wrote: "I submit that it is now time to consider how the University will stand as regards sites and buildings, lest other deliberations outstrip the preparation of the necessary externals.....Though sections of public opinion still regard it as an open question, the site of the University appears to be a *chose jugée*."

There had really been no decision that the University should be established in Colombo on the Buller's Road site; there was only the report of a sub-committee of the University College Council which stated that this was a suitable site.

The "Daily News" had, all through all this period, kept a vigilant eye on the project. Now, it definitely raised the question whether it was expedient to persevere with the task of establishing the University within the bounds of the City of Colombo; or whether it would not be an act of foresight to shift the venue to an area outside Colombo, more capable of satisfying the demands of space and a suitable environment.

Indeed, it appeared that a large volume of opinion in the country was in favour of the establishment of the University in a site far removed from Colombo, since the ideal marked out for Ceylon had always been the ideal of a residential University of the unitary type and such an institution could not develop or grow in the cramped confines of the City of Colombo.

A Notable Campaign

Matters came to a head in 1926. On April 24 of that year there was to be a meeting of the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council to discuss, among other matters, a vote for the construction of a new residence for the Governor in Buller's Road. This seemed a suitable opportunity to place before the Finance Committee the view that the Buller's Road site was not the most suitable to be earmarked for the proposed University.

Circumstances called for quick action. If this chance was lost, it would have meant a definite pledge, or resolution, to establish a second-rate University in Colombo—not the large residential University envisaged, but a caricature of a University, a degree-factory in the City turning out anaemic graduates unfit for a life of intellectual vigour or usefulness!

The "Daily News" seized the opportunity without delay. In a series of

brilliant special articles and editorials—which were later re-printed owing to the demand for them from the public—the "Daily News" began its campaign for a residential University situated in a suitable environment. It called upon the Government and the legislators of the time to look as far ahead as their vision could reach; to consider the question of the proposed University in its entirety, and not to commit the irretrievable blunder of planting a second-rate, shoddy institution in the City of Colombo.

Meanwhile, the Finance Committee had to be won over. There were those who thought that the Government was pledged to establish the University in Colombo. There was no time to be lost in the task of winning them over. It was at this stage that the late Dr. S. C. Paul, Dr. Andreas Nell and Mr. D. R. Wijewardene drew up a strong memorandum on the subject, which they forwarded to the Government. The memorandum had to reach the authorities before the Finance Committee met. Time was of such consequence that it was forwarded without the signature of Dr. Andreas Nell, who could not make arrangements to come down from Kandy to sign it within the short interval available. Later, he wrote to the "Daily News" agreeing with the memorandum in its entirety.

This memorandum briefly recapitulated all the past circumstances, and went on to give details of a feasible scheme for a University of the residential, unitary type outside Colombo. It answered all objections to the removal from Colombo, and though not intended to be an exhaustive exposition of the subject, it certainly provided a basis for an unprejudiced discussion.

The agitation in the "Daily News", now reinforced by the clear statement in the memorandum submitted by the late Dr. S. C. Paul, Dr. Andreas Nell and Mr. D. R. Wijewardene, threw the whole question of the University site into the melting pot. On June 26, 1926, the then Governor, Sir Hugh Clifford, appoint-

ed the University Site Committee, "to consider the question of a site for the proposed University and to submit a report thereon." The Chairmanship of the Committee was entrusted to Mr. M. T. Akbar, the Solicitor-General, himself a former University Scholar of Ceylon and a distinguished graduate of the Cambridge University. Other members of this Committee were: Mr. A. Francis Molamure, Mr. W. (now Sir Waitialingam) Duraiswamy, Mr. D. B. (now Sir Baron) Jayatilaka, the late Mr. H. A. Loos and Mr. W. E. Wait.

Keen Controversy

For many months thereafter a keen controversy raged in the columns of the "Daily News", and meetings and counter-meetings were held by those who supported the Colombo site and others who favoured a site outside Colombo, preferably in the Up-country. Though ardently on the side of those who favoured a residential University outside Colombo, the "Daily News" placed its columns freely at the disposal of every shade of opinion. If at the time the controversy among the public overstepped the bounds of dispassionate criticism, it merely showed how intense was the interest in the issue involved.

Under the able guidance of Mr. Akbar, the University Site Committee submitted a comprehensive and scholarly report in February, 1927, in the course of which it stated:

"We have given most anxious consideration to the question of the site, and are of opinion that no better site can be found than the one in the Dumbara valley (in the Kandy district).....If the Government and the Legislative Council approve of our recommendations and the reasons we have given for them, we suggest that the next step shall be for the Government to appoint a

strong Commission to work the University scheme in detail with the help of experts."

Meanwhile, "the battle of the sites" went on with unabated vigour amongst the public. On December 15, 1927, the Legislative Council rejected by a large majority a motion introduced by the late Sir Ponnambalam Ramathan seeking to earmark the Buller's Road site for the proposed University.

The Legislative Council thereafter debated the following motion moved by Mr. Akbar: "That the proposed University shall be unitary and residential; that it shall be established in Kandy; that the Government shall appoint a Commission to work out the details of the proposed University". On March 9, 1928, the three sections of the motion were voted upon separately. The first was carried by 38 votes to 5; the second by 23 votes to 18; and the third by 25 votes to 16.

Thus ended "the battle of the sites". It was a distinct triumph for the "Daily News". What was believed to be a decision previously arrived at to establish the University in Colombo, was completely reversed by timely agitation.

The Riddell Commission

The next stage was the appointment of a University Commission, in terms of the third section of Mr. Akbar's motion. The late Sir Walter R. Buchanan-Riddell, Principal of Hertford College, Oxford, was specially invited to be Chairman of the Commission. Under his expert guidance, the Commission issued an exhaustive report in January, 1929. And in November, 1930, the Legislative Council passed the second reading of an Ordinance for the establishment, incorporation and regulation of a University in Ceylon. A few months later the Legislative Council was dissolved before the third reading could be taken up.

When the State Council came into existence in 1931, it was hoped that the University scheme, all the preliminaries of which were now ready, would be expedited by the new Minister of Education and his Executive Committee. But far from expediting the work, it was inordinately delayed and at times the whole project appeared to be in danger of being sidetracked and forgotten. Suffice it to state that the "Daily News" exerted its utmost during this period to point out how utterly reprehensible was this delay.

Planning the University

The last phase of the "struggle" was entered into in 1938, when once again it fell to the "Daily News" to draw attention to the vital necessity to entrust the work of planning the University buildings in Kandy to an expert. The selection of Professor L. P. Abercrombie for the purpose was first advocated in the "Daily News", but the Board of Ministers rejected

the proposal. Due to persistent agitation in the paper the question was reconsidered, and finally the task was entrusted to Professor Abercrombie and Mr. Clifford Holliday.

In the 25th year of its life the "Daily News" welcomed with unalloyed pleasure the formal establishment of the University of Ceylon. It only remains for the institution to be removed to the Kandy site when the buildings there are completed. It is not merely that this University will play a leading part in the higher education and future achievements of the Ceylonese people. Its establishment is a national landmark—a symbol that, after nearly five centuries of intellectual darkness, this country will once again take its rightful place as a centre of Oriental learning.

It was only fitting that the "Daily News" should have played so large a part in directing the people in the right path in an enterprise of so great significance.

Between Two Great Wars

THE DAYS BEFORE THE 1918 ARMISTICE

By H. D. Jansz

THE first World War was in its fourth and critical year when the "Ceylon Daily News" came into being. The outlook for the Allies then was less hopeful than it is for the United Nations today. Only a rash optimist or a bold astrologer would have predicted that within eleven months, Ceylon's new newspaper would be recording the swift march of events that brought Germany to her knees.

The picture in January, 1918, even if all was comparatively quiet on the Western Front, could be described as more than a little depressing for the Entente.

America's entry had not yet restored the balance in numbers on the battlefields of France, which had been tipped in favour of Germany by the collapse of Russia and by heavy Allied losses in 1917.

By the end of January, 1918, the German strength on the Western Front had increased to 177 divisions, with 30 more to come from the East. To meet this threat the Allies had no more than 173 divisions. British casualties suffered in the offensives of the later part of 1917 numbered 300,000.

February was a month of anxious waiting for the big clash in the Spring. And in March, Ludendorff launched his big offensive, which was aimed at destroying the Allied armies and doing what the submarine campaign failed to accomplish—to assure complete victory for Germany.

Ludendorff struck at several points, and met with local successes that surprised even the attackers. But he only created dangerous sali-

ents, open to Allied counter-attacks. Still the situation was dangerous enough to drive the Allies to the long overdue step of a unified command.



ON April 14, 1918, Marshal Foch was appointed Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces. There were new hopes of the tide of disaster being turned.

Interest in these crucial developments of a war on which so many tremendous issues hung was naturally as keen in Ceylon 25 years ago as it is today. The only difference was that the fighting was taking place so far away. There was no tension arising out of the presence of an enemy less than a thousand miles from these shores. And the impact of the first World War on Ceylon's trade and industries and on the people's way of life was not so keenly or widely felt. But it may be assumed that the headlines reflecting the progress of Ludendorff's offensive in 1918 were followed with as much excitement as the larger "banners" of 1940 and 1942.

By the end of May one of Ludendorff's biggest drives had reached the river Marne and its impetus died away. There was distinctly better news coming over the cables and served up by the increasingly circulated "Daily News". American troops were pouring into France. The unified command and gathering of fresh resources were rekindling Allied hopes of smashing the German offensive decisively.

A period of quiescence followed for a month or so. Nobody yet ventured to predict "peace before the end of



this year." If there was no war-weariness in Ceylon, there was patient resignation to the prospect of a prolonged struggle still ahead.

On July 15 Ludendorff's new attack was launched, but came as no surprise. And three days later Marshal Foch struck with great and well prepared force against a flank of the Marne salient. Directing operations was the now pathetic Marshal Petain. He used masses of light tanks in surprise attacks with great effect.



THE worst was over. The initiative had definitely and finally passed to the Allies. Victory was in sight. It is easy to imagine what this must have meant to "Daily News" readers, eagerly studying the latest despatches from the front.

August, normally Colombo's merry month, came with good reason for renewed cheerfulness. August 8, 1918, was described by Ludendorff as "the black day of the German army in the history of the war." It put the decline of Germany's fighting power beyond doubt. "The war must be ended", exclaimed the General who a few months earlier was planning to end it in his own way. He now realised that Germany must seek an honourable peace or be utterly humiliated.

The Kaiser's Germany, like Hitler's Germany today, had to abandon her offensive strategy and seek to wear her enemies down by stubborn strategic defensive tactics.

But Foch and Fate had other plans. The Marshal began beating a tattoo on the German front with a series of rapidly developed and vigorous attacks. By the first week of September, the Germans were back at their starting point—the Hindenburg Line.



HOPES of an Allied victory in the Autumn ran high. At the end of September, Bulgaria collapsed. This was the first of the staggering blows under which Germany began to reel. At the same

time, Foch made his grand assault. An appeal for an immediate armistice went to President Wilson on October 3.

This was indeed the best news the "Daily News" gave to its readers in the exciting first year of its life. The end of the World War was very near.

On October 23, President Wilson replied to the German appeal, making it clear that the Allies expected unconditional surrender.

On October 30, Turkey capitulated after a smashing defeat, and on November 4, Austria asked for an armistice.

The people of Germany, starved and deceived, lost all patience. They were in revolt.

On November 9, Germany became a republic.

On November 11 at 5 a.m. the Armistice was signed in a railway carriage in the Forest Compiègne.

And the first World War ended at 11 o'clock the same morning.



LITTLE did those of us who chronicled and commented on these great events imagine that 25 years later we would be discussing the beginning of the end of another and more devastating world conflict. It is one of the accidents of history that the Silver Jubilee of the "Daily News", like its birth, coincides with the opening of the fourth year of a Great War. How far the rigours and restrictions of wartime have touched the journal's life in its vigorous manhood today, its readers can judge. But what of war's impact on its hopeful infancy in the chequered days of 1918?

One thing that sticks in one's mind most among office memories of 25 years ago is the dread of the Censorship. This cramping restriction was clamped down then not only on all news and comment relating to military matters and shipping, but also

on the slightest reference to the Ceylon Riots of 1915.

Pity the poor novice at sub-editing who needlessly slipped in a paragraph recording a trip of the good ship 'Lady Blake' round the Island, or a passage in a patriot's speech referring to the dark Hundred Days in Ceylon's very recent history.

The Editor would feel the world was coming to an end. He would impress the unhappy journalistic tyro with the awful possibility of the paper being suppressed. Heavy fines might have to be paid after unpleasant interviews with the Censor. But somehow things generally ended only with a sharp warning, and greater care in scrutinising "copy".

The presentation of the war news in those days was essentially sober and restrained. Tremendous battles were being fought, but the "Daily News" headlines refused to shriek. The reports from the front were for the most part brief and strictly objective. There were no rigmaroles of propagandist, commentary or 'pep' talks.

The "Daily News" had its own well-informed commentator who signed

himself "J. A." and gave a balanced picture of the strategy of the Great War.

THE end of the war did not, of course, mean an immediate assurance of peace. There were many months of negotiation to follow. Finally, the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919.

One well remembers a young "Daily News" leader-writer, glowing with pride at being chosen to comment on this historic event, beginning his article with the dramatic words: "Peace is at last assured".

But the Editor was not so sanguine, and more prophetic if prosy when he altered the opening sentence to the plain statement of fact: "The Peace Treaty has at last been signed."

If the "Daily News" came in only at the tail-end of the last World War it has stood the full blast of the present conflict and is privileged to play an important part in helping to see it through. The journal has grown to its present stature and achieved notable progress through a period of stress and endeavour in a changing world between two Great Wars.

How to 'Scoop' the News

SOME NOTABLE "DAILY NEWS" FEATS

By R. E. de Alwis

THE newspaper reader in the morning, eager and bright-eyed, turns over the pages which establish the link between the individual and civilisation, seeking the local and the foreign news.

He reads with curiosity the news of some step in contemplation which will, perhaps, radically affect his life, put an additional ten cents per yard on his clothing by the increase of customs tariffs or provide him with another hospital.

As he reads, he gives little thought to the men behind the scenes, who are the faithful purveyors of the news, the men who have worked and schemed that the reader may know the news.

The purpose of this article is to make the reader understand what goes into the making of the news, the effort of men who know no defeat.

De Blowitz, the Paris Correspondent of "The Times," publishing the Treaty of Berlin, added lustre to the history of newspaper scoops, but a humbler newspaper man, who, walking in the traditions set by the celebrated journalist, publishes his daily scoop, is just doing his job.

It takes a compound of recklessness, anticipation and shrewdness to obtain the coveted scoop. In these days of "emergency" the news-writer may even stand in the Magistrate's Court dock for "failing" to divulge the sources of his information as was my experience a few months ago.

I do not drag the name of De Blowitz into our own affairs without justification. The "Daily News" once published two great scoops on two successive mornings.

One was the first report of the Hydro-electric scheme by Mr. Chapman, then Director of Public Works, which at the moment it was published was being treated as a highly confidential State Paper.

The next day the "Daily News" published the first report of Mr. T. Reid, Mayor of Colombo, on the reform of the Colombo Municipal Council.

The Daily Scoop

A rival newspaper called on Mr. Reid the same morning to verify the authenticity of the report published by this paper. Mr. Reid quietly took out the copy of the report from one of the drawers of his desk and observed: "Here is the only copy of my report. I do not know how that news sleuth got hold of it."

The keenest rival of the "Daily News" of those times declared in his leading article next morning that his contemporary was worthily maintaining the traditions of De Blowitz.

As another example of the daily scoop may be mentioned the news that was published a few years ago of an English company approaching the Ceylon Government with the object of establishing a local factory for the refinement of crude oil into petrol.

I remember some years ago when an article was published in this newspaper about the discovery of this process, which made possible the turning of coal into crude oil, and the latter into light oil, a rival paper went round interviewing all

the oil companies in Colombo in order to prove that such a thing was quite impossible.

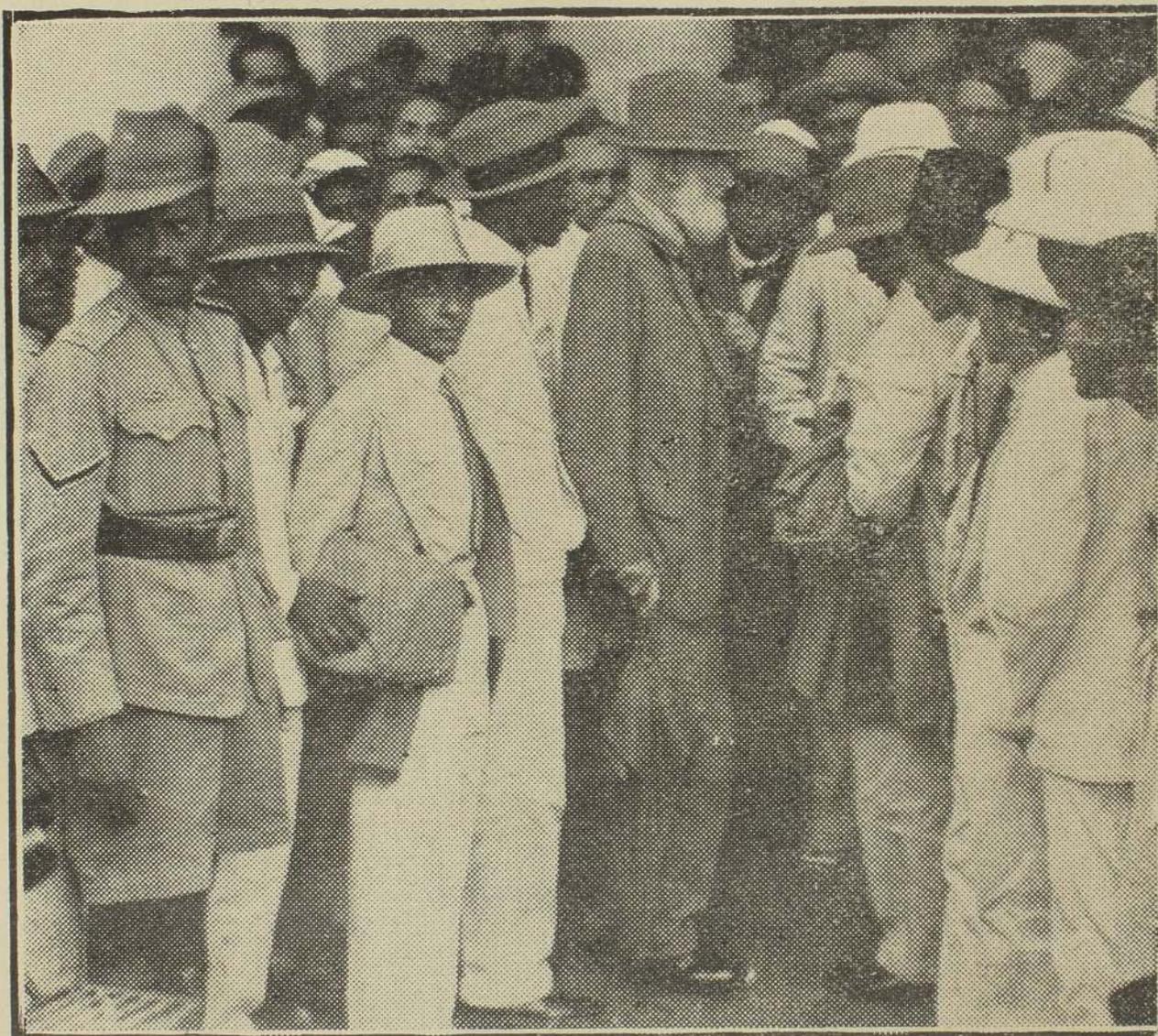
Secret Documents

To mention a few of the other scoops of the "Daily News." In the latter part of 1915, the Sinhalese memorial regarding the riots was sent to the Secretary of State for

existence of this document was kept a carefully-guarded secret, till the "Daily News" made every letter of it known to the public.

The "Daily News," among its other achievements, had the distinction of turning the limelight of publicity on another secret and reactionary document.

In the regime of Sir William Manning, Sir James Peiris was



MR. BERNARD SHAW IN COLOMBO, surrounded by autograph hunters and interviewers.

the Colonies asking for the appointment of a Royal Commission to inquire into the administration of martial law in this country in that year. Public meetings, repeating the demand, followed.

A reactionary group sent a secret memorial to Downing Street. The

taunted by a bureaucratic Government to obtain the contents of the minority representations on political reforms from the authors thereof.

These representations had been made with the utmost secrecy. The signatories were unknown and the document not available through any known channel.

Sir James Peiris in the Legislative Council asked the Government for a copy of the memorial but the acting Colonial Secretary of the time replied on August 22, 1922, "that members who desire to acquaint themselves with the contents of the document should apply to the authors; Government has no authority to publish the document."

However, to the great discomfiture of the Government and the authors of the memorial, the "Daily News" answered the challenge by publishing the full text of the minorities' memorial. And even at this distance of time, it is not possible for the "Daily News" to disclose the steps taken to procure the document.

But the readers of the "Daily News" had heard the answer to the Government's taunt to the leader of the country.

The Donoughmore Report

The manner in which the "Daily News" published the recommendations of the Donoughmore Commission before any other paper was able to do so should be recapitulated in any account of journalism in Ceylon.

On Thursday, July 12, 1928, I called on the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor and asked him when the Government proposed to issue the report to the Press.

The official publication of the report in London was to have taken place on the following Monday, July 16, at 5 p.m. i.e., about 9.30 p.m. local time.

As Government offices would be closed at that time, I suggested to the official that "the Government might consider the desirability"—to use a phrase favoured of officialdom—of issuing the report here on Monday shortly before the hour at which Government offices were closed. The suggestion was not accepted. I thereupon urged that the report might be made available to the news-

papers at about the same time it was published in London, about 9.30 or 10 o'clock on Monday night. I reminded the Governor's Private Secretary that it was customary for us to receive important communiques from Queen's House even at that time of the night.

My pleading fell on deaf ears. I was told that the Government could not consider publishing the Commissioners' Report until 9 o'clock on Tuesday morning, July 17th.

The evening papers, which would have benefited by this arrangement did not murmur, and the other morning papers did not appear to be wide awake about the State Paper for which the whole of Ceylon was expectantly waiting.

I communicated the Government's decision regarding the publication of the Donoughmore Report to my Chief.

His reply was that I ought to be thankful that the Government was about to give the "Daily News" a chance which came not more than once in a generation and that I ought to keep "mum" about it.

I was not a bit surprised. I understood what the words uttered by the man at the helm meant.

On Saturday, July 14th, the "Daily News" got into telegraphic communication with its London Office and gave instructions that a full summary of the Donoughmore Commissioners' Report was to be wired on Monday evening paying at express rate.

The first telegram was handed in on Monday at the London Post Office at 5.30 p.m., i.e., when it was about 10 p.m. in Ceylon. It was received in the local Central Telegraph Office at a quarter to eleven p.m., i.e., in three-quarters of an hour. The second telegram was handed in at the London Office at 6.40 p.m., about 12 midnight in Colombo. It was received at the Central Telegraph Office in Colombo at 2.05 a.m. It had taken over two hours to despatch it because it contained over 2,000 words.

The "Daily News" paid a large sum of money for that telegram because it wanted to be first with the news.

When the Chief Secretary Apologised

Like De Blowitz, every newspaperman who looks for great scoops must earn the confidence of those in high places. In the second week of April, 1932, from one such person, who is not now with us, I heard a whisper that Sir Bernard Bourdillon, Ceylon's first Chief Secretary, was about to leave Ceylon as Governor of Uganda.

I was sure that he had received the new appointment, rushed back to the office, wrote out my copy and took it to the Editor.

He was taken aback. I said I was sure of my story.

The Editor thought that at any rate I ought to take the precaution of referring the news to Sir Bernard himself. It was past seven at night, and on ringing up Sir Bernard's residence I was told that he was in Nuwara Eliya.

"Never mind, ring him up at Nuwara Eliya!" was the Editor's reply. I booked a call to Nuwara Eliya and got Sir Bernard Bourdillon on the telephone only to be assured by him that my story was not true.

On April 27th, when I was on holiday I received a telegram from the Editor congratulating me on my scoop,—and on the birth of my elder son, which occurred the previous night. The Editor had received a letter from Sir Bernard that day apologising for his denial of the news. Sir Bernard assured the Editor that when he spoke to me on the telephone, he had not received any information concerning his new appointment.

When the "Daily News" published a full summary of the recommendations of the Judicial Commission, I understand that the Commission met in the same afternoon and with the assistance of a

police official considered how we had obtained the information. At the end of the deliberations, however, I am told, the Commission found nothing dishonourable in our procedure.

The sources of such items of news cannot always be disclosed, but there are other matters in regard to which the public may be taken into confidence.

Sir Edwin Lutyens

Behind the interview with Sir Edwin Lutyens, the designer of the Cenotaph in Whitehall, published in this paper, there is a curious story.

Sir Edwin was notoriously difficult to interview. He was a genial soul, prepared to talk on every topic under the sun, but close as a clam on the subject of art. I was entrusted with the delicate task of obtaining an interview with Sir Edwin on the War Memorial on Galle Face, in the designing of which he had spent some time in Ceylon.

Sir Edwin was cordial. He talked on everything the newspaper reader did not care to know about, asked me questions particularly on Hindu and Buddhist philosophy, drank copious draughts of tea, and dexterously turned the conversation away from the subject of the War Memorial.

Desperation summoned all the cunning in my soul and having some knowledge of the artistic honesty of Sir Edwin, I told him that Colombo's Lighthouse was rather old and required re-building. I asked him what he thought of the idea of building a new lighthouse to commemorate the gallant dead and, at the same time, to serve mariners on the way to our port.

The wrath of outraged art made Sir Edwin eloquent. I took down a good account of Sir Edwin's opinions on the subject, on which he had refused to be interviewed. The public read my account of the interview,

but did not know of the little drama at the Galle Face Hotel.

Stalking A Great Journalist

Sir Percival Phillips on the other hand was easy quarry. A good bit of staff work had discovered that Sir Percival was travelling with Sir Herbert Dowbiggin to Kandy on the occasion of the Prince of Wales' visit.

I was aboard that train, correctly dressed, looking as little a newspaper man as ten years' service of newspaper life would let me.

In the dining car Sir Percival wanted to know many things, and I told him all I knew about those topics. The result was that Sir Percival contributed by proxy a column and a half of his own opinions for the delectation of the readers of the "Daily News." It was on this occasion, it will be remembered, that this famous English journalist expressed his admiration of the "Daily News."

Sometimes a hunt turns out to be unexpectedly easy. When Earl de La Warr came to Ceylon the reporters stalked him to be met with the rebuff that the noble Earl had committed all his publishable thoughts and opinions to a small scrap of typewritten paper.

I did not despair but waited with resigned optimism on board the ship to which His Lordship was returning after dinner with the Board of Ministers.

Thanks to the good offices of the Minister of Local Administration, who greeted me with the words, "You are just the man His Lordship wants," my hopes of an interview with the Earl de La Warr were realised.

His Lordship relaxed and the typed statement was superseded by as full an interview as the heart of any journalist desires.

My meeting with Mr. Bernard Shaw, an event to which I had looked forward for many years, almost ended in disastrous consequences.

Some journalists, who had attempted to steal a march on the Lake House team, had left the genial looking old man in a real rage. They had asked the greatest figure in modern literature what he thought of the "Leg Theory" and of "new uses for rubber."

Getting Round Mr. Shaw

Mr. Shaw appeared to have concluded that local interviewers were too frivolous for him and by the time the Lake House representatives met him, he had evidently decided to treat Ceylon newspaper men with disdain.

"Go and concoct an interview!" was his reply to my first question.

I told him that I hesitated to do so, on the present occasion

"Why?" he wanted to know.

I said I was afraid that I might not be able to anticipate his replies with any degree of accuracy.

"Oh! you will dare anything!" he rapped out and went on his way to the hotel followed by thousands of autograph hunters, not one of whom succeeded in obtaining his signature on the open albums held before him.

Mr. Shaw was at length leaving the hotel and I had had no interview with him. Utter disappointment and disgrace stared me in the face.

"Punch" to the Rescue

Now or never, I thought. Mr. Shaw was about to enter the car in which he was to leave for Kandy.

My decision was made. I adopted a more daring method of approach.

Barring his way, I bowed and addressed him thus: "Mr. Shaw, perhaps you are going round the world, because the world won't go round you!"

The great man stopped and smiled. A change came over his adamant countenance which, a while earlier, was intent on refusal.

"Where did you pick up that joke?" he questioned.

I replied that the credit really belonged to "Punch," but that I thought the moment was appropriate for repeating it.

Mr. Shaw was pleased. In a moment I had redeemed the name of local interviewers, so greatly jeopardised in his eyes. Both the "Observer" representative and I fired off our questions and we wrote out interviews with the celebrated Shaw, much appreciated by our editors.

Leap from A Gangway

Sheer physical fitness saved me from disappointment on the occasion of Charlie Chaplin's visit to Ceylon a year earlier.

The ship by which the world's greatest comedian travelled to Ceylon was to have entered Colombo Harbour shortly after midday and reporters from all the newspapers were there waiting for him. The boat did not arrive, however, till about 4 p.m.

All the newspaper men crowded round Charlie Chaplin. Many more also had come to see him. Chaplin, now in a very serious role and looking quite unlike the familiar figure on the screen, refused to be interviewed by the Press, at any rate, not that evening.

I knew very well that that would be my undoing. If Charlie Chaplin gave an interview the next morning, the evening papers would have featured it, and after that the "Daily News" need not have it at all.

An interview with Charlie Chaplin for the next morning's "Daily News" or no interview with him at all! That was the prospect which faced me.

As Charlie Chaplin left the ship, I followed his party with the other would-be interviewers behind me.

Chaplin and his party entered the boat. We were not welcome in it, the shipping company people told us.

I stood on the last step of the gangway and when the launch

had drawn off a sufficient distance to deter any of my Press comrades following in my footsteps, I leapt into it, turned back and waved good-bye to them.

A great row ensued between me and a local shipping company man. Charlie Chaplin was of opinion, however, that I had done a clever thing and that he ought to give me an interview.

Governor's Ordinances

The terms of the Order-in-Council of November, 1937, amending the State Council Order-in-Council in order to empower the Governor to enact his own Ordinances over the head of the State Council, were first published in the "Daily News" early in January 1938.

As was officially explained later, the document was to have been published in a Gazette Extraordinary on January 18, the delay being due to the fact that the State Council would not have been in session until that date when the explanatory despatch of the Secretary of State for the Colonies could have been laid on the table.

A recent example of the vigilance of the "Daily News" over happenings in this country is the publication of a secret document showing that an "Internal Security Scheme" was again being hatched.

Since the black hundred days of Martial Law in 1915, the public had always looked upon with suspicion the secret police arrangements intended for the purpose of meeting any outbreak of internal disorder.

The secret scheme was disclosed as a result of a motion moved in the State Council by the late Mr. Francis de Zoysa, K.C., Member for Balapitiya, in September, 1939, "that all papers connected with the arrangements that are being made to preserve internal peace and order in this country during the war be laid on the table."

The Internal Security Scheme was bitterly condemned by the State Council and referred to the Executive Committee of Home Affairs which after long deliberations came to the conclusion that the scheme was unnecessary and that the provisions of the Penal Code were sufficient to cope with any situation as contemplated.

In 1941, therefore, all thoughts of an Internal Security Scheme should have been considered dead.

Stories seeped through, however, that a new Internal Security Scheme, more formidable than the previous one, was being inaugurated.

Word was passed round and the secret papers did not take long in reaching Lake House. On December 4, 1941, the "Daily News" published a full account of the new Internal Security Scheme.

In the debate that followed in the State Council Sir Baron Jayatilaka, Minister for Home Affairs, declared that he had not been aware of what had been happening.

War With Japan

The outbreak of war with Japan naturally created a new situation in Ceylon which involved many changes and readjustments. The "Daily News" took a prominent part in indicating along what lines these developments should take place and

kept the public continuously informed of what was happening, often before it was officially announced.

The new situation naturally affected the Island's rice supply problem adversely.

While Malaya was being attacked, I learned that the Government of Burma had expressed its willingness to allow the Ceylon Government to import large quantities of rice from that country, but that the local importers of rice had asked the Shipping companies not to grant freight to the Ceylon Government for this purpose.

The "Daily News" of January 15, 1942, carried this story on the front page.

It was subsequently admitted by the Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce, when questioned in the State Council.

War-time legislation, however, does not make it easy for the journalist to keep the public informed of the latest developments.

When the "Daily News" published the new arrangements for war expenditure between the Government of the United Kingdom and the Ceylon Government I was prosecuted for not disclosing the sources of my information. The case raised issues which are of importance to the profession because the liberty of the press means the liberty of the individual.

Literature and the Arts in Ceylon

A SURVEY OF RECENT PROGRESS

By *Jayanta Padmanabha*

IN whatever other directions Ceylon may have developed during the last quarter of a century her progress in the arts has been far from spectacular. At present it is no exaggeration to say that the most noteworthy feature of the artistic scene is the almost complete dearth of creative and interpretative talent. Nor is the reason far to seek. We have practically no facilities for the study of the fine arts and for the cultivation of the taste on which appreciation of them depends. Artists need both a sympathetic public and a favourable environment to develop in. In Ceylon in recent years they could be sure of neither, and much rising talent must have been spoilt in embryo for want of proper nurture and education or embittered, perhaps even exiled, in maturity by lack of appreciation and understanding.



IN the art of writing there has been some activity, but Ceylon has contributed very little to literature by which this epoch will be remembered in time to come. From the outside world the Island has not attracted during the period under review a Mandeville or a Marco Polo, a Robert Knox or a Daniel Defoe nor any encyclopaedist of the genius of Emerson Tennent.

In imaginative writing there is nothing to compare with Leonard Woolf's "The Village in the Jungle", published five years before the "Daily News" came into being. I have never felt for that novel the admiration which it apparently evokes from most of its readers; but still, it undoubtedly set a standard for Ceylon fiction

which later writers would have done well to maintain.

The most likely to survive of all the books on Ceylon appearing since "The Village in the Jungle" is, in my opinion, J. Vijaya-Tunga's "Grass For My Feet." Exquisitely written in an easy and unaffected style, without a trace of that turgid self-consciousness and imperfect grasp of idiom which generally distinguishes Ceylonese English, even in the hands of its most respected practitioners, "Grass For My Feet" consists of slight but penetrating studies of village life in Ceylon—a world which had never before been presented to the English reader with such finish and insight. Unhappily during the seven years' silence following its publication this young and gifted author has shown no further sign of literary vitality.

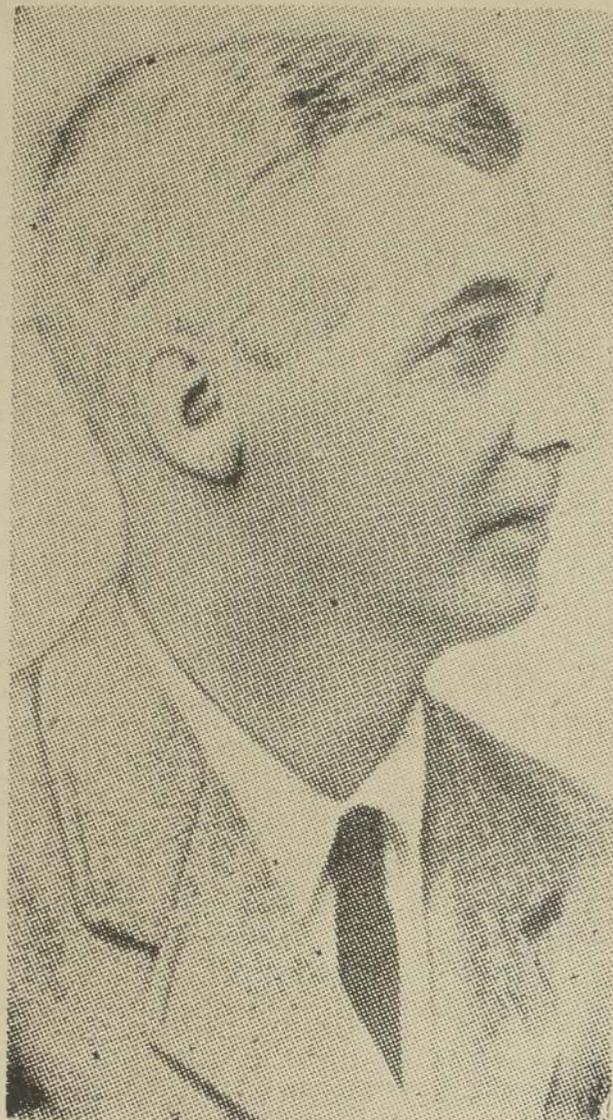
Other notable achievements in the form of fiction range downwards from popular successes of Dr. Lucian de Zilwa, including "A Chandala Woman", (The Dice of the Gods' is a little older than the "Daily News") while Denis Clark's more recent "Golden Island" also deserves mention, together with Dr. R. L. Spittel's "Savage Sanctuary", an uneasy mixture of anthropological learning and romantic fancy about Veddah life.

Our Island Story

CONTRIBUTIONS to the history of Ceylon have been numerous. Many of them are partisan or incomplete, but their number and variety attest the wide interest felt in this aspect of our national culture. The best general introduction to the subject has been provided by H. W.

Codrington, sometime of the Ceylon Civil Service, in "A Short History of Ceylon." School textbooks include "A History of Ceylon for Schools" by Fr. S. G. Perera, another bearing the same title by L. E. Blaze, and G. C. Mendis's "Early History of Ceylon" in the Heritage and Life of Ceylon Series.

Fr. Perera has written numerous other books on Ceylon history, his greatest achievement being his translation from the Portuguese of Fernao de Queros's "Temporal and Spiritual



MR. JOHN STILL

Conquest of Ceylon", with annotations and commentaries, a labour of love on which he is said to have spent twelve years.

Paul Pieris's many books on Ceylon history include "Tri Sinhala", "Ceylon and the Hollanders", "Ceylon and the Portuguese" and "Ceylon: the

Portuguese Era". The first volume of what promised to be the standard work on the Dutch Period, R. G. Anthonisz's. "The Dutch in Ceylon" appeared more than ten years ago and has unfortunately never been followed with a second, presumably because the work was left uncompleted by the author at his death.

On the British Period the most solid studies are one by L. A. Mills, an American scholar from Minnesota University called "Ceylon under British Rule" and the thesis of Dr. Colvin R. de Silva on "Ceylon under the British Administration", of which the first volume appeared in 1941, its preparation for the press being rendered possible by the detention of the author under the defence regulations.

No one has been so presumptuous as to call Mills inaccurate or so honest as to call him unreadable. The merits of Dr. Colvin de Silva are still disputed, notably by those who deplore his political opinions.



BOOKS dealing with the natural history, topography and miscellaneous aspects of Ceylon include John Still's "Jungle Tide", R. L. Spittel's "Far-off Things" and "Wild Ceylon", Lord Holden's somewhat superficial "Ceylon" and D. T. Devendra's "This Other Lanka", Ashley Gibson's rhapsodical "Cinnamon and Frangipanni" has been reissued in the Outward Bound Series under the less fantastic title of "Ceylon"; while one of the most charming books in this category, Francois Croisset's "La Feerie Cingalaise." is in French and nobody, I believe, has thought it worth while to translate it into English.

Apart from the Report of the Donoughmore Commissioners, published in 1928, there have been few political and social studies of Ceylon worth mentioning. The majority who have dealt with the Island from this point of view have been disgruntled ex-Civil Servants or hacks with imperialistic axes to grind. It is sufficient to

mention in this connexion the more notorious examples: Smythe's "Ceylon Commentary," J. G. Walls's "Britain's Folly: the lesson of Ceylon" (introduced to the reader, and probably sponsored, by Lord Rothermere) and J. T. Muirhead's "Brother Ceylon", whose title betrays its spiritual affinity with Katherine Mayo.

Few of the memoirs of Ceylon notabilities can claim much merit, an exception being Sir Solomon Dias Bandaranaike's readable reminiscences "Remembered Yesterdays". Most of the great Ceylonese of the last generation still await their Boswell or their Strachey.

Poets' Corner

NO country is more prolific in poets than modern Ceylon—and none less fertile in poetry. There may be, or may have been, mute inglorious Miltons in our midst whom posterity will applaud; but judging from what has actually been printed it would be unwise to expect too much of them.

Of the published poets, those who resemble the Sitwells in being as yet unclaimed by oblivion include "S. R. Ceylon", the author of "Dusk Bazaar" and W. S. Senior, several of whose pieces from "Vita Magistra" and elsewhere have been conned by heart by successive generations of schoolchildren and become *pieces de resistance* at elocution contests.

John Still, the author of "Jungle Tide," also wrote competent, if unexciting, verse, some of it owing a certain interest to the fact that it was composed while he was a prisoner of war in Turkey.



NONE of these poets is touched by contemporary influences. Their style is Victorian, or at the most "Georgian". There are, however, two poets who reflect some of the subtler and more disruptive influences of later English poetry. In "Poems", "Image in Absence" and "The Darkness Disrobed", George Keyt showed himself an expert in sensitive rhythm

and unusual and suggestive imagery—qualities displayed also in his "Poems from the Sinhalese" and his version of the Sanskrit "Gita Govinda".

Tambimuttu, a Ceylonese poet settled in England, has attained fame as the centre of a coterie of poets in vanguard of the latest and most progressive movement and as the distinguished editor of "Poetry," the only surviving periodical in Britain devoted exclusively to the publication of verse. In this admirable journal his own writings have appeared from time to time. He has also published a sequence of six long poems in the *Fortune Poets* entitled "Out of this War," and edited a selection of "Poetry in Wartime" under the select imprint of Faber and Faber.

The Well-Trod Stage

DESPITE the total absence of any public or repertory theatres, there has been a certain amount of dramatic activity during this period. The tradition of the late celebrated actor Thambugala has been continuous from "He comes from Jaffna" and "Well, Mudaliyar" to the highly successful "In Council", produced only a few months ago. The most outstanding spectacular productions were perhaps "The Wandering Jew" and "The Tyrant," under the direction of T. V. Saravanamuttu, at present the acting Excise Commissioner.

The Ceylon Amateur Dramatic Club has seldom attempted anything more ambitious than pantomimes and thrillers, its most exacting demand upon the audience's intelligence to date being Noel Coward's "Hay Fever". Theatre-goers in search of more elevating fare have had nothing but the University (College) Dramatic Society, which has staged not only Euripides and Moliere, Shakespeare and Sheridan but also works by the Quinteros, Goldoni, Bernard Shaw, Hsiung and Eugene O'Neill.

The vernacular theatre has been active, but those competent to judge do not claim a very high standard for

the majority of its productions. Its most famous plays have been those of John de Silva, whose "Sri Wickrema Rajasinha" and others earned him the title of the Shakespeare of Ceylon, and of Charles Dias, whose best known play is "Mayawathie". Adaptations in Sinhalese and Tamil of Shakespeare and other European writers have held the boards from time to time.



DR. LUCIAN DE ZILWA

In the Sinhalese theatre the greatest demand appears to be for plays on historical themes. Apart from these, comedies are the most popular and there is no public for serious plays with modern or sociological subjects. Plays like "Capitalism in Ceylon" and "The Dreadful State of Lanka" whatever their merits, are still keeping the tradition of vernacular acting alive.

Some expectations were entertained for the recently inaugurated National Theatre, but this has always been a temple to an unknown god and has now given up the pretence and announced its intention to exhibit English (i.e. English-speaking) films in future.

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THE want of a theatre has prevented the Ceylon public from cultivating the play-going habit, with the result that whenever a deserving performance is staged it is often difficult for its promoters to secure an audience. It has left a gap in our social and cultural life filled, to a certain extent, and perhaps with unfortunate repercussions upon our tastes and habits, by the cinema.

Ceylon is still ill provided with cinemas as compared with other countries but there has been a very marked progress within the lifetime of the "Daily News". I am told that the first talkie to be screened in Colombo was "Interference"—a film of which I had never heard before and of which nobody seems to remember anything.

It is unfortunate that even today most of the films exhibited in Ceylon are the everyday commercial products of Hollywood and the British studios. It very rarely happens that we get the opportunity of seeing any of the masterpieces of French, German and Russian directors or the more serious films from America, and when we do the theatre managers complain, with some justification, that there is little public appreciation and considerable financial loss.

Anyway, whoever is to blame, the filmgoer who has never been outside the Island can have only a very imperfect idea of the artistic possibilities of the screen and of the aesthetic and technical development of cinematography during the last twenty-five years.

Revolution in Celluloid

THE world of the western cinema is completely alien from our ways of thought and social customs, and there

is no doubt that besides giving our younger generation a taste for jazz and magazine fiction (its most popular votaries are Carmen Miranda and Dorothy Lamour), it is playing an important part in broadening, (or, if you prefer it, cheapening) our outlook, our ideas and our conventions.

For the more conservative and for the non-English-speaking there has been until recently a continuous supply of Tamil and Hindi talkies. In this connexion the forthcoming reversion of the Elphinstone Theatre to screening Indian films will be generally welcomed.

Ceylon has contributed one film of great beauty and interest to the cinema in "The Song of Ceylon", made by Basil Wright and the G.P.O. Film Unit and secured for exhibition in Ceylon by the Tea Propaganda Board Ceylonese who saw this picture declared it an unduly romanticised view of Ceylon life but in Europe many critics adjudged it on its aesthetic merits one of the most successful documentary films yet produced. Local notabilities who had some part in the creation of this picture were the well known Kandyan dancer Gunaya and Lionel Wendt who spoke with memorable effect, a commentary mostly pieced together from Robert Knox's seventeenth century "Account of Ceylon."

Another film made in Ceylon, though never, I believe, shown here, was "Tea Leaves in the Wind" dealing with life on a Ceylon tea plantation. Some scenes were shot on local tea estates and some local planters took part. One of Fitzpatrick's Travelogues has also been devoted to Ceylon—but I do not suggest that this fact has any bearing on the history of the arts.

Singularly few Ceylonese actors have made a living or a name for themselves on the screen, though Miriam Pieris (now Mrs F. R. de Saram) took part in Alexander Korda's "The Drum" and Doreen Joachim has appeared in minor roles.

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APART from the movies the only other local entertainment generally available to residents in Ceylon is listening-in. Unfortunately it cannot be said that the Colombo station offers anything to make up for the deficiencies of the theatres. Though broadcasting in Ceylon is nearly twenty years old (it was officially inaugurated in June 1923) and a certain amount of progress has been made on the technical side, its standards of entertainment are still rudimentary.

A glance at any day's program is enough to show how dependent the studio is upon recorded music, generally of the lightest and most frivolous variety, and how much it suffers from the absence of local talent in the spheres of music, entertainment and popular education. Its failure in the past has undoubtedly been due not only to poverty of material to work upon but also to an unimaginative policy and to a false standard of values; and some gifted and well-meaning artists have been discouraged by the lack of appreciation and publicity afforded to their endeavours.

The same factors which militate against the creation of a lively and useful radio station inevitably influence the opportunities for hearing and performing music outside the studio. If Ceylon is remarkable as a nation of poets incapable of poetry, it is even more noteworthy that there are a hundred children "studying" music for every person—child or adult—capable of making or understanding it.

The disastrous stranglehold of the music examination upon our tastes and talent has often been commented upon, but apparently not often enough. Generally speaking the Ceylon pupil has no intention of learning to appreciate or perform music except in so far as it is necessary for examination purposes. Other possible ulterior motives for this cult are indicated by the fact that the great majority of school children studying music are girls who lose as soon as they get married whatever interest in the subject they may have been persuaded to acquire.

Of the few organisations devoted to music the Colombo Singers, the Kandy Musical Society and the recently formed Ceylon Guild of Music should be mentioned. It would be invidious and indelicate to specify the few individuals who have worked sincerely for the cause of music in Ceylon in recent years; but it must be said that it has been uphill work for them and that the results have been discouraging.

Light from the West

HIS EXCELLENCY the Governor has done much by his example to stimulate interest in music. He has also been the chief patron of painting and the plastic arts. In painting the general level of attainment, and particularly of originality, is far from satisfactory, but the annual exhibition of the Ceylon Society of Arts, while seldom inspiring, at least provides a nucleus round which the artistic activity of the year can centre.

It is not without significance that the single artist of undoubted genius active in Ceylon during the last two and a half decades was not a native of the country but a sojourner here for eleven years. The art of Charles Freegrove Winzer was nurtured in Paris, where he was the familiar of Matisse and Modigliani, Diaghilev and Paul Claudel. During his stay here as Inspector of Art in the Department of Education he not only produced much memorable work of his own but also gave the study and practice of the arts in our schools a vitality whose effects are still remembered, though he has had no worthy successors to carry on his work.

David Paynter and George Keyt, whose poems were alluded to above, are among the few other artists in the Island displaying much originality. Mention must also be made of Mudaliyar A. C. G. S. Amarasekera and his son Douglas, both at present in England; of J. D. A. Perera, Justin Pieris, Tudor Rajapakse, Harry Peiris, L. K. Karunaratne and Stanley Abeyasinghe.



ANCILLARY to the development of painting in Ceylon has been the development of architecture (to which reference is made elsewhere in this supplement) and the growth of interest in architecture (particularly in connexion with the plans for the new University) and town planning. Under the auspices of the Photographic Society of Ceylon the art of the camera has made rapid progress.

A limiting factor in the development of all the arts has been the absence of any agreed critical standards both among the public and the professional reviewers. Any attempt at impartial critical honesty is misunderstood and resented by artists and audiences who expect, apparently, a personal approach and cannot understand a critique that is not either catty or fulsomely enthusiastic.

It is probable that little material improvement can be hoped for until we have adequate theatres, art galleries, libraries and concert rooms in which the practitioners and lovers of the arts, both western and oriental, can form their taste and exercise their talent.

Political and Social Progress During Twenty-five Years

PART PLAYED BY THE "DAILY NEWS" IN PUBLIC MOVEMENTS

IN the first issue of the "Daily News," on January 3, 1918, the late Sir Ponnambalam Arunachalam, the leader of the Reforms Movement in Ceylon, wrote as follows in the course of a special message to the new newspaper:—

"The 'Daily News' is fortunate in the time of its birth. New forces are at work among us, a new era is dawning for the country. She needs the devoted service of all her children, and will, I am confident, find none more zealous than the new daily."

From 1918 onwards, Ceylon may be said to have advanced in many different directions — in Governmental methods, in political and social affairs, in literacy and education, and, generally, in the growth of a changed outlook on the part of the people to a higher realisation of their own powers. This progress has been rendered possible largely on account of the increasing ability of the people to discern and estimate with sound judgment both personalities and policy in the public life of the country. How much this new outlook has been influenced by the policy of the "Daily News" (and its allied newspapers like the "Dinamina and the "Silumina"), and how far the hope expressed by the late Sir Ponnambalam Arunachalam has been fulfilled, may be judged from the following brief statement of what the "Daily News" has achieved in its existence of twenty-five years:—

(1) **Political Reforms.** Right from its inception the "Daily News" urged the conferment on the people of a larger measure of responsible government, and supported and, in many instances, gave the lead to all movements in the country which had that

end in view. It pointed out various shortcomings in the Reforms granted in 1921 and again in 1924, and paved the way, by persistent agitation, for the exhaustive inquiry instituted in 1928 by the Donoughmore Commission.

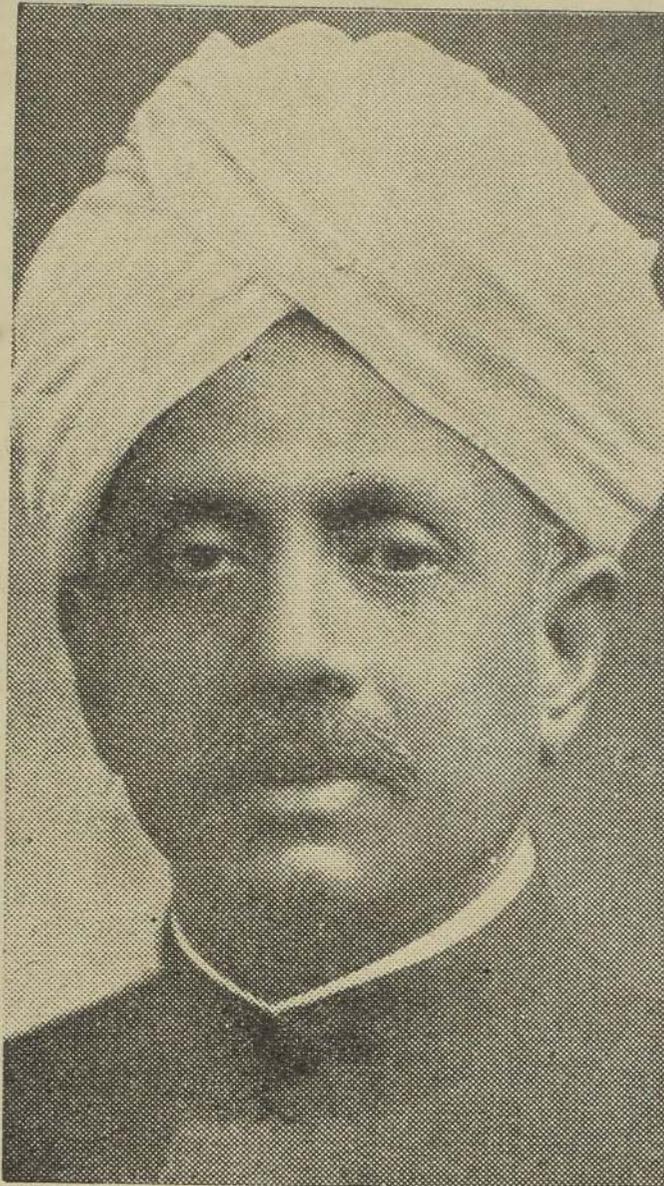
With the announcement of the Donoughmore Scheme, the "Daily News" once again led the agitation for the removal of the defects in the new Constitution, drawing particular attention to the unsettled question of the Indian franchise and the unsuitability of the Committee system. It predicted the failure of the latter, and on many subsequent occasions pointed out its shortcoming as an institution of responsible government.

The "Daily News" initiated the demand for the establishment of a Government on the Parliamentary model, with a broad-based Cabinet as in the Dominions, and the formation, side by side, of a well-defined party system in the country.

(2) **Governor's Powers.** The "Daily News" repeatedly urged the removal from the Constitution of the wide powers of certification and veto vested in the Governor in questions that affect the internal politics of the Island.

(3) **Communal Problems.** The "Daily News" has always placed before the country the ideal of a common citizenship among all the indigenous people and communities of the Island, and opposed all demands for special communal claims in politics as being detrimental to the realisation of that goal. It has opposed communal representation in all its phases, and agitated persistently for the welding together of all communal and sectional interests into one political whole.

(4) **Ceylonisation of the Services.** Until the "Daily News" began the agitation for a complete Ceylonisation of the Services, there were hardly any Ceylonese in the higher administrative posts of the land. At the same time, the "Daily News" pointed out that the salaries paid in the Public Services were excessive and not in keeping with the coun-



SIR PONNAMBALAM ARUNACHALAM

try's ability to pay or with the general standards of life in Ceylon. These views were endorsed later by the Donoughmore Commission, as well as by the Pereira Salaries Commission and other Retrenchment Committees. It advocated that the money saved from the revenue, by the Ceylonisation of the Services and by the general adoption of a Ceylonese scale of salaries, should be diverted to the

solution of the many social and educational problems in the country.

(5) **Higher Education.** While espousing the cause of larger educational facilities for all the people under an educational system more suited to their needs, the "Daily News" led the agitation for the establishment of a residential University on a site far removed from Colombo. It pointed out that it was only such a University that could blossom into a centre of Oriental culture and learning, and opposed vigorously the establishment of a third-rate, degree-earning "factory" in Colombo. The views of the "Daily News" were upheld later by the Akbar Committee on the University site and by the Riddell Commission. The Legislative Council in 1929 followed this lead in its decision to establish the University in the Kandy district. The ideals on which the Ceylon University should be built up, as enunciated fifteen years ago by the "Daily News," have recently been endorsed by Dr. Ivor Jennings.

The "Daily News" continued to urge that the University project should not be held up by the dilatory tactics of the Executive Committee of Education, pointing out that its immediate establishment would help largely to eradicate the present aimless trend of higher education in Ceylon.

The "Daily News" also advocated, right from its inception, the establishment of centres for vocational and technical education, condemning the present policy of a "one-groove" type of education for all.

(6) **Reactionary Politics.** The "Daily News" has always given a large measure of support both to the Board of Ministers and the State Council on occasions when they were attacked by the reactionary Press and politicians. As events cropped up, it has continued to place before the public the national and progressive view as opposed to the anti-Ceylonese and reactionary view. It has on numerous occasions exposed the tactics of those who have sought to act secretly, in England and elsewhere,

to defame the country for their own political purposes and thereby obstruct the path of reform.

At the same time, the "Daily News" has never hesitated to criticise the actions of the Board of Ministers and the State Council, whenever it appeared that such actions were actuated by motives opposed to the public interest.

(7) **Agriculture and Irrigation.** The "Daily News" led the demand for the restoration of large irrigation works and the settlement of peasants and middle-class Ceylonese on lands hitherto held by the Crown. It has continued to advocate a reform of the policy which had led to the existence of a landless peasantry by the process of land alienation. It supported the expansion of State-aided agriculture and establishment of long-range agricultural schemes, not only as a solution to the unemployment problem but also as a permanent means of ridding the country of its burden of economic dependence.

(8) **Archaeology and History.** The "Daily News" has, by practical suggestions and frequent leading articles, emphasised the extreme importance of all archaeological and historical work, and the need to preserve in the best possible manner all archaeological remains, now extant, of the country's past greatness. It advocated, more than ten years ago, the zoning of ancient cities like Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa as the best means to preserve them from modern encroachments.

(9) **Local Government.** To prepare the people for higher political reforms as well as to make it possible for them by a policy of internal rule to become the real masters of their country, the "Daily News" initiated the agitation for the expansion of the Local Government services. It advocated the expansion of local bodies, such as Village Committees, Urban and Municipal Councils, so as to leave the government of local areas entirely in the hands of the local bodies, with a strong advisory body in the centre to guide the new institutions in the right path.

(10) **Public Life.** The "Daily News" has taken every opportunity to fight for cleanliness and honesty in public life, for the principle of appointments to the public services solely on merit, for liberty of speech and the liberty of the Press, as the only methods by which the high ideals of a democratic government could be put into operation. In the Bracegirdle episode, for instance, the "Daily News" led the agitation for the recognition in this country of the principle of liberty of the person on the model of the Great Charters of English liberty. The "Daily News" view in this matter was later endorsed by the Supreme Court. In connection with this episode, also, the "Daily News," pointed out how the decision of the Board of Ministers and the State Council to side-track the issues decided by the Bracegirdle Commission had tended to the lowering of the high standards of public life.

The "Daily News" never hesitated to condemn, from any source whatever, any attempt to lower the high standards of life and conduct to be expected from all persons holding authority or power.

(11) **Social Problems.** While giving wholehearted support to all movements for the suppression of social vices, the "Daily News" has always advocated in these matters a policy of temperance and moderation rather than a policy of total prohibition or the effecting of social reforms by drastic legislation. It has advocated that well-regulated local option rules and a policy of educating the public would help the country to overcome the drink problem in a much more substantial way than a policy of total prohibition.

(2) **General Policy.** The "Daily News" continues to be, in the broadest and best sense of the term, a "free" newspaper. Its proprietors and editors have no political ambitions, and therefore it is able on all occasions to condemn or praise any action or individual, untrammelled by extraneous or personal influences.

The London Office of the Associated Newspapers of Ceylon, Ltd.

PRESENT HOME IN FLEET STREET

By D. E. Shaw, London Manager

FOR many years the "Ceylon Observer" was represented in London by the well-known publishers, Messrs. Maclaren and Sons, Ltd. In 1921 the "Ceylon Observer" Ltd—a company who had taken over the proprietorship from the Ferguson family—decided that the paper should have a London office of its own. Premises were taken in Salisbury Court, Fleet Street, in the shadow of Wren's famous church of St. Bride's and on the site where now stands the new headquarters of Reuter's News Agency and the Press Association.

The first manager was Mr. E. C. Boyce, who had spent many years in business in Colombo. Not long after his appointment Mr. Boyce retired on account of ill-health and was succeeded by Mr. H. J. Temple—a prominent personality in planting and political circles in Ceylon. A year or two later Mr. Temple, who was then Parliamentary candidate for a Northern constituency gave up journalism in order to give his full time to his political interests. His successor was the present London Manager who had spent some years in planting and in mercantile life in Ceylon and was prior to his appointment in London a member of the Editorial staff in Colombo. In the same year the "Ceylon Observer" was acquired by the proprietor of the "Ceylon Daily News"—a proprietorship which later became known as the Associated Newspapers of Ceylon, Ltd..

With the representation of the "Ceylon Observer," "Ceylon Daily News," "Dinamina" and other publications subsequently founded by the Company, the business of the London office expanded greatly. In 1926 new offices were acquired at 180, Fleet Street, in the "Sheffield Daily Telegraph" building, one of the largest Provincial newspaper offices in Fleet Street. From a one-room office in Salisbury Court the organisation had grown to a suite of offices accommodating a staff numerically equal to that of many of the London offices of well known Dominion journals.

Association with the Ferguson family, the original founders of the "Ceylon Observer," was maintained by Mr. R. H. Ferguson, who contributed a weekly London Letter. At the same time Mr. Frederick Grubb was writing a weekly letter for the "Ceylon Daily News"—a feature appreciated by the readers of that journal until Mr. Grubb's retirement a few years ago. In 1937 Mr. John Hockin, whose articles had frequently appeared in the "Daily News" and "Observer," was appointed London Editor. With his knowledge of Ceylon and his experience as a writer on various topics. Mr. Hockin has proved a valuable asset in the Editorial representation of these journals in London. Mr. Hockin is now serving in the Royal Air Force.

The personnel of the Associated Newspapers in London have taken an active part in Fleet Street affairs

The "Ceylon Daily News" and the "Ceylon Observer" are both members of the Empire Press Union—the body representing leading papers in Great Britain and the Overseas Dominions, of whom Major the Hon. J.J. Astor M.P., Chairman of "The Times," is the President. The London Manager and the London Editor of the Associated Newspapers of Ceylon are advisory members of the Union's council. At the Imperial Press Conference in London in 1930 and in South Africa in 1935 Ceylon was represented by executives of the Associated Newspapers.

Ceylon newspapers have also been closely connected with another body representing the British Press abroad. The London Manager was one of the founder members of the London Association of British Empire Newspapers Overseas and was in 1939 elected its Vice-President.

Distinguished Connections

An interesting aspect of the work of oversea newspaper correspondents in London is their frequent contact with the famous journals and journalists in England. For many years the "Daily News" and the "Observer" have had almost constant association of some kind with the London "Times". Before the present Reuter

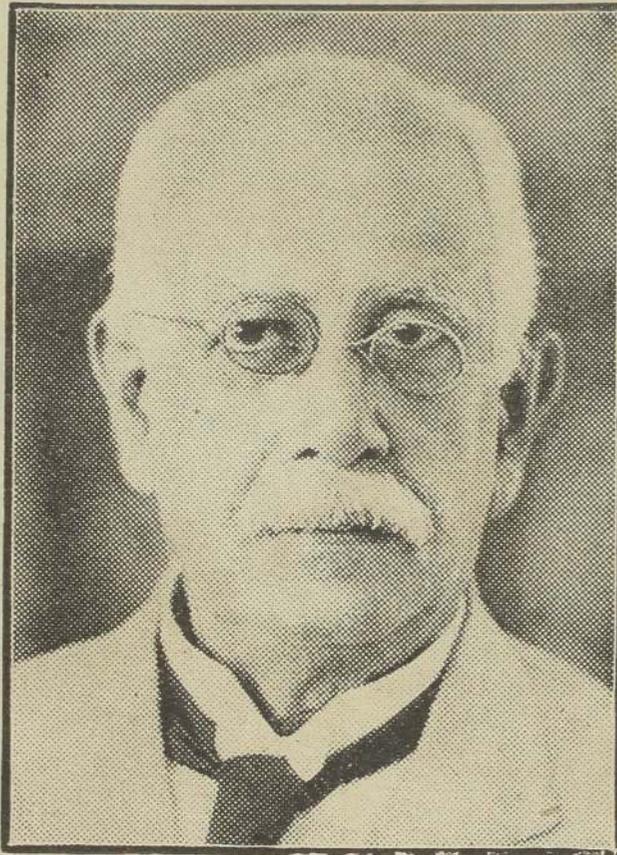
world service came into being these two Ceylon papers were subscribers to the London "Times" special cable service which supplemented the basic news they obtained from Reuters. Since 1936 the "Daily News" has held the exclusive Ceylon copyright of "The Times" article on international affairs, etc. At various times the Associated Newspapers have carried exclusive features by arrangement with the "Daily Telegraph", "Daily Mail", "Daily Express", "Manchester Guardian" and the "Daily Herald", as well as other newspapers in London and the Provinces. By this means readers in Ceylon have had placed before them the news of the world's greatest experts on all the big international questions of the day.

Then there are the varied events occurring in England, of special interest and importance to Ceylon but outside the scope of the cable services. To gather news of such happenings, (often an anxious task when the field is so wide) and record it in cables and London Letters is the responsibility of the Special Correspondents of the "Daily News" and "Observer." A special service of tea, rubber, other Ceylon commodity prices, and market reports, is cabled every evening when the markets close in Mincing Lane.

Well-Known Contributors of the Past

WHAT THE SPECIAL ARTICLE HAS ACHIEVED

THE "Special Article" was a feature new to journalism in Ceylon when the "Daily News" entered the field a quarter of a century ago. There were writers of causeries, skits and feuilletons but the daily special article on the leader page was an innovation. The "Daily News" has published well over ten thousand articles by various contributors, persuasive and protestant, local and



MR. J. R. WEINMAN

foreign, on subjects topical or "sub specie aeternitatis."



THE two-column message in the first issue by Sir P. Arunachalam began a fine tradition. There

was hardly any public man who wielded a facile pen whose articles did not enliven the columns of the paper during the period under review.

In those early days Mr. J. R. Weinman was represented either in the editorial columns or in the special articles week by week. Mr. Weinman had a long career at the Bar and held high judicial office but his metier was writing. He was never at a loss for a subject and his fund of entertaining anecdotes was inexhaustible. He could produce a two-column article of very readable matter in half an hour but his handwriting was the despair of editors and compositors.

Another fine writer who contributed to the early issues was the late J. T. Blaze, brother of Mr. L. E. Blaze. J. T. Blaze had contributed articles to the Encyclopaedia Britannica after he left Lincoln College, Oxford. He never fulfilled the promise of his early career but he was of the tradition of C. A. Lorenz, and papers like the "Examiner" and the "Standard" owed much to his incisive and polished pen.

Mr. Lionel de Fonseka who had made a reputation with his essay on "The Truth About Decorative Art", wrote many elegant pieces for the "Daily News".

One of the first notable series of articles to be published by the "Daily News" was contributed by Mr. Leonard Woolf, author of "Village in the Jungle".



THE Law Library was the chief reservoir of literary talent in those early days. If Sir Thomas de

Sampayo did not write articles, he contributed a whole set of the "Examiner" files. He was one of the proprietors of the "Examiner".

Mr. E. W. Perera wrote a notable series, of great historical value on his famous mission to England in connection with the Riots, Mr. K. Bala singham wrote on economic and industrial questions. Mr. E. T. de Silva contributed many special articles and editorials usually on political subjects. Mr. B. F. de Silva wrote articles with the flavour of salted almonds using the nom-de-plume "Viator".

At critical moments in the political development of the Island Mr. E. J. Samerawickrame contributed articles or letters with a formidable gentleness that was usually decisive.

Among the seniors of the legal profession of today whose articles were published in the "Daily News" were Mr. W. H. Perera, Mr. A. B. Cooray, Mr. A. L. J. Croos Da Brera and Mr. N. E. Weerasooriya K. C.—the last named being the author of some delightful skits.

Mr. E. R. Tambimuttu wrote on subjects grave and gay and the late Mr. H. A. P. Sandarasagara on subjects mostly gay, one of his best being a series entitled "Travellers' Tales" during a visit to Europe.



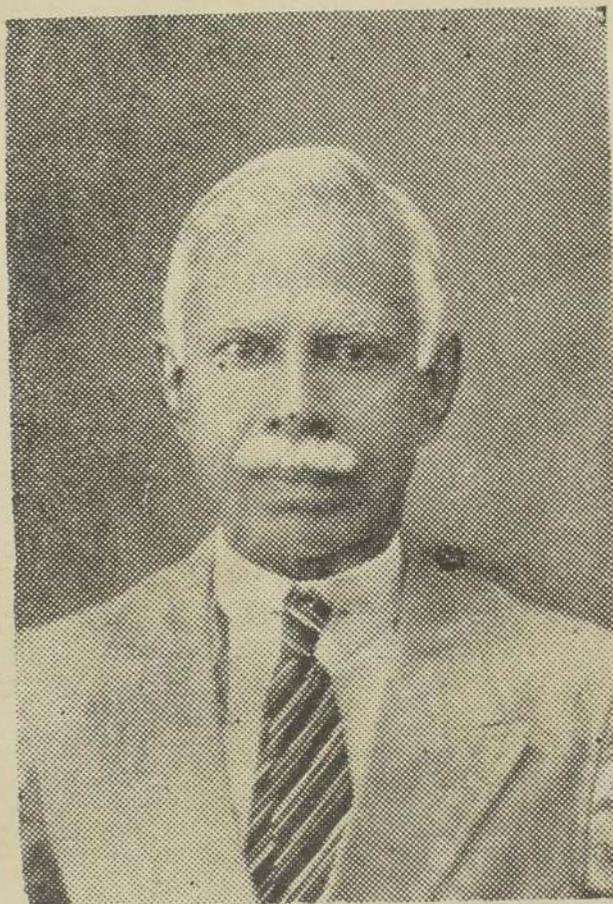
MR S. J. K. CROWTHER, whose writings in the "Ceylon Independent" over the pen-name "Pagoda" were attracting attention, transferred to the "Daily News" for which he wrote skits and burlesques over the nom-de-plume "Jacques". He was soon to play a major part in the destinies of the new paper.

Mr. C. E. Corea, whose prose was greatly admired by discriminating critics like the late Warden Stone wrote on land problems anticipating by many years a notable series by Mr. D. S. Senanayake entitled "Agriculture and Patriotism".

The Ceylon Press has always been helped with contributions by the

clergy of many Christian denominations. In the early years of the "Daily News" the Revd. Fr. E. Verstraaten S. J., the Revd. W. E. Boteju and the Revd. J. Simon de Silva were frequent contributors. The Revd. G. B. Ekanayake has been an occasional contributor and in more recent years the Revd. C. Thorpe wrote a series using the pen-name "Sardonicus". Contributions have also been published by well known heads of schools including the Revd. A. G. Fraser, the Revd. R. W. Stopford and Mr. L. H. W. Sampson of the Royal College.

Among the journalists who had already gained a reputation for their work on other papers, and who contributed to the "Daily News", were



MR E. J. SAMERAWICKRAME

the late F. F. Martinus and Mr. Edmund de Livera ("Adstans" of the "Ceylon Independent".)



THE level of scholarship was sustained by innumerable contributions from Revd. Fr. S. G. Perera

S. J. Dr. Andreas Nell and Mr. E. Reimers, Mr. C. Brooke Elliott K C. wrote a regular London News-Letter after his retirement and Mr. St. Nihal Singh, an Indian journalist with a European reputation, wrote on varied subjects.

One of the most authoritative articles ever published in the "Daily News" was Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer's analysis and criticism of the Donoughmore Constitution. He was specially invited to write the article owing to his high reputation as a constitutional lawyer and he treated the subject with great knowledge and consummate skill.

The "Daily News" has always taken a keen interest in town-planning and the famous expert on the subject, Mr. H. V. Lanchester, wrote a series of articles on the planning of Colombo.

Mr. T. W. Hockly, now spending a quiet holiday in Kashmir, has been a frequent writer to the columns of the "Daily News" over a period of many years. The late Count de Mauny wrote some of his best work for the paper.

Mr. W. A. de Silva wrote many articles for the "Daily News" on cultural subjects or in reminiscent vein. The late C. Driberg, equally at home in prose or verse, was an occasional contributor. Dr. R. L. Spittel has written on many themes, including archaeology, jungle-lore and hospital reorganisation. Mr. S. Mahadeva, now Assistant Director of Public Works, is another who has written for the "Daily News" over a long period of years. Other public servants whose work has been published in the "Daily News" are Mr. R. H. Bassett, Mr. T. W. Roberts and Mr. J. C. W. Rock. Mr. Rock was always a tennis enthusiast and wrote with authority and distinction on the Nuwara Eliya tournaments.



THIS list of names is far from being exhaustive. The names of younger writers and more recent contributors are omitted because it would be invidious to make a selection, and there is no space to mention them all.



THE "Daily News" has also, by arrangement with London newspapers, published the work of well-known writers such as Mr. H. J. Laski, Mr. A. G. Gardiner (a series of his famous pen-portraits) and Dr. W. R. Inge, the former Dean of St. Paul's. It had the privilege of publishing an article by Lord Hewart, when he was Lord Chief Justice. This was done by arrangement with a famous London newspaper. It published the recent series on strategy by General Wavell by arrangement with the London "Times". For many years the "Daily News" has held the copyright for special articles published by the London "Times". Other notable series published exclusively by the "Daily News" were the Memoirs of Lord Oxford (Mr. Asquith), the Autobiography of H. G. Wells, Mrs. Dugdale's Life of Lord Balfour, and Lord Birkenhead's Life of his father, the famous Lord Chancellor.



THE war has rather cramped the style of the editorial page. Space has to be found for news and advertisements in a smaller-sized paper and articles from London, which used to come in a week by air mail, now take two months to do the same journey. In spite of this pressure from two sides the special article survives. If it has to be jettisoned, the war will have claimed another notable casualty.

H. A. J. H.



