

# CEYLON *Today*

State Opening of Parliament

P. M.'s Message to the Nation

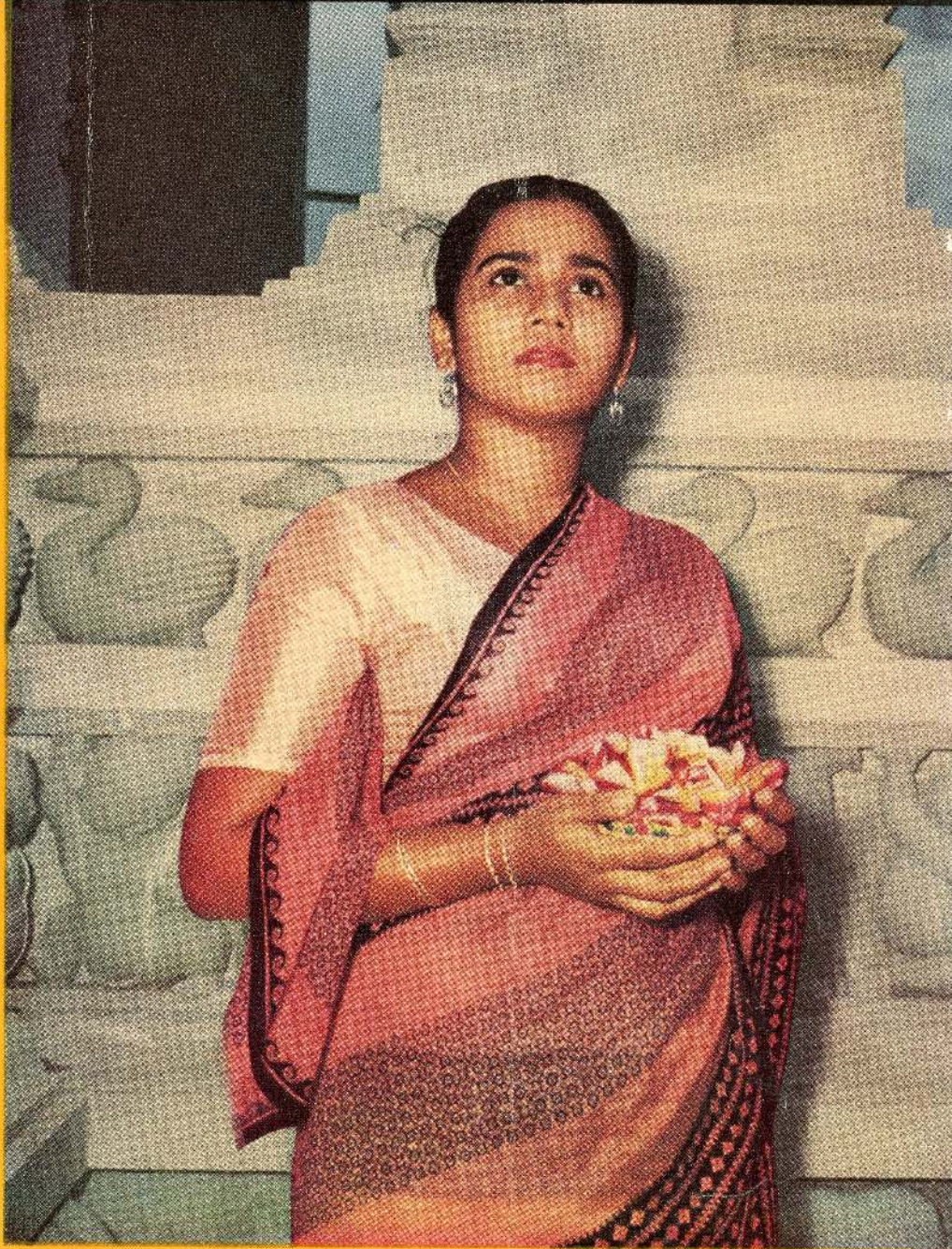
The Gal-Oya Sugar Factory

The Place of English in our Schools  
NEIL KULATUNGE

A South Ceylon Sea Resort  
JAMES GOONEWARDENE

The Koravai—An Ancient Folk Custom  
M. D. RAGHAVAN

Foreign Affairs



Offering flowers at temple

AUGUST, 1960





# CEYLON

# Today

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## State Opening of Parliament

A large gathering of people from all walks of life, diplomats, religious dignitaries and Government officials watched the ceremonial opening of the fifth Parliament of Ceylon by the Governor-General, Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, at the Independence Hall on August 12th.

The first to arrive at the Independence Hall were the Judges of the Supreme Court led by the Chief Justice, Mr. Hema Basnayake. Then followed the Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives. These were followed by the Senators.

The proceedings started after the arrival of the Governor-General who stood on a rostrum opposite the Hall to receive a salute given by an Army Guard of Honour. With his arrival the National Flag was also unfurled by a Rating of the Royal Ceylon Navy. After the President of the Senate, Sir Cyril de Zoysa, the Senators, among whom was the Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, and other invitees had taken their seats the Governor-General's Secretary, Mr. N. W. Atukorale, read the Proclamation summoning Parliament. The choir of Buddhist Ladies College sang "Jayamangala gathas".

To the strains of "Magul bera" the Prime Minister, who was dressed in a cream swadeshi saree, then presented the Speech from the Throne to the Governor-General.

The speech was read by the Governor-General in the official language—Sinhala. The Tamil and English versions were read by two Permanent Secretaries, Messrs. K. Alvapillai and D. G. L. Misso respectively.

The following is the text of the address.

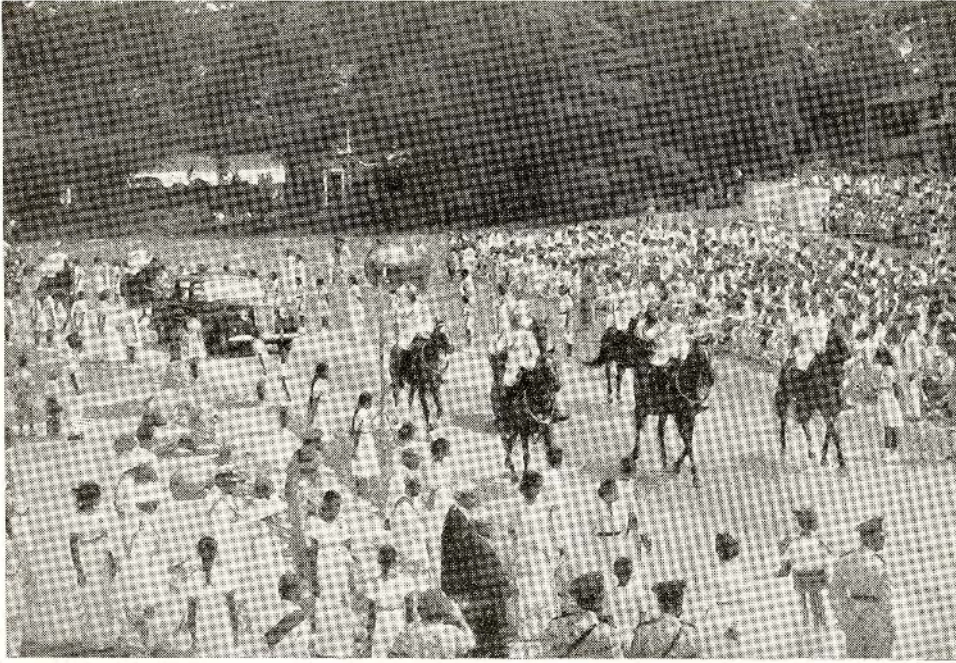
MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE.

MR. SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

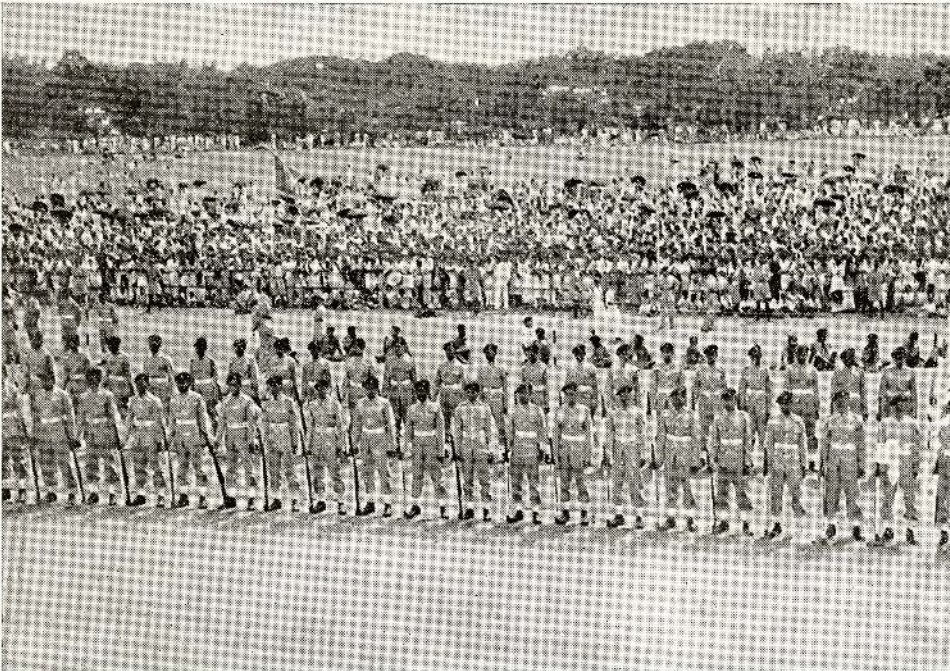
THE free votes of the people democratically cast at the last general election are a clear indication that the policies enunciated by the late Mr. Bandaranaike have been endorsed by a vast majority of the people of this country. These policies will generally be pursued by My Government.

In external affairs, My Government will maintain its policy of non-alignment with power blocs and of neutralism and co-existence. My Government's relations with Commonwealth as well as foreign countries





▲ The Governor-General arriving in State for the ceremonial opening of Parliament



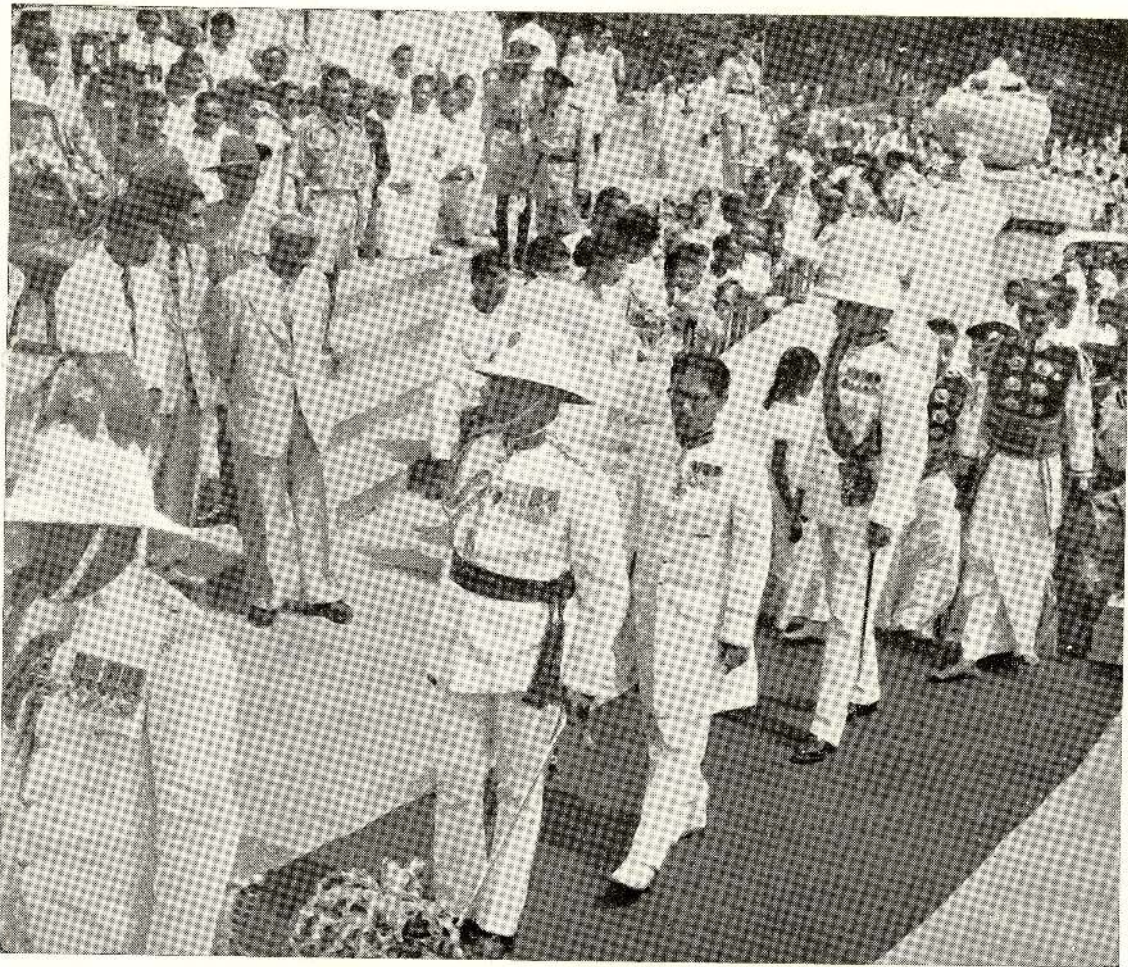
◀ The Army Guard of Honour and the crowds outside Independence Hall

continue to be friendly. My Prime Minister will take up the case of persons of Indian descent resident in Ceylon with a view to achieving a satisfactory solution of this problem.

Steps will be taken to revise the Constitution and to establish a republican form of government.

The law relating to treason will be amended.





H. E. the Governor-General entering the Independence Hall

My Government will implement the Official Language Act, No. 33 of 1956, and the Tamil Language (Special Provisions) Act, No. 28 of 1958, so as to make Sinhala in reality the official language of this country by 31st December, 1960.

My Government will maintain law and order firmly, but without oppression, in the interests of the people and of peace, order and good government.

There will be no discrimination on the ground of a person's religion. My Government will however take steps to ensure that Buddhism, which is the religion of the

majority of the people, is given due recognition and its proper place. Freedom of conscience and worship will be guaranteed to all. As a first step towards the implementation of the report of the Buddha Sasana Commission legislation will be introduced to set up a Sasana Mandalaya.

A national system of education will be established in conformity with the cultural, religious and economic aspirations of the people.

My Government proposes, without discrimination on religious grounds, to introduce legislation to take over Assisted Grade III schools, including primary, post-primary and





◀ The Prime Minister  
handing the  
Throne Speech to  
the Governor-  
General

H. E. the  
Governor-General  
reading the Speech  
from the Throne





rural schools. Grade I and Grade II Assisted schools will be taken over subject to the privilege which will be allowed to such schools to remain without State-aid as private schools in conformity with the Education Code.

Government schools will be administered through an Education Board on which will be represented persons of eminence of all religious persuasions. Religious instruction as a subject will be made compulsory in all Government schools. No distinction will be made between English Code schools and Swabasha Code schools.

A Commission will be appointed to report on the re-organisation of the content of edu-

cation and other allied matters. Greater emphasis will be given to the teaching of practical subjects. A pilot scheme of multi-lateral schools will be started.

The change-over in the medium of instruction at the Peradeniya University and in schools will be expedited. You will be asked to approve a Bill for the granting of external degrees. A second Faculty of Science will be established at Peradeniya. Steps will be taken to expand the supply of doctors and urgent attention will be given to the setting up of a second Medical School. All necessary assistance will be given to develop the Vid-yodaya University and the Vidyalandara University to their full stature.

Senators and M. P's listening to the Throne Speech







Senators, led by the Clerk to the Senate, leaving Independence Hall after the ceremony

### Technical Education

MY Government will give the highest priority to the development of technical education on an island-wide basis. A Commission will be appointed to advise the Government on the organisation and development of technical education to meet the industrial and economic needs of the country.

The fullest use will be made of the broadcasting medium to supplement education as well as to intensify adult education.

My Government will introduce a scheme of national service for the youth of this country. Consideration will be given to the report of the Committee now under preparation on the subject of employment, under-employment and unemployment.

My Government will take steps to develop the major ports of the Island.

The health services, both Western and Ayurvedic, will be further developed. Greater assistance will be given in general for





▲  
Members of the  
Diplomatic Corps  
at the Independence  
Hall



▶  
The Prime Minister,  
Mrs. Sirimavo  
Bandaranaike,  
being sworn in as a  
Senator, a few days  
before the State  
Opening of  
Parliament





The Hon. the Speaker, Mr. R. S. Pelpola, arriving at the House of Representatives after being sworn in at Queen's House. With him are Mr. C. P. de Silva, Minister of Agriculture, Land, Irrigation and Power, and Mr. M. Samaraweera, Minister of Local Government and Housing.

Ayurvedic research and to local authorities in particular for Ayurvedic services.

The housing programme will be intensified. The private sector will be encouraged to construct houses by the provision of greater incentives by law. It is proposed to take steps to reduce the prices of building materials, to replace, wherever possible, cadjan roofs with tiles in rural areas and to arrive at an early solution of the shanty problem.

Legislation will be introduced to make loans up to two thousand rupees available to persons of moderate means on their personal security for the building, improvement and extension of houses.

MR. SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the forthcoming financial year will be placed before you. Since the Appropriation Bill for that year cannot receive the Royal Assent during the current financial year, you will be asked to consider certain measures

authorising the issue from the Consolidated Fund as well as the expenditure during the forthcoming financial year of such sums as may be necessary for the public and other services until that Bill becomes law.

MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE,  
MR. SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

My Government welcomes the investment of foreign capital in this country. A statement will be made in due course giving the conditions which will apply to such investments.

In order to expedite the planned development of the economic resources of this country and to provide for greater co-ordination, a National Planning Department will be set up under the Ministry of Finance and a Foreign Aid Department under the Ministry of Defence and External Affairs.

The present price control policy will be reviewed in order to bring down the prices of essential foodstuffs and other commodities.



Steps will also be taken to increase food production and to introduce better methods of sale and distribution of agricultural products.

### Trade and Commerce

IN the realm of trade and commerce, it is the intention of My Government to expand the markets for our products to new spheres while continuing to intensify exports to our traditional markets. Additional markets will be sought for our imports. Trade, particularly by co-operative societies, and by private persons will be encouraged. Action will be taken to improve and enlarge the activities of multi-purpose co-operative societies. Peasants will be given the opportunity of obtaining loans on easy terms for purposes of trade, agriculture and cottage industries.

During the coming year, it is proposed to start work on the rubber tyre and tube factory and the iron and steel project, both of which are being undertaken with assistance from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. It is also hoped to make a start with projects for the manufacture of certain fertilizers. My Government will provide incentives to the private sector for the production of essential commodities now being imported. For this purpose, a Bureau of Standards will be set up to ensure quality products to the consumer. The fishing and fibre industries will be improved.

My Government will introduce further schemes for health and employment insurance and for old age pensions.

In the sphere of agriculture, measures will be taken to increase the productivity of cultivated land, to bring new land under cultivation and to encourage farming on scientific lines. Machinery and equipment for the purpose will be made easily available at reasonable rates. The Paddy Lands Act will be implemented with certain modifications intended to remove the difficulties now being faced by small holders and cultivators.

Greater assistance and facilities will be granted to families settled in Village Extension Schemes for the economic development of their lands. Large extents of Crown land will be made available for alienation to landless peasants. The recommendations of the Kandyan Peasantry Commission will be further implemented.

The various hydro-electric, irrigation, flood control and land development schemes for the basins of the Mahaveliganga, the Walaweganga, the Kelaniganga, the Kaluganga and the Malwatu Oya will be proceeded with. Steps will be taken for the preparation of multi-purpose schemes for the basins of the Nilwalaganga, the Ginganga, the Maha Oya, the Mee Oya the Deduru Oya, the Kala Oya, the Yan Oya, the Kirindiganga, and the Menikganga. Irrigation divisions which are now constituted on the basis of administrative districts will be reconstituted on a river valley basis.

Trade union rights will be safeguarded. The Department of Labour will be expanded in order to expedite the settlement of industrial disputes.

The reports of the Salaries and Cadre Commission and the National Wage Structure Commission will receive consideration. My Government will overhaul the public service, the Treasury, the Kachcheri administration and the headmen system. The Financial Regulations and the Administrative Regulations will be revised to give effect to the changed conditions.

The relations between the Central Government and local authorities will be reviewed.

Stricter measures will be enforced to prevent illicit entry into Ceylon.

### Lapsed Bills

YOU will be asked to approve some of the Bills which have lapsed. Among the other legislative measures which will be submitted to you will be a Bill to provide that every



Senator, Member of Parliament, member of any local authority or of the board of directors of any statutory corporation, officer or employee of a registered trade union or public servant and their spouses and children shall make annual declarations of their assets and liabilities, a Bill for simplifying and speeding up legal procedures, a Bill for the incorporation of the free legal aid scheme, a Bill for the incorporation of the Bar Council, a Bill for the revision of all scales of costs, a Bill for the revision of all scales of costs, a Bill to safeguard litigants from defalcations and embezzlement, and a Bill to clear land title of small allotments by voluntary consolidation upon a decree of court.

In pursuance of My Government's policy of progressive nationalization, life insurance business will be nationalized and legislation will be introduced to regulate and control insurance business generally in order to prevent abuses. My Government does not consider it advantageous to undertake the nationalization of estates and plantations.

A Commission will be appointed to investigate into the political aspects of the assassination of the late Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike.

A Commission will be appointed to inquire into the functioning of the Press in connexion with the general elections held in March and July this year, and the abuse of power or authority by the Caretaker Governments and Government officials during those elections.

My Government will introduce legislation to take over the newspapers controlled by the Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited and the Times of Ceylon Limited and to vest such newspapers in statutory public corporations with unlimited share capital in which individual holdings will be restricted so as to ensure a broad-based ownership. This legislation will ensure the democratic character of newspapers in this country and prevent abuse by the formation of unhealthy monopolies.

In the interests of a united Sri Lanka My Government guarantees administrative fairness and justice to all citizens of this country and calls upon them for their co-operation and effort to reap the fruits of democratic socialism.

I commend all these matters to you for your deliberation and I trust they will receive your most careful consideration.



## P. M's Message to the Nation

*THE debate on the Address of Thanks to the Throne Speech opened in the House of Representatives on August 23rd. On the same day the Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, in a broadcast to the nation explained the Government's proposals in regard to the Sinhala Only Act, the take-over of the Press, Assisted Schools, life insurance and the introduction of national service for the youth of the country.*

The following is the full text of the broadcast :—

“Today, the Houses of Parliament will debate the Address of Thanks to the Throne Speech. As Prime Minister, I feel that I should take this opportunity to thank the people for the spontaneous and favourable response with which the first major policy statement of the new Government has been received generally throughout the country. There are of course, some sections of the people, represented by different shades of political opinion in Parliament who are not entirely satisfied with the Throne Speech. In a democratic country such as ours, that is their privilege—a privilege which my Government will always safeguard and protect.

In the formulation of the Throne Speech, for which my Cabinet and I assume complete and collective responsibility, we have not made general promises, which we cannot carry out within the next year. The object of the Throne Speech is not to declare generally what my Party and my Government stand for ; that has already been done in the Party Manifesto. The purpose of the Throne Speech is to tell the people clearly and unambiguously what new laws will be passed, and what policy will be followed in specific matters, during the forthcoming year. At the end of that year, another Throne Speech will be read by His Excellency at the opening of the next sessions of Parliament, declaring what we propose to

do for that year in continuation of our policy. The Throne Speech really gives the people a chance of assessing whether the Government is keeping its promises and doing its job, from year to year. The Throne Speech is not intended to set out the details of the new laws which the Government will enact. That will be done when each new law is placed before Parliament, when Parliament will have an opportunity for full debate. There is a limit to the amount of work that any Government can get through within a year, and viewed in that light, some of the amendments to the address of thanks which have been put forward, are not really criticisms, but reminders of policy items for the remaining term of Parliament. As a centre party Government, it is perhaps inevitable that some of the criticisms against the Throne Speech, complain that My Government has gone too far, while others complain that my Government has not gone far enough. My Government's determination not to change the date line set in the Sinhala Only Act of the late Prime Minister, Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, is considered by some as a new danger to the Tamil minorities of this country. Others see in my Government's desire to implement the law relating to the reasonable use of Tamil, enacted by the late Prime Minister, a threat to the Sinhalese majority in this country. My Government has given a clear and unequivocal assurance to all sections of the people that we shall act fairly and justly in all matters of Government administration, and by that promise we shall abide.

### The Press

THE take-over of the Newspapers controlled by the Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd., and by the Times of Ceylon Ltd., and the new arrangements contemplated in the Throne Speech for their administration by statutory corporations with broad-based



ownership and with checks against the formation of vicious monopolies, has led to some criticism both here and abroad. This kind of criticism, based as it is, merely upon the argument that a take over of newspapers is anti-democratic, might have been more valuable had it been more informed. Much of this criticism loses its force, if two matters are taken into account.

My Government proposes to distribute the share capital in the new statutory corporations amongst all sections of the people in such a manner that, no group of persons can either by themselves or their nominees, acquire or hold a controlling interest in these corporations. The Government does not propose to take up any part of the share capital in the new corporations so as to acquire a controlling interest, and to create thereby a Government monopoly. The other factor that the critics have not considered is this ; the policy of my Government does not prevent anyone from starting or running a newspaper in competition with the statutory corporations. In this context, it is quite clear that the step contemplated in the Throne Speech is in reality calculated to serve the interests of democracy, and not to destroy it. The spontaneous burst of applause which greeted the announcement in the Throne Speech is perhaps, the clearest indication that the people agree that the interests of democracy have not been well served by the existing newspaper companies in the past.

The take-over of Assisted Schools has also led to criticism from two quarters. One line of argument is that the Government has favoured Grade I and Grade II Schools at the expense of Grade III and Rural Schools. This is based on an incorrect assumption that the privilege given to the former schools can be exercised without reference to the Education Code. The other line of argument is really against Government policy, which has already been accepted by the people at the last elections. My Government regrets that it cannot heed any pleas to modify its policy to serve the interests of

any particular group, against the expressed wishes of the people. We should like to give the assurance that the take-over will be effected fairly and with due regard to the religious susceptibilities of people, in line with the policy set out in the Throne Speech.

### National Service

THE introduction of National Service for the youth of this country, is a new departure in Government Policy. It is intended to compel every child upon leaving school to live in a disciplined environment and to make his contribution to the country. In this country, national service will not necessarily be military service, but will be designed to suit the needs of the national economy, and will therefore include agricultural and industrial service. The training thus afforded will be of practical use to our children in future, and will also benefit the country as a whole. National service will apply to children from every walk of life, and regardless of whether they come from private or Government schools. This will in one way help to bridge artificial and false social distinctions, which are in unfortunate reminder of colonial times.

As almost every Party in Parliament has accepted the nationalisation of life insurance, I do not propose to say very much about it, except that it is a step taken in pursuance of our policy of progressive nationalisation. The nationalisation of any undertaking cannot and should not be undertaken at will until the Government is ready with the machinery to assume control and to ensure a proper and efficient administration. Nor in the view of my Government is it advantageous to our country to nationalise any venture unless by so doing the nationals of our country get a benefit that would not otherwise accrue to them. In line with this policy, my Government has made a declaration with regard to estates, which is in complete accord with the election manifesto of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party.

*(Continued on page 21)*





Mr. C. P. de Silva, Minister of Agriculture, Land, Irrigation and Power, after he declared open the Gal Oya Sugar Factory on 8th August, 1960. Looking on is the Minister of Education and Broadcasting, Mr. Badiuddin Mahmud, who accompanied Mr. C. P. de Silva to Gal Oya for the ceremony

## The Gal Oya Sugar Factory

AS the giant machinery of Ceylon's first Sugar Factory at Gal Oya Valley thundered into action on August 8, Ceylon not only took a forward step in her programme of industrialisation but also took a positive step towards saving nearly 20 million rupees in foreign exchange which goes annually for imports of sugar.

Pressing the button to initiate the production of local crystalline sugar, the Minister of Agriculture, Land, Irrigation and Power, Mr. C. P. de Silva, recalled the day he recommended to Government the setting up of the project, and the ceremonial occasion, much later in September 1958, when he

placed the first girder to construct the Sugar Factory. He described the sugar project as a peoples' achievement and thanked the large number of workers and technicians who worked hard to set up "the largest and most important industrial venture in the river basin which marks an important phase in the valley's industrialisation".

The story of Gal Oya's Sugar Industry in a sense is as old as the Gal Oya Multi-purpose River Valley Project itself. The earliest investigations started in 1949 when the first soil samples from the Valley were collected and subjected to laboratory tests. It was an integral part of proposals for





Mr. C. P. de Silva as Minister of Lands and Land Development, placing the first iron girder to construct the Sugar Factory at Gal Oya in September, 1958

planned industrialisation together with agricultural development and human settlement in the 1,217 square mile river basin.

Due to the lack of technological and scientific knowledge and experience in Ceylon in the different aspects of the sugar industry, the services of foreign experts were obtained to carry out research, investigations and trials. The first to come to Gal Oya was Prof. D. G. Walawalkar of the Indian Institute of Sugar Technology. He carried out a survey of lands and soils and reported that about 20,000 acres of alluvial plains on both sides of the Gal Oya river were suitable for sugar cane cultivation. In the very next year Dr. G. Van Dilliwijn, F. A. O. Adviser on Sugar Cultivation, did a sample soil survey of the area indicated by Prof. Walawalkar. He in turn was followed by Mr. J. G. Vermaat, F. A. O. Agricultural Chemist in

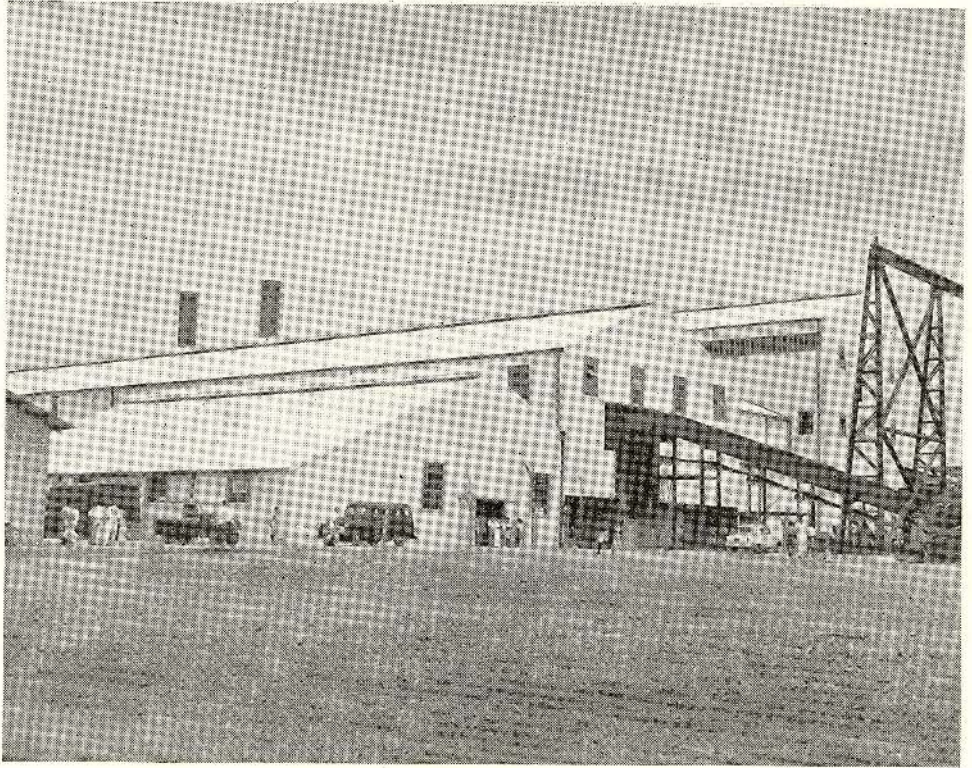
early 1954, who led a detailed soil survey team and finally established that a nett area of 10,500 acres was suitable for sugar cane. With regard to climatic conditions for sugar cane cropping the experts were of opinion that it was feasible to raise twelve to fourteen months maturing varieties after the study of the rainfall figures for the preceding seventy years.

### Sugar Agronomy

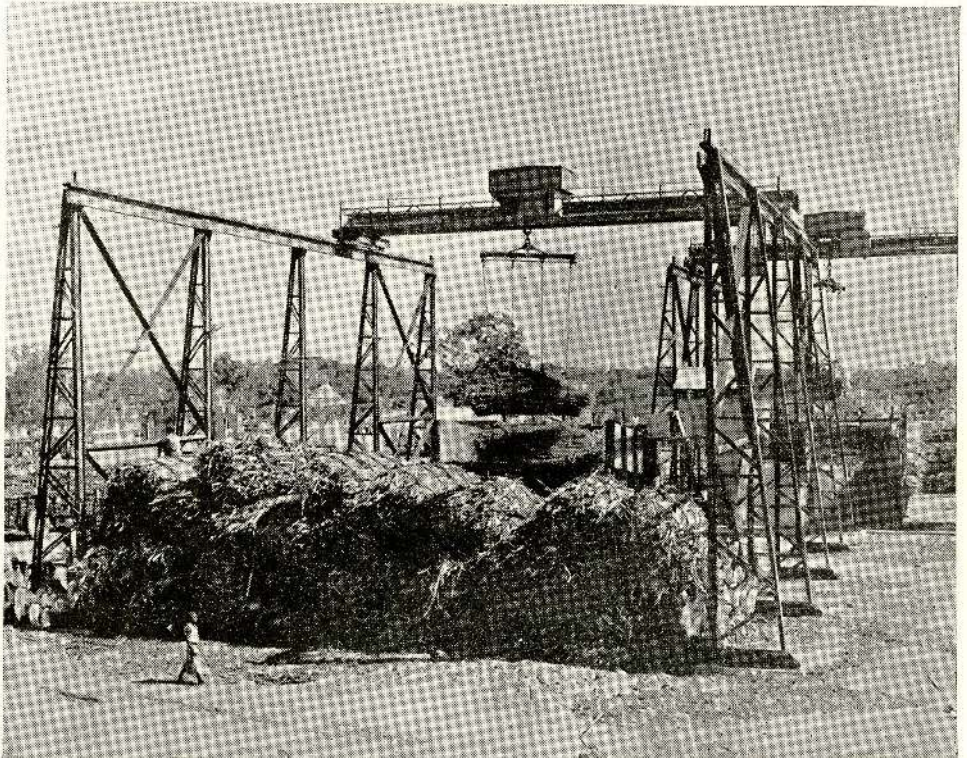
THE next aspect of research and investigations was in the sphere of sugar agronomy. This was undertaken by Rr. R. Kazimi, a sugar agronomist from India who set in motion the following :—

- (i) Crop growth studies to maintain fertility so as to obtain high sugar content in the cane,





▶ The front view of the Sugar Factory in the Gal Oya Valley which has just gone into production



▶ Sugar cane brought in for crushing to the Factory



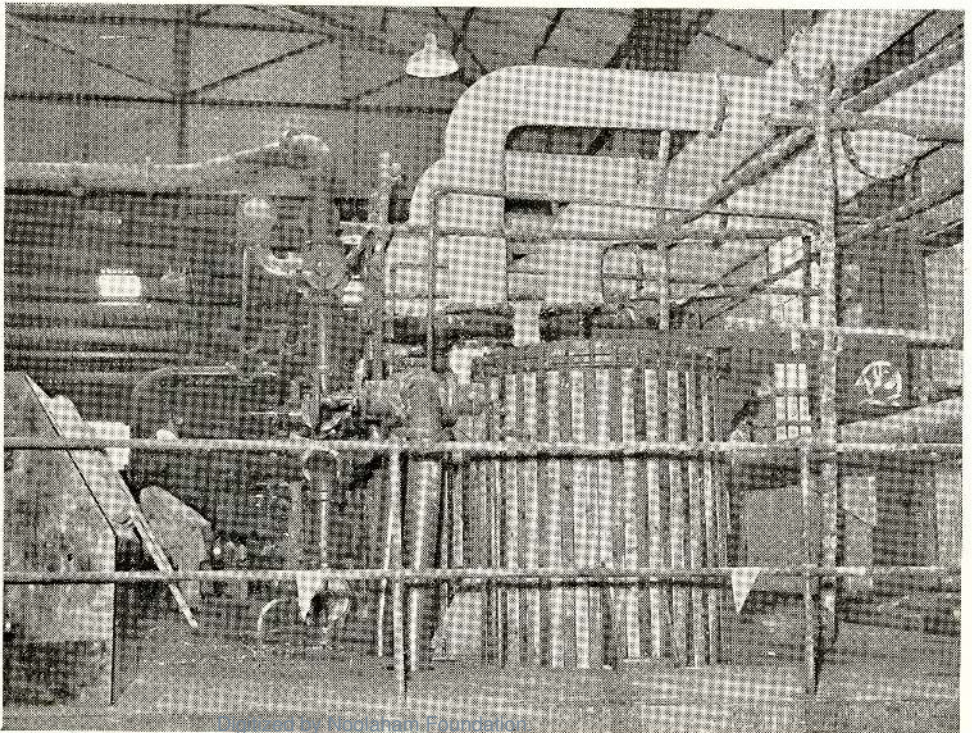


- (ii) Development research of soil for subsequent incorporation into field practices, and
- (iii) The raising and study of different varieties of cane to establish which species will give the highest yields per acre and a high percentage of sugar content in the cane under Gal Oya's soil and climatic conditions.

All this work centered around a sugar experimental station complete with trial plots and a small hand operated pilot plant for brown sugar extraction which the Board set up as early as 1950. When all the data were collected and compiled, Dr. Van Dilliwijn and Mr. H. U. G. O. Reerink of the F.A.O. and Mr. K. Heringa of the Netherlands Department of Agriculture examined the data in detail and reported that—

- (i) the climatic and soil conditions were satisfactory,
- (ii) the agronomical aspects of the project were well established, and

▲  
The machines at work



▶  
Another view of the inside of the Factory



(iii) the industry could be worked economically.

At that stage the Board entrusted to Mr. J. M. Meijer of the United Nations Technical Assistance Board, an economic survey of the entire proposals regarding the feasibility of establishing a sugar industry and operating it profitably. His report revealed that such an industry was a sound economic proposition not only to produce 20,000 tons of sugar and thereby annually save about 20 million rupees in foreign exchange, but also to utilise the by-products of the industry—bagasse and molasses—for further expanded industrialisation, the return from which would be many times more than that of the sugar industry.

It was decided to set up the industry in 1957 and work in connection with the raising of the plantation and the construction of the factory commenced immediately afterwards. We now have over 3,000 acres under sugar cane of which 600 acres are mature for the first year's extraction of 2,500 tons of white sugar in 1960. In the ensuing years the planting and production will expand as follows:—

1961 ..	4,000 acres ..	15,000 tons sugar
1962 ..	6,000 acres ..	20,000 tons sugar
1963 ..	9,000 acres ..	30,000 tons sugar

The industry which is highly mechanised will provide employment to 7,500 persons of all grades. Around the factory will grow a modern industrial town which in time will rival Amparai, the present administrative capital of the Valley, in size and importance. Within the 9,000 acres cane plantation there will be 16 plantation villages each carrying 200 families and complete with co-operatives, schools, community centres, medical and health services in addition to having the modern amenities of pipe-borne water supply, drainage and electrical lighting.

The story of the Gal Oya Sugar Industry portrays the careful planning, preceded by

years of detailed research, trials and investigations, that have made it a national asset today. It is the largest and most important industrial venture in the river basin and marks an important phase in the Valley's industrialisation. Hereafter, greater emphasis will be laid on this branch of development utilising mainly bagasse and molasses, the by-products of the sugar industry, as raw material as well as cheap electrical energy and man-power available consequent on multi-purpose development.

Here are some details of the prospective economic uses of by-products:—

- Bagasse :**
- (a) Newsprint—12,000 tons (from 25,000 tons of Bagasse) ;
  - (b) Particle board or fibre board—9,000 tons (from 15,000 tons of Bagasse) ;
  - (c) Writing paper—10,000 tons (from 30,000 tons of Bagasse).

**Molasses :** The main extract from 10,000 tons of Molasses will be 600,000 gallons of power alcohol. The prospective uses of this power alcohol are—

- (a) Acetic Acid—1,200 tons
- (b) De-natured spirits—400,000 gallons
- (c) Edible yeast—80 tons.
- (d) Rayon—18 million yards.

The above prospective uses have been based on the country's annual imports of these commodities. The approximate saving in foreign exchange annually when these industries are established will be Rs. 90 million.

#### Technical Data of the Factory

- Crushing capacity—2,000/2,500 tons of cane per day of 22 hours ;
- Total crushing days in the year—120 days ;
- Boiler capacity—150,000 lbs. of steam per hour ;
- Maximum production—30,000 tons of white plantation sugar.





Kindergarten  
Students at the  
playfield during the  
interval

## The Place of English in our Schools

NEIL KULATUNGE

ENGLISH, despite the position and prestige it holds in the world today, is gradually giving way to the National Languages here in Ceylon as a result of the social and political development that is going on. The Government, however, considers that English is essential if Ceylon is not to be isolated and denied contact with international thought, literature and knowledge. With this end in view therefore the Department of Education is paying increased attention to the improvement of the teaching of English as a second language in schools. With the assistance of the British Council, the United States Embassy and UNESCO, training courses are being organised for teachers and inspecting officers during school

vacations. At the request of the Education Department UNESCO has also sent an adviser on the teaching of English, who is now working on a suitable syllabus for schools. Today English is taught as a second language in all Assisted schools and the majority of Government schools in Ceylon. The Education Act of 1951 lays down that all schools should teach English as a second language from standard III upwards. However this is rarely done in practice. It was found during a survey conducted by the Department that in most schools either no English was taught at all in the early stages for want of teachers or it was taught so badly that when pupils came to the sixth standard they had to unlearn what they had



already learnt. Various reports too flowed into the Department that the standard of English was falling and the quality of teachers was very poor.

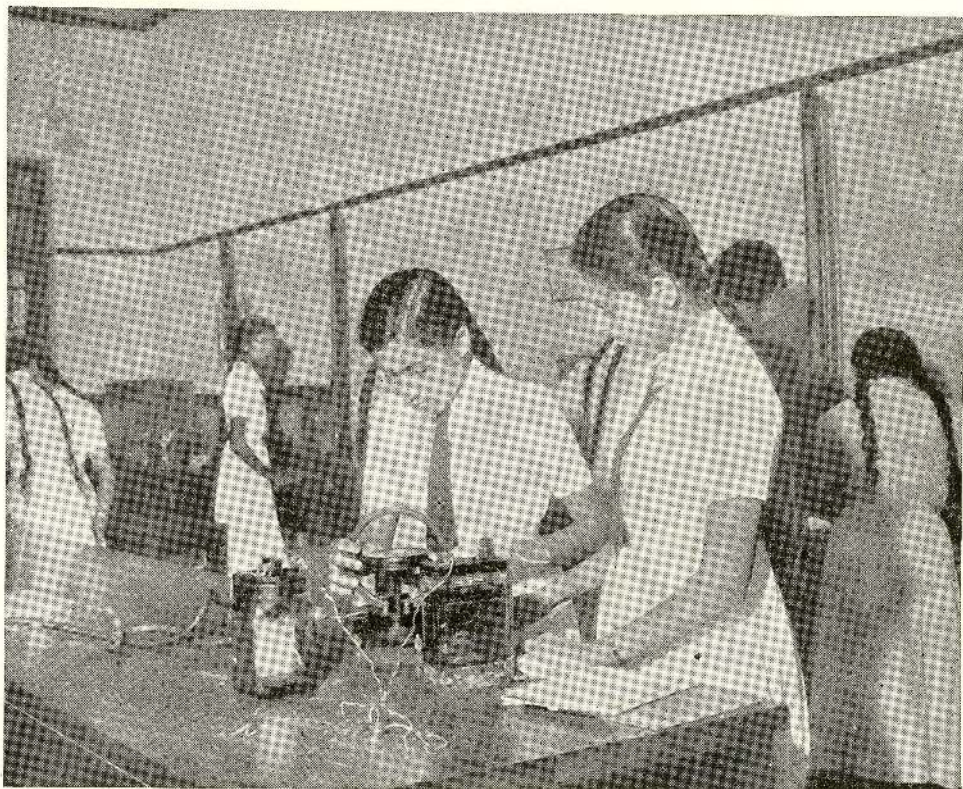
The Government therefore appointed a special committee to study this question and make recommendations to improve the teaching of English in all schools. The committee among other matters had to recommend whether English should be a compulsory subject in schools, the methods that should be adopted in teaching English as a second language and the steps that were necessary to maintain a high standard in the teaching of English in our schools. The Committee consisted of Mr. S. F. de Silva, Director of Education (Chairman), Mr. L. L. K. Gunatunge, Commissioner of Examinations, Dr. Hector A. Passe, Professor of English—University of Ceylon, Mrs. A. E. M. Geddes, Lecturer—Government Training College—Maharagama, Mr. S. A. Wijayatilaka, Principal—Ananda College, Mr. M. D.

Gunawardane, Principal—Thurstan College, Miss Chitra Wickramasooriya, Faculty of Education—University of Ceylon, and Mr. E. Rode, Education Officer (Secretary).

This committee agreed that English should be compulsorily taught to all up to and including the 8th standard. Thereafter it should be optional. But at what stage was this to start? The committee felt that educationally the earlier the language was started the better it was. However in view of the practical difficulties of supplying specially trained teachers to man all the English classes at once, it was suggested that a start should be made at the 5th standard. As the supply position improved that start could be made earlier by stages.

#### Aims and Objects

ON the question of the aims and objects of teaching English as a second language this



A Science class in one of the Colombo Girls' Schools



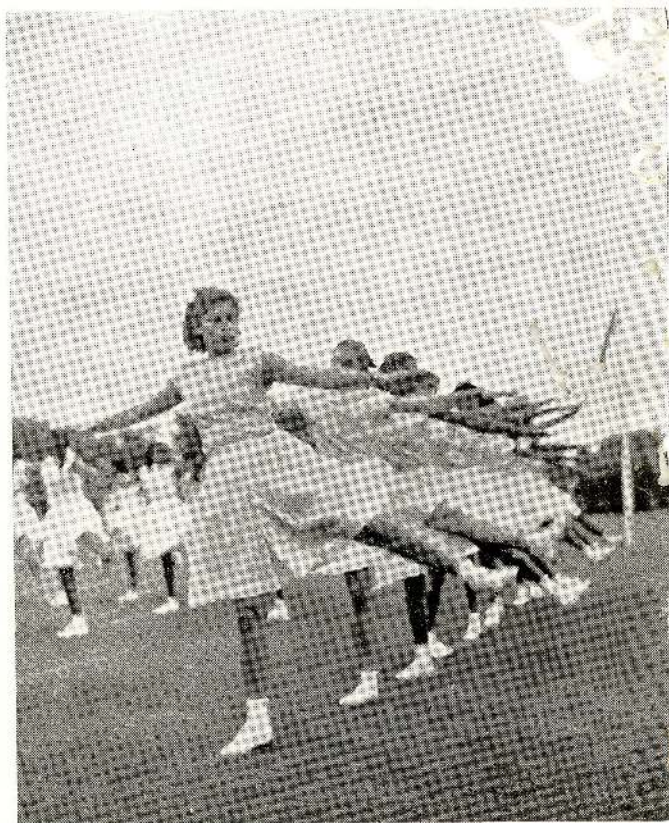
is what the committee had to say. "The general aims should be the acquisition of a competence in the language. For this purpose the development of the three skills—speaking, reading and writing—is necessary. "It is also our view that the aims and objects of teaching English cannot be limited to a particular aspect of the language, whether practical or cultural, for language is an indivisible whole. In the studying of a language there can be only one aim and that is the acquisition of competence in it. The knowledge so acquired may ultimately be put to certain specific and limited uses according to the individual capacity, but it would be unsound to let these uses control or direct the teaching of the language." The committee also felt that the language should be introduced in meaningful units. Here, the direct method was favoured. It was suggested that word lists should be graded and prepared to suit conditions in Ceylon. Translations were to be used only for the purpose of explanation. It was not necessary to teach Grammar at all in the earlier stages. There was plenty of literature available on the teaching of English as a second language.

The committee was of the view that the text books in use at present were not suitable for Ceylon. It recommended that a special series should therefore be written for the pupils. Commenting on the training and supply of teachers for the teaching of English this is what the committee has to say—

*"The standard of English has fallen owing to the poor quality of the teaching. Specially trained teachers only should handle this subject. The out-put of the English course should be increased to yield at least 150 to 200 specially trained English teachers annually. Graduates should also be trained to teach at the higher levels."*

These are some of the steps the committee recommended to maintain a high standard in the teaching of English in our schools.

(a) Starting of a Language Research Unit.



Students giving a demonstration in physical training at a competition in Colombo

- (b) Provision for the extensive reading of pupils by stocking school and class libraries with supplementary reading materials.
- (c) The setting up of a special Administrative Unit with the Education Officer (English) in charge to arrange for Refresher Courses for Inspectors of Schools and teachers of English and any swabhasa Headmasters and teachers desiring to learn English. The standard of English in Swabhasa Training Colleges should be raised.

Acting on these recommendations the Department of Education has already taken to set up a special branch at the Maharagama



Training College to deal exclusively with the training of English teachers. The Department has also finalised a scheme to start special courses in the teaching of English as a second language in all Government Training Colleges. It has also decided to devote more time to the teaching of English at all Training Colleges.

The demand for teachers of English in the Swabhasa schools is also on the increase and the Department is now doing its best to supply this need. During the last two years over one thousand English Assistants were posted to Swabhasa schools all over the Island.

Beginning from January next year all swabhasa training colleges in Ceylon too will introduce special courses in the methods of teaching English as a second language.

Principals of Swabhasa training colleges have been told by the Department that it was important that methods of teaching English should be introduced as a subject in order to increase the number of qualified teachers to teach English in the primary classes. Swabhasa training colleges will include training in the techniques of teaching English in the elementary stages. At present these colleges all teach English only as a subject.

A syllabus has already been drawn up by the Department for the course to be held in the training colleges. Training Masters of training colleges were given a special training course for three weeks to prepare them for this new aspect of the training college course. Two staff members from each training college attended this course which was held in August.

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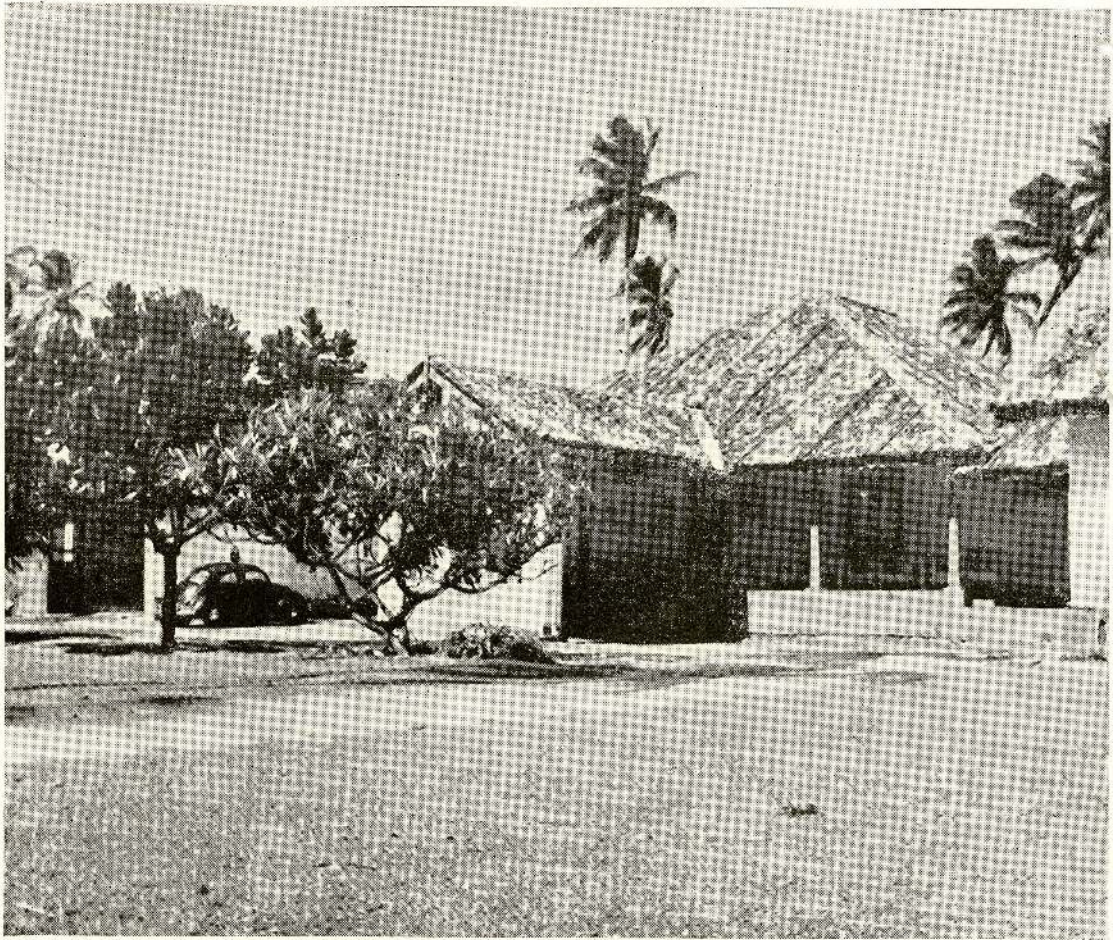
## P. M's MESSAGE TO THE NATION

*(Continued from page 12)*

In conclusion, I should like to repeat that my Government will always seek to place the interests which we represent first in all matters. The people who voted for my Government may rest assured that in serving them as their chosen Prime Minister, I shall serve their interests fearlessly. To the Public

Servants responsible for the day to day business of Government, I should like to say that I expect complete and unswerving loyalty, regardless of personal political opinions. I appeal to all the people of this country to co-operate with my Government to restore peace, harmony, goodwill and prosperity."





The old resthouse. The new wing is on the right

## A South Ceylon Sea Resort

JAMES GOONEWARDENE

A FAST developing centre of local and tourist interest is a little village lying on the western coast about sixty-one miles away from Colombo. Its name, Hikkaduwa is curiously onomatopoeic to the Sinhalese ear and in fact it does seem to suggest a martial derivation. Its suffix *Kaduwa* is the Sinhalese term for sword.

The village is not distinguished for any special physical or external features, apart

from its wonderful little bay for which indeed, it is now famous. At first sight one gets the impression of an ordinary coastal village, for one does not see the bay at once. There are instead to be seen the small tea shops, the eating houses and little dwellings of the people surrounded by the tall coconut palms which one looks at endlessly all the way down from Colombo, and in which one has lost interest long ago. One comes upon this bay as it were by surprise. One of course

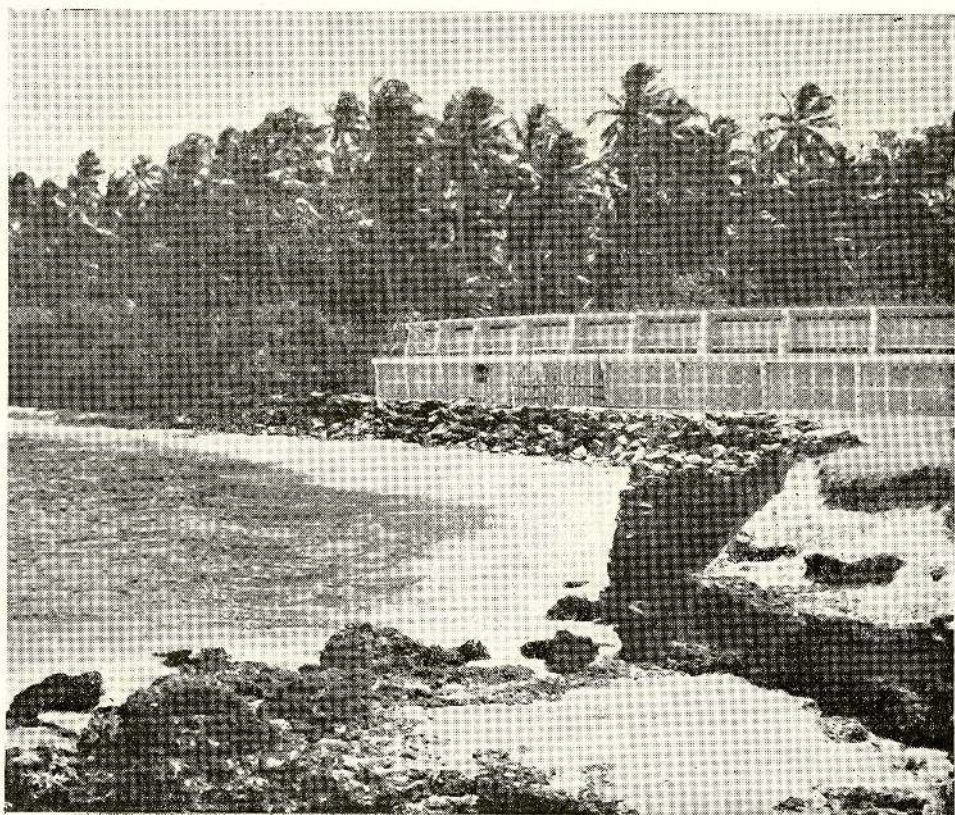
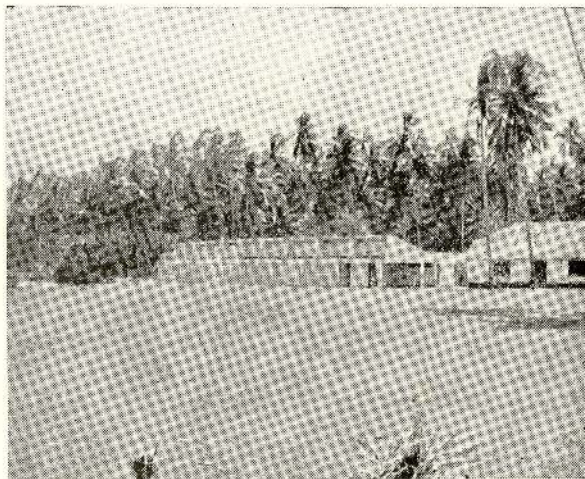


catches glimpses of it through the gaps left by the houses or the hardy shrubs growing thickly here on the edge of the road. One has first to come to the rest house and then go past it to get to the secret of the bay. The rest house stands on the edge of the bay and itself is situated a little away from the road, hidden behind some eating houses and dwellings.

The frontage of the rest house is at the moment a little unprepossessing, and with the growing interest in the place it will be improved, but the lawn at the back of the rest house and overlooking the bay is wide and neat and emerald green. It is evident that some pains have been taken over this lawn, for the type of grass found here does not usually grow on the edge of the sea. A point that occurs to one here at Hikkaduwa, and in fact at most other places where there are rest houses, is the care with which the loca-

tion for the rest houses has been found. The person or persons have clearly been people of vision and foresight.

The new wing and a part of the old resthouse seen across the lawn



The new wing of the resthouse and part of the bay seen from the pier. The boats set out from this pier





◀ The rocks near which the coral beds are to be found

### The Bay

ON the right of one the bay sweeps down sharply at first and then gently in a wide curve. In front and a little to the left the land goes out to sea like the apex of a forty-five degree angle. The land is curiously fashioned here, like a streamer gathered to a point and then dropping away in a wide curve to the right and left. The water in the bay, when there is no monsoon, is quiet and restful, and bottle green or ultramarine depending on the time of the day and how bright the sun. The wonder of the sea here, however lies in the beautiful and many coloured fish and coral which can be seen in its depths. The seascape is not unrelieved. A few hundred yards into the sea lies a strange formation of rocks like the ruins of a castle on which the sea batters furiously during the monsoon and laps around gently at other times. The wonderful sight of the coral and also of the many coloured fish can be seen not far from these rocks.

In the rest house is to be found a coloured map showing the position of the coral beds

of which there are several scattered near about the rocks, looking like submerged flower beds. The coral themselves are shaped like flowers. The Government Tourist Bureau has provided the rest house with three boats of different sizes, fitted with out-motors, and these may be hired out by the visitors. A feature of these boats is that they are also fitted with sections of transparent glass through which one may, without actually getting into the water, view the amazing sight of the coral and multi-coloured fish. For the more adventurous there are available sea goggles and flippers in the rest house. The beauty of the coral, of course, is enhanced by the fish. There seems to be an abundance of coloured fish in this bay. Pictures of the chief varieties found in the bay the Tourist Bureau or perhaps it is the enterprising rest house manager, I do not know which, has hung up on the walls of the rest house, in their natural colours. I noted five such varieties. The first of these is called the Moorish Idol. I do not know whether it did not look like a Moorish Idol, but



it has got a scientific name which no doubt will help the student to identify it. It is called *Zanclus Canescens*. The next has an equally outlandish name. The Lilac Surgeon it is called, or *Acanthurus Leucosternon*. A third variety is named The Blue Striped Angel or *Pomacanthus Annularis*. The next is the Blue Lined Trigger fish having the biological name of *Balistes Aculetus*, and lastly there is the Striped Thicklip. I was not able to learn its scientific name, but I am sure it has one, and will no doubt not lessen one bit its thick fish mouth from which it has derived part of its name.

Certain limits have been demarcated in the sea, within which the catching of fish is now being discouraged. It seems to be the intention of the government to declare the area a fish sanctuary. Outside these limits, of course, there is a lot of scope for fishing, and evidence of this I found in the presence of several fishermen standing dark and muscular and nearly naked on the shore, waiting for that moment when they will hurl their nets, the nets which each one has on his shoulder like the cape of a matador. Here, where the fishermen stand is still a part of the bay, and the placidity of the sea with the bright, warm morning sun pouring down on the simmering water, is wonderful. There are no other humans on the beach, besides the fishermen, to disturb one. It is quiet and still. There is only the sound of the tiny waves continuously rolling on the shore and making a noise like the rolling of beads on a cemented floor. This part of the bay, I thought was more charming than that lying directly behind the rest house. It seems ideal for bathers and spear-fishermen.

#### Additions to Resthouse

ON the right is now nearing completion the new wing of the rest house, constructed at the cost of nearly two and half lakhs of rupees. That is a lot of money to build just

an additional twelve rooms. However when completed its luxury and comfort should be, perhaps an added attraction. The wing curves gently as if in imitation of the bay, and is about two hundred and ten feet long. It is, I am told, the intention of the government to build a similar wing on the other side of the old rest house, and the old rest house is to be demolished and a new storied building is to come up in its place. This will contain the dining rooms. The whole building then will remotely resemble a butterfly in flight.

The new wing is being built with nearly everything that a visitor to the rest house would require in modern comfort. There is a wonderful sun-deck overlooking the sea. It is as long as the building itself and is divided by a little projecting wall into twelve cubicles or compartments to afford privacy to the visitors. There are also well equipped changing rooms for non-resident sea bathers. The rooms will be beautifully done in tasteful colour schemes, and attached to each room will be well-equipped bathrooms having hot and cold water on tap. Each room also has a verandah with sliding French windows opening out to the bay. Just now, of course the site of the new wing is all rubble and planks, cement bags and cement mixers. The building firm hopes to hand over to the government the completed job by the end of August this year.

With this new wing there will be in all seventeen rooms available to visitors. The period between May and November is usually a slack season. But this changes in November. The rush of visitors increases slowly and reaches its peak in December, and that is the time when the racing season begins in the sea-port town of Galle, which is only ten and half miles from Hikkaduwa. It is also the time when the sea is at its calmest and the sky is cloudless and blue, and sunsets are a most wonderful sight. Then it is when one can best see the coral and fish. It is also the time when there is an abundance of sea food, the delicious lobsters and crabs and prawns.



# The Koravai—An Ancient Folk Custom

M. D. RAGHAVAN

AN ancient custom prevailing in the villages of the Eastern Province of Ceylon, is the sounding of the Koravai. On all occasions of rejoicing, as in receiving important personages, the Koravai is sounded. It is sounded both when a guest arrives, as when he departs. It is a mark of respect and honour paid to the guest. It is not quite easy to convey the idea of the Koravai, without experiencing it, as it was my privilege on the occasion of my visit to the village of Kalutavalai a few years ago in the course of my studies in the Ethnological Survey of Ceylon. The sound burst forth from the assembled women, standing with their mouths covered by the right palm. It is a rolling sound and not the single note produced as when whistles with the breath forced through the lips forming a small orifice. The technology of the Koravai is not quite easy to explain. The difference between a whistling sound and the Koravai is in the manipulation of the tongue which rolls in the mouth producing the rhythmic wavy sound that is the peculiar feature of the Koravai.

The custom of sounding the Koravai, on joyous and auspicious occasions, as at a wedding, prevails in Travancore. Sri M. Raja Raja Varma Raja describes it in one of his writings, as "an onomatopoeia of the hushed sound produced by the peculiar movement of the tongue within the mouth, covered by the hand, on all joyous occasions as child birth, marriage and other festivals, and even at services in shrines, this is very common. It is a sign of appreciation and approval by the women, of any joyous event". According to the same author, Koravai is sounded by the women of Travancore, "on the third day of the festival of *Kamankettu*, a festival of invocation to Kama, the God of Love, only married ladies take part in it. Kama is invoked and enthroned on a pillar decorated

with sandal paste, flowers and green leaves. The leading woman offers puja to the God, and all assembled make merry with amusements and singing". The custom is reported to prevail in Bengal under the name of *Kulu* on social occasions. Raja Raja Varma Raja point out the correspondence of the Koravai with the *Uloolu Dhvani* of the Sanskrit classics. As a popular custom, it does not seem to prevail in other parts of Kerala. Its occurrence in Travancore is possibly a survival of an essentially Tamil folk ceremonial in the days when Travancore, was part of ancient Tamilakam.

## Dance of Maidens

KORAVAI as a dance finds frequent reference in the Sangam literature. As a dance of the maidens of the hill tracts, it is featured in the *Silappadikaram* (2nd century A.D.)

Different commentories have reacted differently to the cultural contact of the Koravai. *Silappadikaram* is the basis of all such interpretations. Success in love or victory in war finds vent in the dance of the Koravai. Seven or nine women of the cowherds join hands and dance in a singing songs. Dancing hand in hand to the accompaniment of loud singing, has led lexicographers to speak of it as "a rural noisy sport accompanied with dancing hand in hand especially among females of the ploughman's Caste" (Winslow-Tamil-English Dictionaries).

The word Koravai means primarily, the voice—*Ku-rava* in Sanskrit, means "having a bad voice". Rasa Krida, the dance of Sri Krishna and the Gopis, was essentially the cowherds' dance, alternatively known as Korava, a name which has the association, of the noise and uproar. It is this idea possibly,



that has given the name to a certain fireworks display of Malabar, called the Koravai Poo. As it is ignited, it sends forth a fountain of sparkling flowers, emitting in the process, a sound with alternating high and low note, —a distinct reflection of the sound of the Koravai by the women of the villages.

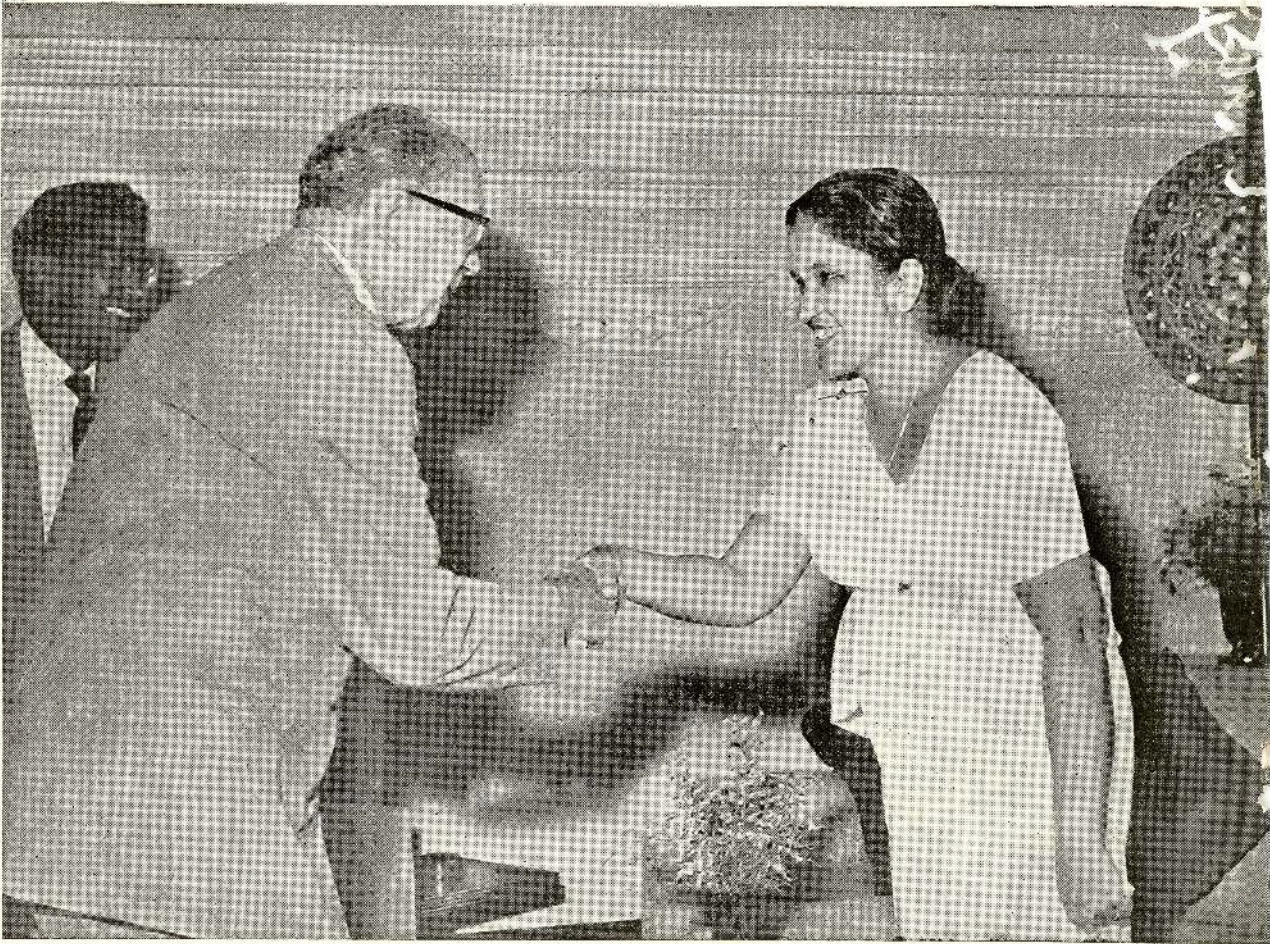
The cultural complex of the Koravai, in its ensemble, reveals it as a dance of the women to the accompaniment of their own voice, the Koravai. The more one contemplates over the application of the same term to the dance as to the voice, the more does it become obvious, that the dance took its designation from the voicing of the Koravai, as an accompaniment of the dance. The name *Koravai-Koothu* to denote the play by its full name, makes it manifest that it was a dance played to the accompaniment of the sounding of the Koravai.

This takes us to the terminology of dances in general, differentiated, the one from the other, by different criteria. *Kudai Koothu*, is the dance with the *Kudam* or the pot in hand, the early prognitor of the *Kalagedi sellams* the *Chembu* dance of Ceylon maidens. Dancing on stilts, is *Marakkal Koothu*, the "wooden-legged" dance". The dance of the clapping of hands by the maidens of Kerala, is *Kaikottikali*. A little known dance of Siva to the clapping of

hands, a triumphant dance of rejoicing, is *Kodukottai*. Dancing under a canopy of cloth is *Koorai Koothu*. Dancing with a dig into your partner, with an occasional tickling and pinching in the course of the dancing is *Killupurandi*. These are among the old folk dances of the Tamils, as Vidwan F. X. C. Nataraja, expounded to me one evening, in the course of a discussion on this intriguing subject.

Among writers who have contributed to our knowledge of the Koravai are Vidwan R. Viswanathan (*Society and Religion in the Age of Tolkappiyam*) who tells us that "Koravai was a kind of dance, which was originally one of merriment on account of victory, but which in later times became a divine dance to please the Gods. In the days of *Tolkappiyam* Koravai was danced in front and rear of a victory in battle"—An extension or an association possibly of the latter idea, is an interpretation of the term Koravai as "the Consort of Siva, the Goddess who was worshipped for victory in war"—(S. Natesan 1959). Alternately, spelt Korawai, or Kuravai, as an art, the several aspects of which stands unique, is one of the most interesting of the arts of the early Tamils that it survives as a folk custom in the Eastern Province of Ceylon, is among its many traditional values today.





The German Ambassador in Ceylon called on the Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, soon after she assumed duties as Premier

## Foreign Affairs

DR. S. RADHAKRISHNAN, Vice-President of India, in the course of his reply to the Civic Address presented by the Salem Municipality recently regretted the fact that only 2 out of 36 members of the Municipality were women.

He said that he was anxious that India's women should take a leading part in the affairs of the country.

In this context, he referred to the election of Mrs. Bandaranaike as Prime Minister of Ceylon and said that she was not only a symbol of the greatness of womanhood but also an embodiment of Pathi Bhakthi.

"It was a pointer to them, if women were to progress in this country also, they would have to give greater chances to the women of India," he said.



**Mrs. Indira Gandhi's Greetings**

THE following letter was received recently by the Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, from Mrs. Indira Gandhi :—

Prime Minister's House,  
New Delhi,  
22.7.60.

DEAR MRS. BANDARANAIKE,

May I add my own small voice to the chorus of congratulations that is greeting you from all over the world. Our gladness is three fold : that a woman should be Prime Minister and that the woman should be you, whom we know to be deeply sincere and to be responsible for such fine social work in Ceylon. And thirdly that your party has won a good majority which will enable it to form a stable government.

What a wonderful opportunity you have to lead and guide your people towards those high ideals for which your husband worked and gave his life. The task is not an easy one but I am sure you have the strength and courage to face all difficulties. The prayers and good wishes of millions will be with you.

With kindest regards,  
Yours sincerely,  
Sgd. INDIRA GANDHI.

THE following is the reply sent by the Prime Minister to Mrs. Gandhi :—

Colombo, 5th August, 1960.

DEAR MRS. GANDHI,

Thank you very much for your inspiring letter of the 22nd of July. I am deeply conscious of the great honour that has been done me by my countrymen and I trust I may have the strength to continue the work

which my husband began. Your good wishes and prayers will be of great support to me in the days that lie ahead.

With kindest regards,  
Yours sincerely,

Sgd. SIRIMA R. D. BANDARANAIKE.

Mrs. Indira Gandhi,  
Prime Minister's House,  
New Delhi.

**Ceylon and the Congo**

FOLLOWING is the text of a message sent by the Prime Minister of Ceylon to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Congo :—

“ I am deeply concerned over the difficult situation that has arisen in your country and the trials to which as a result your Government is being subject. Please accept my sympathies. The thoughts and good wishes of my Government and the people of Ceylon are with you at this time. We are confident, however, of your country's ability, under your courageous and wise leadership, to surmount these difficulties and effect speedy restoration of order and stability.

Permit me to take this opportunity to convey to you and the people of the Congo our renewed wishes for their prosperity.”

At the Security Council Meeting held to consider the question of the Congo, Ceylon was co-sponsor of the resolution which was accepted by the Council.

Ceylon also sent, at the request of the Secretary General of the United Nations, a small contingent of Army personal to help in U. N. work in Congo. The officers and men left by air on August 15.

**U. N. Film under Production**

PADDY cultivation in Gal Oya will symbolize agriculture in Ceylon in a film being



produced currently by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations on agricultural development in South and South-East Asia.

The film is being produced conjointly by F. A. O. and the Ceylon Government Film Unit, under the direction of Mr. Jean S. Bhowmagary of the U.N.O. Already a team of about 10, led by Mr. Bhowmagary—comprising cameramen, soundmen, etc., were in the Valley for 3 weeks last month doing the shooting and sound recordings. They were assisted by personnel of the Public Relations and Agricultural Branches of the Board.

The story of the film centres round a colonist family in the Valley, and depicts their social and economic life in their old village before Gal Oya and their subsequent life and progress in the Valley. The Agricultural Research and Extension Services which guide the new settlers to economic progress through better agriculture will feature prominently in the film.

### Canadian Aid to Ceylon

THE Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Howard Green, announced in the Canadian House of Commons on June 17th that Canada's Colombo Plan contribution for 1959-60 towards Ceylon's economic development would be 2 million dollars (Rs. 10 million approx.), states a Press release.

This grant brings to more than 16.4 million dollars (Rs. 82 million approx.), the amount of Capital Aid provided to Ceylon by Canada under the Colombo Plan.

Mr. Green announced that agreement had been reached with the Ceylon Government on the following projects for the 1959-60 program :—

Wheat Flour grant to help meet Ceylon's food requirements—\$1,000,000.

The sale of this flour by the Ceylon Government will generate rupee counterpart

funds to be used in Ceylon for agreed development projects.

Continuation of the Resources Survey of Ceylon—\$600,000.

In order to have a sound basis for planning and developing the country's economy, Ceylon asked Canada to undertake an aerial resources survey of the island.

The resources survey includes air photography, mosaioing, topographic mapping, geological and forestry surveys, land and water resources surveys, a geophysical survey, integrated river basin surveys, training of Ceylonese personnel and the establishment of a centre for integrated resources surveys.

This survey has been in progress since 1956 and the current allocation is for its continuation.

Gal Oya-Laxapana Power Link—\$325,000.

An initial allocation towards the cost of constructing transmission lines and providing terminal equipment and generators for the power link between Inginiyagala in the Gal Oya Valley and Badulla in the amount of \$1,290,000 was made in the 1958-59 program.

The allocation in this year's program is to meet further costs of the project.

Ratmalana Telecommunication Project—\$75,000.

This allocation is to complete the provision of equipment and services to the project at Ratmalana which is designed to make Colombo airport facilities both safe and more efficient.

In addition Canada will continue its program of technical co-operation in Ceylon including the provision of experts to work in Ceylon and the provision of training facilities in Canada as part of its overall Colombo Plan program for South and South-East Asia. Expenditures under the technical co-operation program for Ceylon amounted to





The U. S. Ambassador, Mr. Bernard Gufler, called on the Minister of Transport and Works, Mr. P. B. G. Kalugalla, to explain the conditions of the loan granted by the Development Loan Fund for the Katunayake Airport Project. The Minister expressed his warm appreciation of the loan

\$1.45 million (Rs. 7.2 million approx.), up to the end of 1959.

### Loan for New Airport

THE Development Loan Fund in Washington has approved a loan of 3,200,000 dollars (approximately 15 million rupees) to the Ceylon Government to help finance the construction of a new international airport at Katunayake. The United States Operations Mission has already agreed to grant a loan of Rs. 5,230,000 towards the project.

The essential terms of the D. L. F. loan are as follows :  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. interest, repayable

within 20 years in rupees, with equipment and services financed by the loan to be procured in the United States. These terms are very favourable because they are lower than current rates of international credit and repayment will not result in loss of foreign exchange.

The new International Airport project was first mooted in 1958. With technical assistance from the U. S. O. M. aeronautical feasibility reports and site studies were made in likely locations at Katukurunda and at the existing airport at Katunayake and Ratmalana. These reports and studies indicated that the most economical location was at Katunayake where the Royal Ceylon Air Force already had an active military airport. The government, therefore, decided upon the development of the Katunayake site on a joint-user basis with the Royal Ceylon Air Force as the other user.

Civil aviation facilities including a new terminal building were to be located on the southern side of the existing runway which was to be suitably strengthened and lengthened to 8,700 feet while Royal Ceylon Air Force facilities were to remain as at present on the northern side.

The existing international airport at Ratmalana was to be used by domestic air services and as a base for Air Ceylon.

With these important decisions the stage was set for the development of Katunayake as an international airport to serve the needs of the Jet Age.

The services of an airport engineer, Mr. L. G. Phillips, were obtained through the U. S. O. M. from 18.2.59 to 20.3.59 to lay down the principles on which essential data for the plans and specifications for the new airport should be obtained pending the arrival in September, 1959, of the permanent Project Engineer, Mr. G. W. Roseberry.

This data was gathered by the P. W. D. drawing office personnel assigned to the Project Engineer with the assistance of the Survey Department and Mr. Roseberry had,



since his arrival on 14.9.59, been engaged in the task of formulating a master plan and preparing the loan application proposal for submission to the Development Loan Fund in Washington.

The new project will together with other facilities already existing in Ceylon provide a modern civilian airport capable of serving all international scheduled airline traffic including the larger jet propelled aircraft which have found it impossible to use the present runway.

### **Exhibition of Czech Glassware**

THE Minister of Industries, Home and Cultural Affairs, Mr. Maithripala Senanayake declared open the Czechoslovakian Modern Glassware Exhibition at the Art Gallery on July 28th.

This exhibition has been organised by the Czechoslovakian Embassy in Ceylon with the Co-operation of the Department of Cultural Affairs.

The exhibits include multi-coloured brown glass figurines of animals, glass ornaments, sculptured glass-ware, stained glass windows and figurines of dancers in glass.

The Exhibition was open till August 9 and drew large crowds.

### **New Indian High Commissioner**

HIS Excellency Shri B. K. Kapur, High Commissioner designate of India in Ceylon, presented his letter of Credence to His

Excellency the Governor-General at Queen's House on August 3rd. Shri Kapur paid his first official call on the Prime Minister the previous day at 5.00 p.m. at "Temple Trees".

The new Indian High Commissioner, told pressmen at the airport that his Government would be glad to discuss the Indo-Ceylon question whenever the Government of Ceylon felt the time was appropriate to do so.

Mr. Kapur, who succeeded Mr. Y. D. Gundevia as High Commissioner, was accompanied by his wife. He was met on arrival by the Acting Indian High Commissioner, Mr. B. K. Sanyal and Mr. Nimalasiri de Silva, Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Defence and External Affairs and several others.

### **Gift from Al-Azhar University**

THE Al-Azhar University at Cairo has gifted a set of five books dealing with Islamic law and culture to Zahira College, Colombo.

The presentation has been made by the Al-Azhar University with a view to fostering friendly relations and cultural co-operation between Ceylon and the U. A. R.

### **Indian Musician visits Ceylon**

MR. RAVI SHANKAR the well-known Indian musician, called on the Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, soon after his arrival in the Island recently. Mr. Shankar gave a series of recitals in Colombo, under the auspices of the Arts Council of Ceylon.



# CEYLON TODAY

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