



CEYLON *Today*

A Review of the Year

Penances in Hindu
Temples

S. V. O. SOMANADER

A Future for the
Burghers

HILAIRE JANSZ

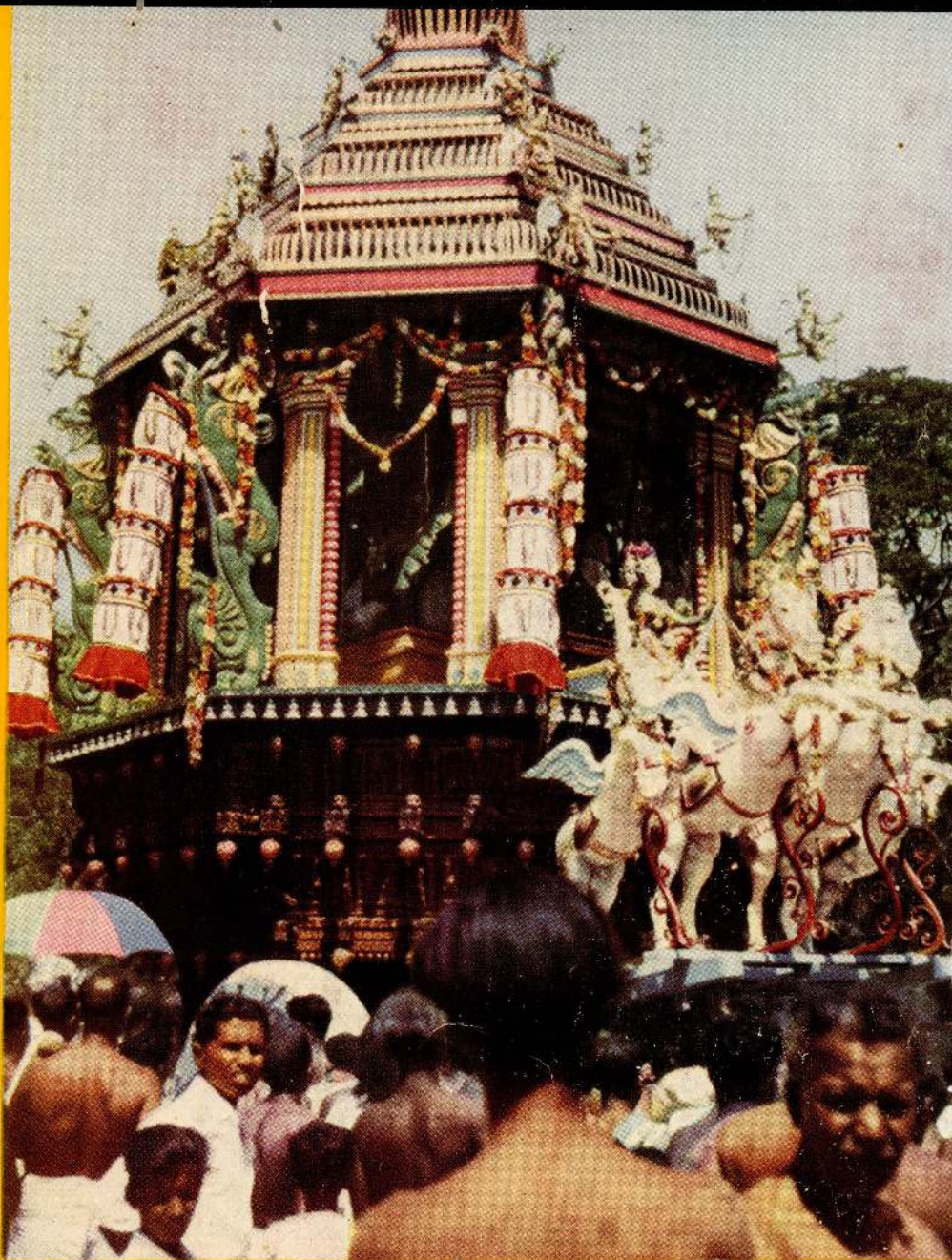
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JULY, 1958

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Postage 0 10	.. —

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CEYLON

Today

PUBLISHED BY THE CEYLON GOVERNMENT INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

July, 1958

Vol. VII No. 7

*All editorial correspondence should be addressed
to the Assistant Information Officer, Information
Department, Senate Building, Colombo 1*

A Review of the Year

On July 17th the Minister of Finance, the Hon. Stanley de Zoysa, M.P. delivered the Budget Speech in the House of Representatives. We reproduce here the first section of the speech which is a survey of the state of the Island's economy during the last year.

“Much water has flowed under the bridges of Lanka since the Government presented its last Budget. Much too has flowed over them. The last year saw one of the most disastrous floods in our history. The havoc wrought was unprecedented. The shock to the country's economy was severe. Nor has this been our sole misfortune in the last twelve months. Repeated and long drawn out labour disputes seriously dislocated production and trade. Even this afternoon we meet under conditions of National Emergency occasioned by widespread violence and disorder.

“It is against this dismal background that we must assess the past year. The events of these dark months must determine too the course we shall set for the future. We have seen interruptions in normal business activity; we have seen flood and destruction, violence and civil commotion. We have seen what we have striven through the years to build destroyed in a few hours.

“Happily we are seeing too a rapid return to normalcy. With some sense of disappointment it may be, with many regrets no doubt yet withal with hope unabated and determination renewed we address ourselves to the task of rebuilding.

“Let us first take stock. Let us examine the economic trends, both at home and abroad, and assess the resources that would be available to us for the work ahead.

World Influence

“You are aware, Sir, that our economy is particularly subject to world influences. We feel the impact not only of cyclical changes, but also of unexpected short-term fluctuations in world prosperity. When I addressed this House on the Budget last year, I drew attention to the fact that this Government did not begin its term of office on a rising tide of prosperity. The near boom conditions in foreign trade which this country enjoyed in 1954 and 1955, together with good paddy harvests, did not continue in the subsequent years.

“The year 1956 saw the waning of this good fortune. Both weather conditions and world trade turned unfavourable. Ceylon's balance of payments in 1956 was still in surplus, but showed a considerable decline in comparison with the surplus of 1955. The year 1957 has seen a further deterioration. The terms of trade declined by 9.3 per cent. Although the quantity of tea produced rose, the output on some domestic products fell. Export earnings were hampered by strikes, and the year ended with devastating floods. The small surplus in the balance of payments of 1956 disappeared and, at the end of 1957, there emerged a large deficit. The external assets fell by Rs. 236 million,

“The first six months of 1958 have shown no improvement in this situation.

“The Government is not insensitive to the implications of these trends and, appropriate measures are being taken. There is, however, no cause for alarm. Cyclical fluctuations in the level of external assets even to this degree are not abnormal in an export-import economy such as ours. Moreover, the decline in our external assets does not reflect a dangerous trend in our pattern of expenditure. It has rather been occasioned by a considerable increase in the expenditure on capital goods.

“Prophets of gloom would do well to ponder the following figures. In the calendar year 1957, imports of capital goods increased in value by over 28 per cent. and, what is far more significant, in volume by 22.2 per cent. ; whereas notwithstanding two successive years of deficit financing, the actual volume of consumer goods imported increased only by 0.7 per cent. although their value rose by only about 6 per cent.

“Our economy remains fundamentally sound.

Exports, Imports

“IN a review of the economic conditions prevailing in the country, the first and most important factor is the state of trade. Honourable Members will note that about one-third of our gross national product as well as about one-third of our gross national expenditure depend on trade. Tea plays a special role in our economy, contributing about twenty per cent. of the gross national product. The fact that trade is the sources of our wealth and well-being is an indication of the measure of our inter-dependence upon other nations of the world.

“In the case of Ceylon, domestic exports constitute about 34 per cent. of our gross national product, whereas in the case of other important trading nations such as the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and Germany, exports in recent years have constituted only around 16 per cent. of the gross national product.

“It is, therefore, vital to our very being not merely that we should extend our markets beyond their present frontiers, but also that we should build and preserve the goodwill of our present trading partners.

“I shall now examine the trading conditions in 1957 and the early part of this year. For the calendar year 1957 the value of total exports was Rs. 1,682 million which is Rs. 53 million lower than for 1956. The value of total imports, however, rose in the same period by Rs. 174 million to Rs. 1,804 million. The resulting deficit in the balance of trade was Rs. 122 million. The average export price had fallen by 3.4 per cent. and the average import price had risen by 5.7 per cent.

Volume Declined

“THE quantity of TEA exported in 1957 reached a record figure of 368 million pounds or 20 million pounds higher than in the previous year. But the value of tea exports, amounting to Rs. 1,022 million, was Rs. 22 million less than in 1956 because of a fall of 7.3 per cent. in the average f.o.b. price of tea. However, the share of tea in the aggregate value of all exports was 60.8 per cent. as compared with 60.2 per cent. in 1956.

“207 million pounds of rubber were exported in 1957, which is 19 million pounds higher than in the previous year. But this increase in exports was largely from stocks held over at the end of the previous year. The increase in production itself was small. Over the year 1957 the average f.o.b. price per pound of all grades of rubber (excluding latex) declined by 7 cents per pound to Rs. 1.43.

“The value of rubber exports in 1957, amounting to Rs. 300 million, was Rs. 7 million higher than in the previous year.

The depressing feature in our export products in 1957 was in regard to the Coconut industry. The Central Bank index of the volume of exports of the three major coconut products—copra, coconut oil and desiccated coconut—fell by 32.3 per cent. as compared with the previous year to the lowest level



The Minister of Finance, the Hon. Stanley de Zoysa, delivering the Budget Speech in the House of Representatives

recorded since 1949. The misfortunes of this industry were due to the drought in 1956 and 1957. The one compensating feature was the increase in the average f.o.b. price: for all three coconut products together it rose by 3.2 per cent.

“However, the decline in the volume of exports adversely affected our exports earnings from these products to an extent of almost Rs. 57 million. The value of the exports of the three major coconut products amounted to Rs. 156 million.

“Domestic exports other than tea, rubber and the three major coconut products were of a value of Rs. 110 million which is Rs. 8 million higher than the year before.

“Regarding imports, in the calendar year 1957 there was an increase of over 28 per cent, in the value of imports of all capital goods taken together. The value of imports of

consumer goods as a group rose only by about 6 per cent.

“The Central Bank index for the volume of imports of capital goods rose from 144 in 1956 to 176 in 1957, a rise of 22.2 per cent. The increase in the volume of consumer goods imported was negligible, being only 0.7 per cent.

Trading Results

“What then are the conclusions we can draw from the trading results of 1957? The physical output of tea in particular, and rubber increased. But circumstances beyond our control prevented a better trading turn out. Drought affected the coconut industry. The price changes both of exports and imports generally turned adverse.

“However, when we come to imports we see two aspects which are significant. First,

we find that imports were sustained although export returns showed a decline. The budgetary policy of the Government has helped to sustain incomes over a relatively bad trading period. Secondly, the character of the imports has shown a marked and favourable change. As a developing economy this country is importing more and more capital goods in spite of an increase in the price of these goods.

“In the first four months of 1958, the total value of exports was Rs. 560.5 million and of imports Rs. 543.0 million resulting in a favourable trade balance of Rs. 17.5 million as compared with a surplus of Rs. 23.7 million in the same period last year. However, a comparison of the trade figures for these months with the corresponding months of last year will not be very significant because, during the early months of 1957, both export and import values were exceptionally high and distorted on account of the clearance of a backlog of exports arising from the Suez crisis.

“In regard to the rest of this financial year and the early part of the next, the present indications are that trading conditions will be similar to those now prevailing.

Money Supply

“THE state of the money supply in the recent past has been as follows. The rise in money supply which began in early 1954 reached the peak of Rs. 1,130.8 million in January 1957 and declined to Rs. 1,040.1 million by the end of that calendar year, which is a drop of Rs. 86.7 million from the figure at the end of December 1956.

“Over the current financial year the money supply which stood at Rs. 1,046 million at the end of September 1957, fluctuated a little and fell by Rs. 23 million in the first half of the year. Although it increased by Rs. 18 million in April 1958, it decreased by Rs. 35 million in May to Rs. 1,007 million.

“The adverse trade conditions during this financial year led to a decline in external banking assets by Rs. 142 million up to the

end of May. This would have led to a considerable contraction in the money supply. However, the intention of the government was to prevent the full impact of this and to sustain incomes. The Government's financial operations, particularly the running down of Government cash balances by Rs. 89 million, prevented such a decline in money supply. Thus, in the first eight months of this financial year, the money supply fell only by Rs. 38 million or 3.6 per cent.

Prices and Wages

“OVER this financial year, in spite of events which hampered production and notwithstanding the fluctuations in the cost of living, the real wages of the workers have generally risen.

“The Colombo Town Cost of Living Index (1952 as the base year) rose to a peak of 106.3 in January this year, and declined thereafter. The rise was due to several factors including adverse weather conditions, difficulties experienced in the Port of Colombo and the rise in certain money incomes. The minimum wage rate index of unskilled government workers rose from 107.2 in October 1957 to 126.7 in November. The minimum wage rate index of workers in agriculture and trades other than agriculture combined, rose from 107.4 in October 1957 to over 110 from January this year.

“When we examine the changes in real wages, we see that during this financial year although the rise in the index of real wages of agricultural workers was negligible, the index of real wages of workers in trades other than agriculture was 100.3 in October 1957 but rose to 108.4 (provisional) after April this year. The most striking change in the index of real wages was in the case of unskilled government workers. The index was 103.0 in October 1957 but from November it has been in the region of 120.

“*All this goes to show that although there were changes in the cost of living, money wages generally have kept abreast with, or risen faster than, the cost of living.*

“ We must not lose sight of the fact that increased wages mean an increase in costs of production unless there is a corresponding increase in productivity. A rise in the costs of production will adversely affect our economy both externally and internally. Our competitive position in the world market can be jeopardised.

“ Whilst in the short run higher production costs may be financed by a reduction of profits the scope for such action is limited in a period of low and falling export prices. Higher wages have to be matched by higher productivity. Wage increases in any one sector tend to bring about wage increases elsewhere in the economy.

“ These changes together with other factors, would tend to support excessive levels of consumption vis-a-vis our production. In our economy such consumption means increased expenditure on imports. We might note that even in the Cost of Living Index (which does not reflect the expenditure pattern of the more well-to-do citizens) 44 per cent. of the weights are in regard to imported goods. In so far as imports increase there will be a further strain on the country's foreign exchange position.

Co-operation

“ THE Government's efforts to sustain incomes over an adverse period can be effectively carried out only with the active co-operation of all concerned in production. It calls for an added effort on the part of each citizen at his job and a greater output of goods and services. It calls for greater prudence in the expenditure of incomes so sustained, that is a restraint on consumption expenditures and a deliberate expansion in saving and productive investment.

“ In times of stringency such as these, we have to have as our prime objective the interests of the community as a whole. Employers and employees alike must look upon trade disputes as a matter of national concern. Likewise, in the interests of social

peace, without which there can be no economic progress, it calls for restraint in the manner in which we resolve the social and political conflicts that are bound to arise in any country through a period of rapid social change.

Cost of Living

“ THERE has been a great deal of public agitation on what been described as the soaring cost of living. It is easy to work up such an agitation because everybody likes to live better and have more. Nevertheless one should make a realistic approach to this problem. It was said that the Cost of Living Index was fictitious. A Committee was appointed to investigate this and we await their report. While I do not wish to anticipate their findings. I would like to make the following observations.

“ The real position would appear to be that there has been such a marked improvement in the wages of labour that their own standard of living has tended to approximate to that of the white-collar worker. In the result, the consumer demand for goods at the white-collar worker level has expanded enormously with a consequent temporary increase in the price of domestically produced consumer commodities generally used by those of that level.

“ While the Government is anxious to go as far as it could to resolve the cost of living problems of the white-collar workers, it feels sure that they themselves as true socialists, will appreciate the fact that their present situation is a necessary concomitant of the socialist aim of elevating working class standards of living. In these circumstances, the real answer to the problem is not a continued increase of money wages in any sector, but an increase in production.

“ *This cannot be achieved if there are to be continued labour disputes and stoppage of work. I would ask workers of all categories to ask themselves the question whether they are not defeating their own purpose by*

succumbing to politically inspired demands for unreasonable wage increases leading inevitably to strikes.

“If it is their wish to establish a truly socialist State in this country. I would advise them to endeavour to better their condition by increasing the national wealth which they can then increasingly share rather than by mere political agitation.

“While the wages that the nation can afford must be in proportion to its own productivity, the wages which any particular industry can afford to pay must also bear some relation to the prosperity of that industry. All this refers to organised industrial and agricultural labour.

“But we must not ignore the position of the peasant and the self-employed worker. These are perhaps not as articulate a section of the community as those I have referred to, but their needs are not the less real. The function of Government is to deal evenly with all sections not neglecting the silent many for the clamouring few. We are a Government of and for the whole people—not a section of them.

External Assets

“APART from the trade figures for the calendar year 1957 seen from the angle of the Customs house, another picture emerges from figures for the balance of payments. Ceylon had a current account deficit of Rs. 195.3 million in the balance of payments on current account for 1957, in contrast with the surplus of Rs. 81.7 million in the previous year due to the decline of Rs. 260.9. The deterioration was largely due to the decline of Rs. 260.9 million in the merchandise surplus from Rs. 313.6 million for 1956 to Rs. 52.7 million for 1957, and a slight increase in the deficit on current invisibles.

“On private capital account, the nett outflow of Rs. 38.4 million in 1957 was inclusive of a reduction in short-term liabilities by Rs. 12.5 million in contrast to an increase in such liabilities during 1956 by Rs. 17.7 million. In the sphere of long-term investments,

repatriation of foreign private capital arising from the sale of non-resident shares and liquidation of foreign-owned estates was less by Rs. 8.2 million than in the previous year.

“*The inflow of foreign private capital for investment in Ceylon was Rs. 3.4 million as compared with Rs. 5.4 million in 1956, Sterling Companies operating in Ceylon drew down their balances held in London by Rs. 16.4 million during the year. The year 1958 has, however shown a lively re-awakening of interest on the part of foreign capital in the investment opportunities in Ceylon.*

“The sharp deterioration in the balance of payments in 1957 had its impact on the external assets which fell by Rs. 236.2 million during that year.

“In 1957 certain measures were taken to prevent a continued heavy loss of foreign exchange. Further restrictions were applied on expenditure on foreign travel while transfers of capital were subject to more stringent control. The commercial banks too were advised against the extension of credit for the import of non-essential commodities.

Payments Position

“THE early months of 1958 have shown no improvement in the payments position. Export receipts have declined while import expenditures have shown no appreciable reduction. The terms of trade continued to be unfavourable and the provisional balance of payments estimates for the first quarter of 1958 indicated a current account deficit of Rs. 16.5 million as against a surplus of Rs. 7.1 million in the first quarter of 1957.

“In consequence, external assets have continued to decline and, at the end of May this year, stood at Rs. 847.4 million. However, the aggregate loss of external assets over the first five months of 1958 amounted to only Rs. 95.7 million as against a decline of Rs. 162.2 million for the comparable period last year.

“The prospects for the months ahead show no marked change in our economic position and on present indications it is difficult to

expect an early or substantial improvement in our overall balance of payments. But with the easing of the internal situation and a return to normal conditions, part of the difficulties that have hindered progress would in due course be removed. Nevertheless, as I have already pointed out there is no cause for despondency as our economy continues to be fundamentally sound.

"I shall now review briefly the current state of Government's finances.

Public Debt

"THE gross domestic debt which was at Rs. 1,132.2 million at the end of the last financial year increased by Rs. 56.6 million during the first 8 months of the current financial year and stood at Rs. 1,188.8 million at the end of May, 1958. This increase was the result of floating two loans totalling Rs. 45 million and a rise of Rs. 11.6 million in the floating debt.

"The volume of outstanding Treasury Bills and Tax Reserve Certificates increased by Rs. 35.0 million and Rs. 5.1 million respectively, while the Government reduced its obligation to the Central Bank to the extent of Rs. 28.5 million.

"The total nett domestic debt (exclusive of sinking funds created for the redemption of the debt) amounted to 999.9 million at the end of May 1958 as against Rs. 964.4 million at the beginning of the financial year.

"Government's foreign borrowing operations during the 8 months were confined to the withdrawal of Rs. 15.2 million out of the 19.1 million loan obtained from the World Bank for financing Stages IIA of the Hydro Electric Scheme. The gross foreign debt stood at Rs. 246.9 million at the end of May 1958 as compared with Rs. 231.7 million at the end of September 1957.

"Ceylon's total gross public debt, both domestic and foreign, which stood at Rs. 1,363.9 million at the end of the last financial year, increased to Rs. 1,435.7 million at the end of May, 1958. The corresponding nett

debt figures are Rs. 1,123.3 million and Rs. 1,167.8 million respectively.

1957-58 Deficit

"ACCORDING to the estimates originally passed by Parliament, the expenditure for the year 1957-58 was to be Rs. 1,466.6 million. The revenue expected was Rs. 1,307.7 million. This put the budget deficit at Rs. 158.9 million.

"In the course of the financial year modifications became necessary, and considerable expenditure is being incurred on items not anticipated and budgeted for. The revised estimates of expenditure stand at Rs. 1,528.1 million. No significant change is expected in the estimated revenue. This makes the deficit amount to Rs. 220.4 million.

"Not all this deficit is to be financed from domestic sources. Thanks to the goodwill of friendly nations, some of the expenditure on account of the floods, amounting to almost Rs. 40 million, is being met by special foreign aid.

"The deficit that will be actually realised and financed from domestic sources is likely to be considerably less than what is apparent now, once we take into account certain accounting adjustments and under expenditures on certain items due to the recent disturbances.

Cash Balances

"THE provisional estimate of the Government's cash balances at the end of May this year was Rs. 71.0 million as against Rs. 37.2 million at the end of May 1957, and Rs. 92.7 million at the end of the last financial year.

"At the end of May, 1958, the nett cash operating position revealed a provisional deficit of Rs. 75 million. The corresponding figure at the end of May, 1957, was a deficit of Rs. 157 million.

"This is the economic and financial background against which I would wish the House to assess the work we have done and our plans for the future.



Coconut in hand, pilgrims lie prostrate and roll along the ground in the temple courtyard

Penances in Hindu Temples

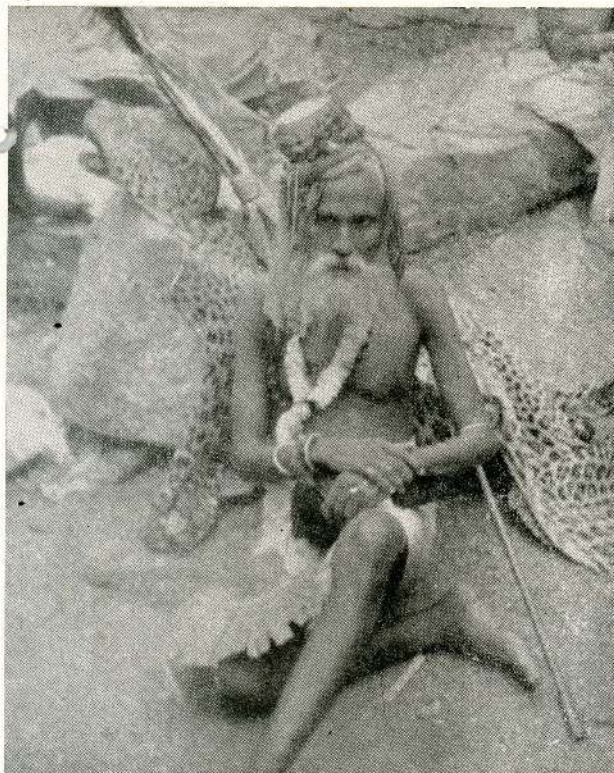
S. V. O. SOMANADER

IN the rural Hindu temples of Ceylon, great religious festivals often take place, and this becomes an occasion for the pilgrims and devotees to undergo various penances and to suffer severe ordeals.

These penances, are usually undertaken in fulfilment of vows—and they are legion. They may be connected with the recovery from serious illness; or safety from perilous undertakings; or success in marriage, litigation or examinations; or triumph over enemies and victory over obstacles; the birth of a child after a long period of sterility; profits in business; relief from debts or worries; fortification from the evil influences of demons, witch-craft, black magic (“socniam”), and the planets; favour

of employers and other superiors in obtaining promotions—and a host of other similar matters connected with one’s mundane affairs.

The ordeals or penances which the devotees undergo may assume various forms according to the nature or importance of the vow, the status and strength of the devotees, or the opportunities provided in the different temples. It may be a pilgrimage to a famous temple in a far-away village, to which place the pilgrim vows he will walk all the way, suffering discomfort and hardship, and defying the dangers arising from the encounter with wild animals (like elephants and bears), if the route happens to be through forest country, for example, Kataragama.



An old "Sannyasi" (recluse) reclining in meditation on a leopard skin. Note the tuft of peacock plumes alongside, and his coils of unkempt hair ("Chadai") tied into a big bun on head, as a token of penance



On his way to the temple to fulfil a vow, a pilgrim, with fire-pot on head and playing an "udoo" (small drum) is seen going to beg for food or money in a town garden



In accordance with a vow, father, mother and child—who have all completely shorn off their hair in the temple grounds—are now getting the child's ear-lobes bored by a goldsmith for the wearing of ear-rings

Devotees rolling along the road leading to the temple, as a mark of penance in fulfilment of some vow. Note the peacock-feathered Kavady they are holding

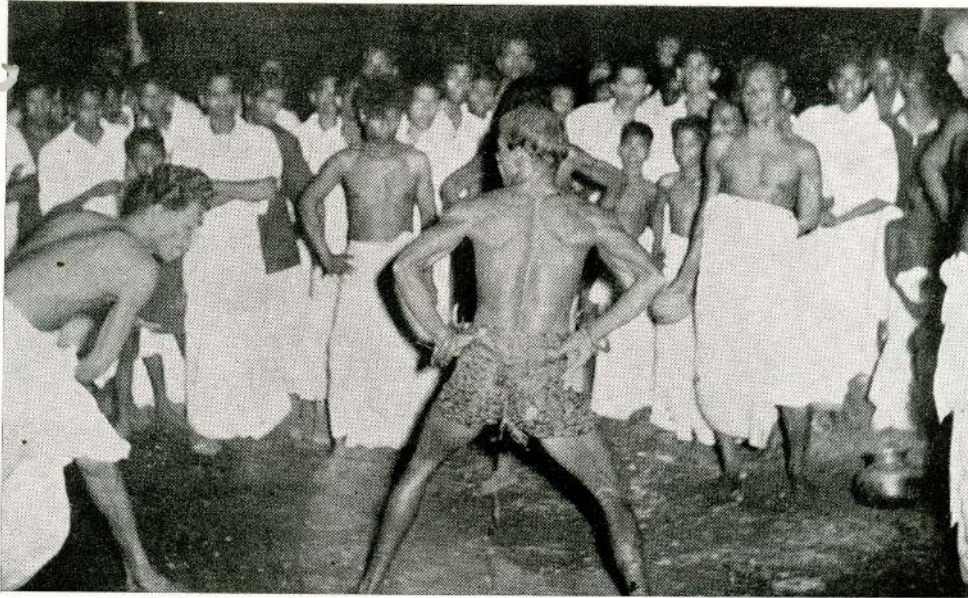


Fire-walkers threading their way across the pit of red-hot embers as a symbol of extreme penance



In such cases, he disregards, too, the heat of the noonday sun and the inclemencies of the weather, not to mention the roughness of the tracks along which he has to trail, often alone.

In such circumstances, the penance-taker vows, for instance, that he will fast, taking only one meal a day, and that he will beg for his food all along the way. And, sometimes,



After fire-walking, a devotee is posing in front of the crowd to receive lashes on his arms and legs



A "possessed" devotee (at Kataragama), whose body has been stabbed with hundreds of "Sedils" (arrows) as a sign of intense penance, is foretelling the recovery of a sick man who is bowing in front and seeking the devotee's favour

to add to the ordeal, he may decide to carry, at whiles, a pot of burning coals on his head, or to go about with his cheeks bored with a

skewer. Various talismans, of course, may be worn to avert the evil on his pilgrim way, or he may carry a tuft of peacock plumes to ensure success and safety in his journey.

At other times, be it man or woman, the person resolves to grow the hair without letting a comb see it for some considerable time. Ultimately, the hair, which has received no attention whatsoever, grows into a "chadai"; and the dry, unkempt knot is shorn off or cut only after a visit to the temple, and "pujas" have been performed. This event may take place even ten or more years after the vow had been made.

Not infrequently, among simple folks like the Coast Veddahs of East Ceylon, frantic devil-dancing may be resorted to in their rude temples to purge the suppliant from a serious ailment, or the village from some serious infectious disease.

Tiresome Ordeals

THEN, among some Hindu devotees, there is the tiresome ordeal of kneeling down and kissing the ground so many times in so many places, as they go round and round the temple. Or, standing in front or on a side of



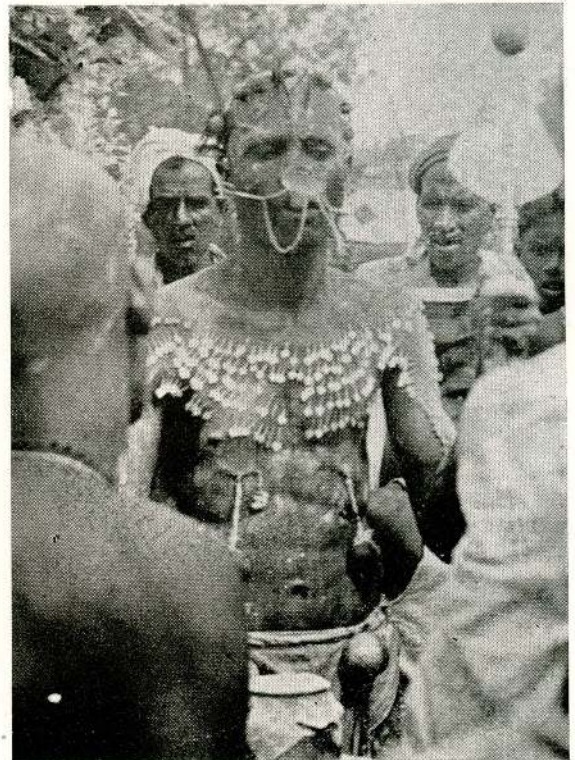
Kavady-carrier, with hooks pierced into his skin, is being driven rein-fashion to the temple (back view)

the place of worship, the vow-taker may hold the lobes of his ears with hands crossed, and then raise and lower his body alternately to perform "Thopy-karanam" briskly a considerable number of times. Another way is to fall prostrate on the ground and expose oneself, with only a lion-cloth on, to the rigours of the broiling sun; or to roll round and round the temple courtyard, allowing the rough stones and sharp grains of sand to prick or pierce the naked skin. And sometimes the devotees lie with their arms stretched over their heads, with a coconut (or a bunch of margosa leaves, or a tuft of peacock plumes) clasped in the palms of their hands. The mouth, too, is often gagged to avoid anything unholy or unclean entering in or issuing out, and this adds to the severity of the penance.

Walking over the fire is another form of ordeal. After much fasting, and supplication

to the Gods, the devotees, for whom a fire-pit (about 16 feet long, 4 feet broad and as many feet deep) has been dug, walk bare-footed in their highly ecstatic state over the glowing coals. The remarkable thing is that the red-hot embers do not seem to have any effect upon the soles of their unshod feet. And, after walking (nay, sometimes gambolling and dancing over the fire), the devotees, before going straight into the temple, receive, from the sturdy youths selected from the crowd, some lashes with twisted rope or deer-hide thongs on their arms and legs—as if their severe fire-waking ordeal, already performed, were not enough. They receive the thrashing with great gusto, and seem to relish them best when given hardest. This form of torture is called "Sattai-adi", which the spirits require as a mark of their having come

A Kataragam devotee whose chest is pinned with scores of "sedils" (arrows). His tongue is pierced with a cobra-hood-shaped "Sedil". On his hand are strung together the seeds of the "uruthirachana" fruit. Note other forms of torture on the ribs and waist





A batch of earnest Kavady-bearers "dancing" in their frenzy at the Kataragama Temple grounds, after a bath in the Menik Ganga

to earth from spirit-land. But it is significant, again, that the lashes do not leave any mark on the skin.

The "Kavadi"

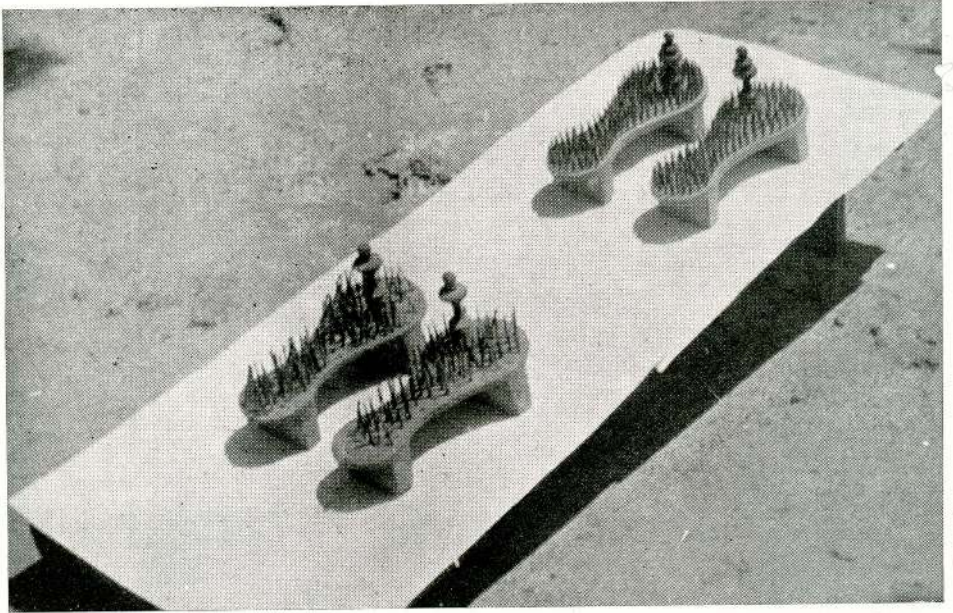
PERHAPS the most popular form of penance is the carrying of the "Kavady" along the roads leading to the temple, and then around the temple courtyard itself. The "kavady", by the way, is a semi-circular wooden frame, decorated with peacock feathers, multi-coloured tinsel, bells and other adornments. This arched structure is carried on the shoulder by the devotee, who is subjected to other kinds of self-torture as well. His cheeks, for instance, are pierced through with silver or nickel prongs, arrows, needles or skewers; and his back is stabbed with hooks or steel spikes. In this condition,

after the preliminary ceremonies, he is driven, in his frenzied state by a supporter, who holds the man, as it were, in reins. And, in this "inspired" state, while he makes his frantic, circuitous career around the temple, he is accompanied by the music of the drum—his relatives singing sacred songs, or uttering incantations all the way, punctuated by the sounds of "Aro-hara". Very often, the devotee stretches forward or sways sideways, straining himself and pulling his whole weight, only to be kept in check by the supporter, who ultimately directs him, rein-fashion, to the temple. Here, when the instruments of torture have been removed, and holy ash applied to the injuries, the suppliant returns, after his final "pujas", none the worse for his painful experiences.

Not only men, but also women as well as boys and girls, shoulder the "kavady" as a penance in fulfilment of vows, although the

A female devotee with "Vel" (Silver Skewer) pierced through the cheeks. Her body too is stabbed with lime fruits and small perfume cups ("Panneer-Chemboos") hanging on arrows to add to the torture. Two women are seen worshipping her, as she wands her way to the temple





Specimens of spiked sandals used by devotees to undergo suffering in fulfilment of vows



Besides the Kavady-carrier on the right is another devotee (middle) standing on Spiked Sandals, and with his cheeks, lips and chest pierced with arrows and other sharp instruments. With hooks lashed to his back, he is drawing a "Thar" (Chariot)

latter do not, as a rule, subject themselves to painful methods of torture by sticking hooks or prongs into their flesh. But there are

instances where women, in their intense religious zeal, march with hooks driven into their chests or backs, and their bodies stabbed with lime fruits into which hooks have been pierced. To add to this self-mortification, the woman devotee, like some of the men, may walk on wooden sandals pierced with iron nails or spikes, and her arms stabbed with arrows. Although the sandals have been stuck with "pins", with their sharp points turned upwards to press on the soles of the feet, the penitent goes through the ordeal with a determined will, and comes out of it unscathed.

Sometimes, it is not unusual for the devotee to lie in a wooden bed prepared with up-turned nails or "pins", so that the sharp points may come into painful contact with the bare, outstretched body. In these and other ways, life goes on with such ardent worshippers in Ceylon's pilgrim land.

True, that in this enlightened age, educated and refined Hindus have discouraged, if not condemned, some of these tortuous and primitive practices, for example, "kavady"—carrying, with all its mortifying ordeals. But crude as these painful and strenuous forms of penance may seem, one cannot but be struck by the simple and deep-rooted religious fervour of these rural celebrants.

A Future for the Burghers

HILAIRE JANSZ

IT is necessary to begin with a definition. The Burghers, in the strict sense of the term, are descendants in the male line of European settlers who were under the rule of the Dutch East India Company in Ceylon. Any Ceylonese of mixed race and European descent cannot be correctly called a Burgher. But this is hardly the time to stress racial distinctions. The community with whose future we are concerned here consists of those Ceylonese citizens whose home language has been English for several generations; who are wedded to Western ways of life and cultural interests and who wish to preserve this tradition in spite of all the political and social changes in the land of their birth.

Dutch Enterprise

THE word Burgher is of Dutch origin. When the Dutch East India was formed, Dutchmen as well as other Europeans came to Ceylon either as servants of the Company or to seek fortunes here. In order to distinguish them from the official class, those who came out on their own were called Burghers and were given certain civic rights and privileges. The Company's servants and the Burghers together formed the Dutch community of Ceylon whom the British found here when they occupied the country.

Most of the Dutch residents, including the Burghers, chose to remain in Ceylon under British rule. Some of them quickly acquired a knowledge of English in order to secure employment under the new Government. One enterprising Dutchman, J. G. Hillebrand made friends with intelligent British soldiers with the object of acquiring a colloquial knowledge of their language and then

studied English grammar. He later took to the study of law and ended his career as a Judge of the Supreme Court. He became the first Burgher member of the Ceylon Legislative Council. Other Burghers, of that period rose to the high office of Advocate Fiscal (corresponding to that of Attorney-General in later colonial times), and of Surveyor-General and Auditor-General.

Men of Mark

BY about the year 1860 Burghers began to dominate the Hulftsdorp scene as distinguished lawyers and to take a prominent part in public life. The most famous of them was Charles Ambrose Lorenz. A man with gifts akin to genius, he shone with equal lustre as a lawyer, legislator, journalist and humorist. Endowed with amazing versatility and energy, he was loved and esteemed by all communities and classes as a popular leader whose zeal matched his ability. Before him came the brothers Louis and Frederick Nell, who made their mark in law and journalism. Then there was Sir Richard Morgan, the first Ceylonese to act as Chief Justice, and at a later stage the great advocate Frederick Dornhorst.

Among medical men, such names as P. D. Anthonisz, J. J. Loos and E. L. Koch are remembered with pride by Burghers today; and so is that of E. F. Kelaart, a pioneer in the field of natural history in Ceylon.

Large numbers of Burghers filled the ranks of the Government Clerical Service in those days and functioned efficiently as "the brazen wheels of the executive which kept the golden hands in motion". The community



C. A. Lorensz—the most famous of Ceylon's Burghers

may claim a considerable contribution to the advancement of the Ceylonese in the British colonial era. The Burgher leaders of the past never forgot that, in spite of their European origin, their interests were identified with those of the permanent population. Their patriotism was never questioned; nor their devotion to the country they had made their homeland.

A Distinct Community

WITH such a creditable record to look back upon, the Burghers naturally wished to be identified as a distinct community that had its part to play in the building of a Ceylonese nation. It is also not surprising that other mixed racial groups who could not find a suitable label began to call themselves Burghers though neither their ancestry nor

their traditions entitled them to the designation. This tendency led to the formation, fifty years ago, of the Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon, in which membership was confined to "Dutch descendants of full age and respectable standing in the community; the term Dutch descendant being taken to include the descendants in the male line of all those of European nationality who were in the service or under the rule of the Dutch East India Company in Ceylon, and the children of such descendants in the female line by marriage with Europeans." Every applicant's claim to be eligible for membership is carefully scrutinised by a Genealogical Committee.

Those who formed the Dutch Burgher Union made it clear that they did so "without in the slightest degree reflecting upon the character or respectability of other classes or individuals who were commonly included under the general denomination of Burghers. . . ." (J. R. Toussaint in the D. B. U. Journal, July, 1939). But the charge of racial snobbery and communal exclusiveness was unfortunately and unjustly brought against the Union by Burghers outside it and others. Undeterred by this criticism, the Union has pursued its aims for half a century and done what it could to "promote the moral, intellectual and social well-being" of the community.

In Politics

ANSWERING the question why the Burghers did not take a more active interest in politics in the present century, J. R. Toussaint wrote nearly twenty years ago: "As individuals they have been at least as keen as others in all movements for the social and political advancement of the Ceylonese." (One can remember the active part played by George A. Wille in the Ceylon National Congress). "During the last hundred years they were among the acknowledged leaders of the people. The newly

developed and vigorously asserted race consciousness in all the other communities has, however, for the moment obscured the old relations. By inherited instinct the Dutch Burghers are always on the side of law and order; but they readily unite with all who seek to advance the progress of the Island and to promote goodwill and justice among its peoples. They continue to entertain, as they always did, very friendly feelings towards the other communities. . . ."

What is the position today? One Burgher is actively involved in politics as the leader of a revolutionary party, and is an elected Member of Parliament. Two other and more typical Burghers are Appointed Members of the House of Representatives. And that is about all. This attitude of indifference and detachment may reflect a realistic acceptance by a very small community of the fact that its influence cannot have any effect on the course of events. But there are Burghers who still occupy high offices in the Public Service and who are selected to serve on important commissions and tribunals. It cannot be said that there is racial discrimination against them. If they engage in business, Burghers can become as rich as their enterprise and resources make them without any impediment.

Western Ways

FOR Census purposes, Burghers and Eurasians are counted together. Among them there may be many who are strictly not classifiable under either of these designations. But what is relevant to the question we are discussing here is that these racial groups have certain things in common. They have adopted English as their home language for several generations and choose to have their children educated in that medium. Their cultural interests and ways of living are Western. They belong to various grades of the middle class and even the

poorest among them seek to maintain the standards of living to which that class is accustomed. They are nearly all English literates and Christians. Most of them live in towns and are all "Burghers" in that sense of the term.

Their total number, according to the latest statistics (1953 Census) is 45,950. This represents not much more than one-half of one per cent. of the total population. They are indeed a microscopic minority. But it does not mean that they should on this account be deprived of the rights granted to much larger minorities in a democratic society. They are certainly entitled to equality of opportunity. If there is to be legislation to ensure the reasonable use of Tamil as part of the Government's language policy, the Burghers may ask why provision should not be made for the reasonable use of English as the adopted language of another Ceylonese community. Their children can acquire proficiency in Sinhalese as the official language; but their home language will continue to be English. They will read English books and newspapers and claim the right to correspond with the Government in English. They will continue to cultivate a taste for Western forms of entertainment and adopt Western modes of dress, manners and customs.

If they are free to do all this, the Burghers are assured of a future as a separate community with a contribution of their own to make towards national unity. They have done nothing to incur the enmity or envy of other communities, with whom they have always associated on the friendliest terms. Their good offices can be made use of in restoring peace and amity in times of communal strife. Their impartiality is an asset when they are engaged in the preservation of law and order in such an emergency. The Burghers can claim that they are the least susceptible of all Ceylonese to the explosive forces released by extremists. They are not fanatical about their

religion or capable of working themselves into a frenzy of emotion over the language they have adopted as their own.

Frustration or Hope ?

MANY Burghers fear that there is no future for them in a resurgently nationalist Ceylon. Those of them who can afford to do so have left, or are planning to leave, the country for good. They believe that they will find in Australia and Canada better opportunities for pursuing a way of life in keeping with their traditions. Although the number of such emigrants has increased in recent years, they still represent a very small and privileged proportion of the entire community. Mass migration is an impracticable and undesirable solution of the problems to be faced by the Burghers and Eurasians. It reflects an attitude of defeatism and frustration.

The vast majority of them have to remain in Ceylon and adapt themselves to the new dispensation. If they accept the assurances of a Government which is determined to be just and fair to all minority interests, and if they are satisfied that the fundamental rights that

are to be incorporated in the revised Constitution will safeguard their interests, the future of the Burghers will depend largely on themselves. Their hope lies in greater unity, wise leadership and a determination to survive as an important section of the Ceylonese people free to pursue their own way of life. It will also be necessary to get rid of racial and social snobbery which tends to divide a small community. Some of them must abandon the belief that ability and integrity can be assessed by the proportion of European blood in their veins or by the fact that it was originally acquired over 160 years ago. If the term Burgher has to be incorrectly used for the purpose of securing the desired unity, it will be only for lack of a more convenient designation applicable to all Ceylonese citizens of European descent whose adopted language is English.

This minority community must either stand together in defence of its right to preserve its identity, or submit to being gradually merged in the major communities by inter-marriage or other processes of absorption and integration.

[The views expressed in this article are personal to the writer and do not reflect that of the Government—Editor.]



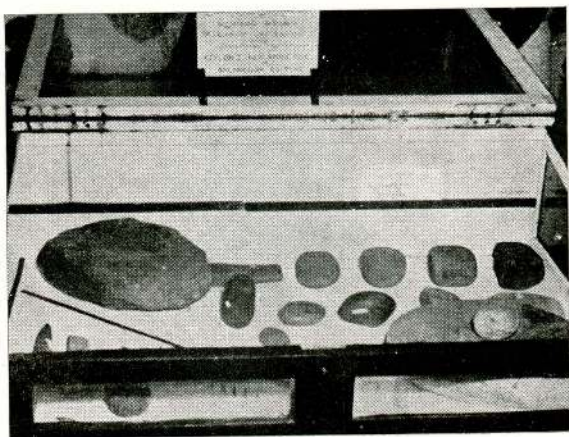
The skulls of the
HOMO SAPIENS
Balangodensis,
as they are
preserved in the
Colombo Museum

Prehistoric Archaeology

PREHISTORIC archæology is not a subject new to Ceylon, having been studied, in one way or another, since 1880. But prehistoric archæology is not a developed study in Ceylon for obvious reasons. The development of the study of the subject depends heavily on amateur interest and knowledge. There are however, many people in this country—Government officers and teachers stationed in various outstations amongst others—who are in an ideal position to pursue prehistoric archæology as a hobby.

A special exhibition of prehistoric archæology, showing the general development of civilization through the old and new stone ages into the metal age, was opened at the Colombo Museum Hall on July 2, 1958. It was organised by the Department of National Museums.

This exhibition has been addressed primarily to those who can pursue the study of prehistoric archæology as a hobby, so that they may feel sufficiently interested to engage in some exploratory work.



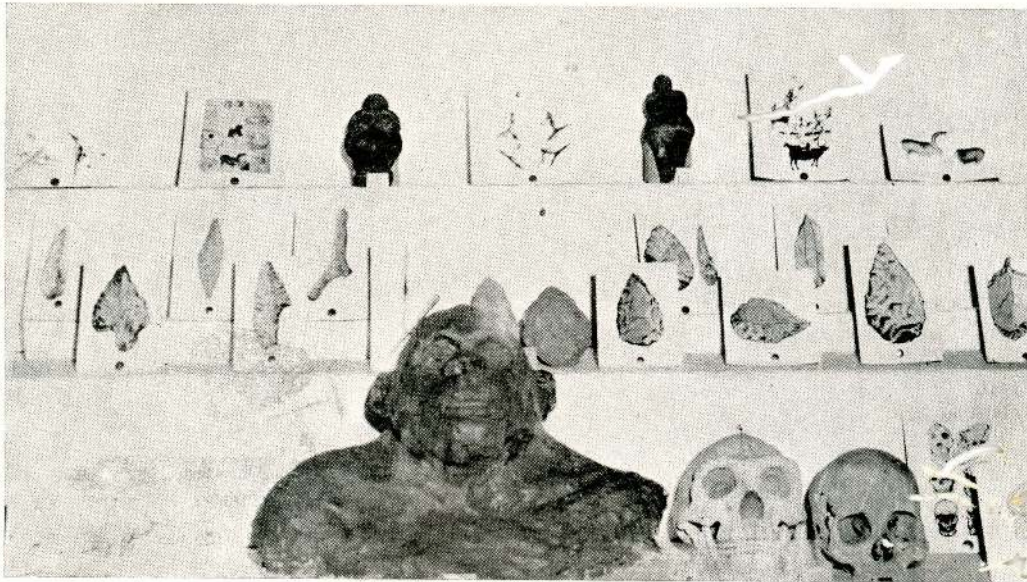
Stone artefacts of the new stone age or the Balangoda culture of Ceylon

Considered from one aspect, the neglect of prehistoric archæology is not to be wondered at. The related natural sciences are in a similar state of neglect, as also are the other branches of anthropological studies. From another point of view, however, this neglect is rather strange, because the

The exhibits in the photograph depict the metal age



The exhibits in the photograph depict the old stone age

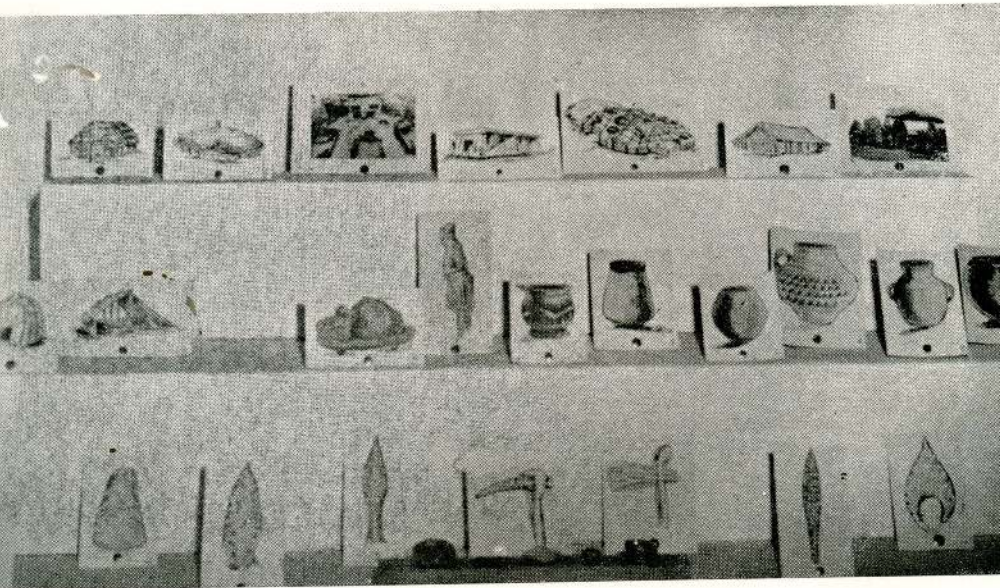


tradition of archæology in its application to history is not absent in this country.

A Cause of Neglect

THERE is another factor, which at least from the point of view of public interest, has been an obstruction to the progress of prehistoric

archæology. It is this very clear-cut story about the origin of the Sinhala group. The origins of most countries of the world, especially those of the "old world", are only dimly illuminated even by myth. These countries being anxious to probe their origins, prehistoric archæology finds itself a popular study. The reverse appears to be the position



The exhibits in the photograph depict the new stone age



The lower painting (marked 1) shows the earliest humans of Ceylon named HOMO SINHALEYUS

The upper painting (marked 2) shows the human race known as HOMO SAPIENS BALANGODENSIS

interested in pre-Vijayan culture in a Sinhalese context, it is perhaps in another country that we have to pursue our researches. The result has been that the prehistoric archæology of Ceylon has not had much of a place.

The exhibition consists of four sections. The first is an introductory section explaining the nature and progress of prehistoric archæology. The second indicates the methods employed in the study of prehistoric archæology, showing its four main aspects, namely the discovery of sites, excavation, dating and interpretation. The third represents the different periods of prehistory throughout the world—the old stone age, the new stone age and the metal age.

The fourth section consisting of exhibits pertaining to Ceylon is the most important, as it depicts the two main stages of Ceylon's prehistory, which have been discovered so far.

in Ceylon. There is no speculation about origins as we seem to have a neatly rounded account of the birth of our nation. If we are

Contrasted against the finds in other regions of the world, the evidences of this country's prehistory is very meagre. It is reasonably certain that here too we had the

succession of these three levels of culture. About the old stone age, very little is known; about the new stone age, a little more. We have at least some of their implements and pottery, and also some idea as to where they lived and what they are. As for the metal age, which is really the most important from the point of view of the early history of this country, we again know very little. We do not, for instance, know when iron working was introduced to Ceylon, or whether these metal age inhabitants practised most of the crafts which metal age people elsewhere were acquainted with. The result is that we have no idea as to what part they played in the final composition of the Ceylonese nation at the beginning of the historic period.

On show at the exhibition is the old stone age of Ceylon or the Ratnapura culture, as it is called. The stone artefacts of this period together with the fossils of the hippopotamus and rhinoceros that were found with them in the gem pits of Sabaragamuva are also on view.

The earliest humans of Ceylon named homo sinhaleyus lived with the hippopotamus, rhinoceros, lion and palaeoloxodon elephant, possibly about 500,000 years ago. These people did not know either how to bore

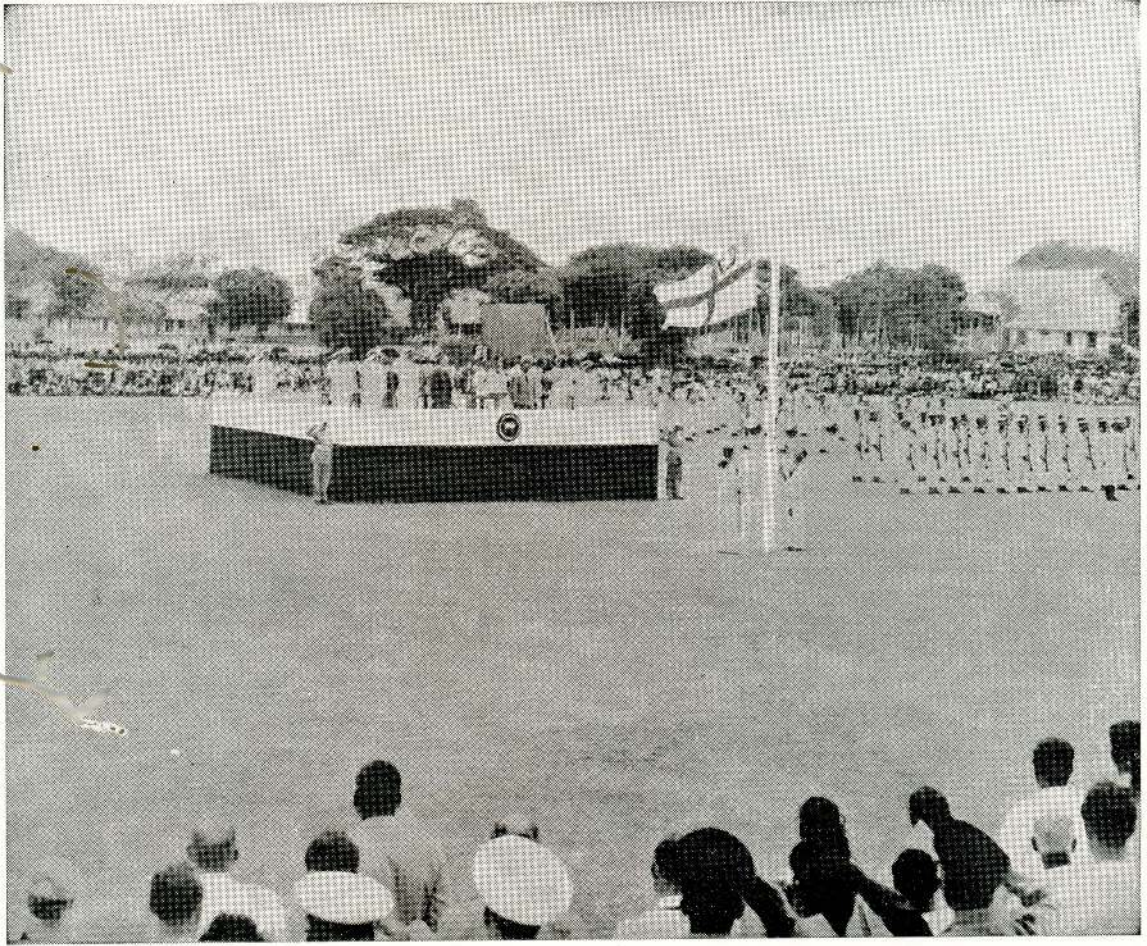
holes in stone or to grind or polish their stone weapons, or attach them to wooden handles.

New Stone Age

THE new stone age is the Balangoda culture of Ceylon. It is far better represented than the former, and in 1956, important discoveries were made that have excited much interest abroad. One of these human skeletons with the weapons of stone and bone found buried with it is the chief exhibit and the skulls of other members of this race known as homo sapiens balangodensis are also displayed in the exhibition. There are also valuable exhibits such as pots containing fragments of human bone, which were found inside large burial urns at Pomparippu.

The human race known as homo sapiens balangodensis, inhabited Ceylon from about 20,000 years into early historic times. These humans bored their ears, set a series of sharp stone flakes in their weapons, with red ochre. The big game animals of Ceylon had been replaced by others, such as the common elephant and the gaur, which became extinct in the nineteenth century.

The homo sinhaleyus was a small race of humans, but homo sapiens balangodensis was about 5 feet 11 inches tall.



The ceremony which took place at the handing over of the British Naval Base at Trincomalee this year

The French at Trincomalee

ESME RANKINE

TRINCOMALEE has been in the news recently. First, there was the taking over of the British naval base by the Ceylon Government. Secondly, there has been the recent efforts (and future plans) for the development of this famous harbour as a commercial port as well. We believe that this article, which deals with a not-very-well-known episode in the history of the port will be of special interest to our readers abroad.

Trincomalee has the finest natural harbour in the east: it would be tedious to recount the exclamations it has provoked, from the 16th century to the present day: from that Frenchman who declared the harbour "without parallel", or that other, also a Frenchman, who gibed at his own country's lack of ambition—"Why should it be that the Portuguese, the Hollanders, the English and the Danes, should take all the

traffic of the Indies.....when here was a place the like of which no navigator has yet found in all the four quarters of the globe, where we can entrench ourselves at a tenth of the cost the Hollanders have expended on Batavia or the Portuguese in Goa”.

Yet, strangely, it has never been used as a harbour, as such, in the meaning of a peacetime commercial port. The history of Trincomalee is a history of naval engagements. Danes, Portuguese, French, Dutch, British, in turn have fortified it and quarrelled over it; it did great service in the last war; it was handed back with ceremony to Independent Ceylon in the very recent past: but it has never been the port of Ceylon in the sense that Galle up to 1875, and Colombo since, have been.

That is, within recorded times. Tradition has it that a seaport flourished here in 1598 BC. It was known as Tirukonthamalai, the Mountain of the Hindu deity Kontha, and that the temple built on the crest of the headland now known as Swami Rock was one of a chain of Iswarams connected with South India. The Temple of a Thousand Pillars that the Portuguese destroyed and tipped parts of into the sea, is said to be this temple. And indeed the Pandyan inscription with its famous prophecy that was copied and preserved in Lisbon gives a date of building reckoned by Portuguese scholars as equivalent to 1300 BC. The Clarke-Wilson Expedition deep sea diving around here to make an underwater film came across some interesting remains.

The Sinhalese seem on the whole to have ignored Trincomalee. There had been a Vanniyarship here from early times, and Sinhalese troops sometimes shifted the balance between one foreigner and another coveting the harbour as accessory to final possession of the Island: but they seem to have had little traffic with the port. There is one mention though in the Chronicle concerned with the embassy to Siam in 1746, with religious motive, who landed at “the

harbour of Tikonamala” on their return. (Their point of departure is not named.) These dignitaries went in the ships of “the Olanda people who were entrusted with the protection of Lanka”; and brought back with them from Ayodha ten Siamese monks and “books on the doctrine and on monastic discipline,” besides many costly gifts.

Danish Visit

IN 1615, the Dutchman Marcellus de Boschouwer left the Kandyan Court where he had been trying to get the Dutch at Batavia to come to King Senerat's assistance and sailed for Holland. There he quarrelled with the Company and in 1617 went to Denmark, carrying with him a document purporting to be the appointment of himself as the Kandyan envoy. In 1620, five Danish ships sailed into Trincomalee harbour expecting a friendly reception from the Sinhalese king, who denied all knowledge of the treaty. De Boschouwer had died on the voyage. Eventually a new agreement was concluded at Bintenne on August 22, 1620, whereby the King ceded to Denmark the territory of Trincomalee with permission to build a fort. They did not get beyond the foundations. The Portuguese arrived and turned them out. Four years later de Saa completed the fort at Trincomalee.

On April 2nd, 1638, a small squadron of Dutch warships under the command of Jakobsz Coster appeared off Trincomalee. He had come at the invitation of Rajasinha II, who was sick of Portuguese ways. The repeated orders of the King of Portugal as far back as 1617 for the proper fortification of Trincomalee and Batticaloa had been ignored and both garrisons were forced to surrender. Trincomalee capitulated to Anthony Caen on May 1, 1639.

A letter from Batavia dated July 11, 1665, makes interesting reading: “... see no difficulty”, the Dutch Governor writes, “in

taking possession as soon as possible of the harbours and territory of Batticaloa, Coetjar and Trincomalee, giving as our reasons the King's commands and the impossibility of maintaining ourselves in these ports without having a garrison on shore. Trincomalee should be first occupied, and the point where the Portuguese had formerly an old fortress, strengthened.....so as to maintain our footing..... and thus lay to rest once and for all their Excellencies' anxieties about the opening of these ports to other European nations".

These pious hopes, however, were not realised.

French Interest

IN 1644, Francois Carron, French by birth but Dutch by adoption, threw up his service with the Dutch and returned to the country of his origin to offer his services to the French East Indian Company newly formed by the French Minister Colbert. Carron had served the Dutch for nearly thirty years in India, China, and Ceylon. He had played an important part in the Dutch occupation of this Island. He urged upon his country the importance of a French port in the East, and named Trincomalee.

In 1672, Admiral de La Haye came to Trincomalee, in good faith in Carron's assurances that the Sinhalese monarch was well disposed towards the French and that Trincomalee was in his giving. Carron had by then been in India seven years as Director of the French Indian Company and had tried to communicate with the King of Kandy to offer him the services of the French. The Portuguese merchant he had first approached had failed him and he turned to the Capuchin Father Ephrem who was said to know the language of Ceylon and the ceremonies of the Kandyan Court; who, however, steadily declined. Indeed, there is an unhappy note (repeated by Fr. S. G. Perera in his account of these times)—in a letter from de La Haye to the

French Court: "The project of the Island of Ceylon rests in the favour of a Capuchin monk".

De La Haye's attempt to take Trincomalee was foiled by the Dutch. He stayed long enough, however, to be "delighted with what he saw", to build a fort and to send an embassy to Kandy, who returned with a treaty giving to the French the bays of Kottiyar and Trincomalee already occupied by the Dutch. Governor van Goens, however, sent his fleet and his complements and peremptory notice to the French to quit the bay. Two French foodships coming into harbour were seized by the Dutch. Their captains refused to fight having no orders to do so. Neither did they attempt to let the French Admiral know their plight. Sickness had broken out in the fleet within the harbour and provisions were running low. De La Haye set sail, leaving 50 men and 3 officers and a shipload of 8 months' victuals to guard the fort. The Dutch immediately fell on them. They took great pride in this exploit, exhibiting the French prisoners from port to port and treating them with great cruelty. But 1,500 native troops sent by the Dutch as reinforcements were met on the way by a Sinhalese force sent by the King and were miserably routed.

On January 5, 1781, Admiral Sir Edward Hughes stormed Fort Trincomalee and took it. Two richly laden Dutch ships were also taken. They proceeded to Fort Ostenberg. The Dutch Commandant of Ostenberg and Admiral Hughes were old friends. A halt was called while the two gentlemen exchanged greetings: after which the English troops were ordered to make the assault. In March 1781 the Baillif de Suffren, son of the Marquis de Suffren de Tropez, was put in command of five French men-of-war and sent east to protect French colonies and those of the Dutch whose country had now entered into an alliance with France. Arriving in Indian waters Suffren learned that the English fleet had taken Trincomalee.



Swami Rock, Trincomalee

He decided to re-take it. Suffren sailed into North Bay on August 25, 1872.

Suffren's Escapades

SUFFREN emerges as a gallant and chivalrous officer with a flair for making gestures. Among other escapades he had picked up, outside Batticaloa, the famous packet of letters thrown into the sea by Hugh Boyd, England's unlucky ambassador to the Court of Kandy. In these documents was an account of a naval engagement between the English and the French—described afterwards by a French writer as “a romantic description to which he did not even take the trouble to give an appearance of likelihood”. (A French translation of Boyd's story was published in Paris in 1803 “for the instruction and amusement of the young”.) When things got hot for the English and the “honours of war” were offered them, provided they capitulated immediately, two English officers came on board Suffren's flagship to parley terms. Their demands were considered “too fastidious”. A modified form was taken back to the English Admiral by one of the officers while the other was asked to dine. The Englishman wanted that the garrison be sent to Negapatam and Fort Ostenberg should not be included in the capitulation. Suffren ordered his men to get ready to attack. Macdowall himself came on board to accept the Frenchman's terms. Eleven articles of capitulation were hurriedly drawn up. Mopping-up operations were conducted with feverish haste.

In the afternoon of September 2nd, three days after the signing of the capitulation, Suffren entertained the English officers to dinner. Before the guests rose news was brought that 17 English sails could be seen against the horizon. It was then that Macdowall realised his mistake. The ships had been sent from Madras by Macartney,

who was looking far ahead when he wanted to keep Trincomalee. Sir Edward Hughes was in command.

The French fleet was unfortunately delayed getting out of the harbour, and the English were able to get far from land before the fleets closed. “No two competitors,” Innes Munro wrote in 1789, “ever met that had more the interests of their sovereigns at heart, or that possessed a greater share of real valour and patriotism than Sir Edward Hughes and the Chevalier de Suffren. It was not their practice to shun each other by crafty manoeuvre, but gallantly to close at once, and put their spirits to the test”. The crafty manoeuvre in this case was the suggestion made to Suffren to entice the English fleet into the harbour by flying the English flag from the forts. This Suffren scorned to do. As he scorned his officers' counsel that he should at least avoid an engagement. “If the enemy had more ships than I,” he replied, “I would abstain, if he had an equal number I would scarcely refrain; but as he has fewer there is no choice: we must go out and fight him”. Hughes had 13 ships, Suffren 14.

The battle was drawn. Both fleets fought with great courage and both suffered considerable damage. When night fell fighting ceased. Neither side could be said to have won. The next morning the French returned to Trincomalee and Hughes took his battered ships to Madras Roads for repair.

The French held Trincomalee till the Treaty of Paris in 1873, when it was given back to the Dutch.

Trincomalee as Headquarters

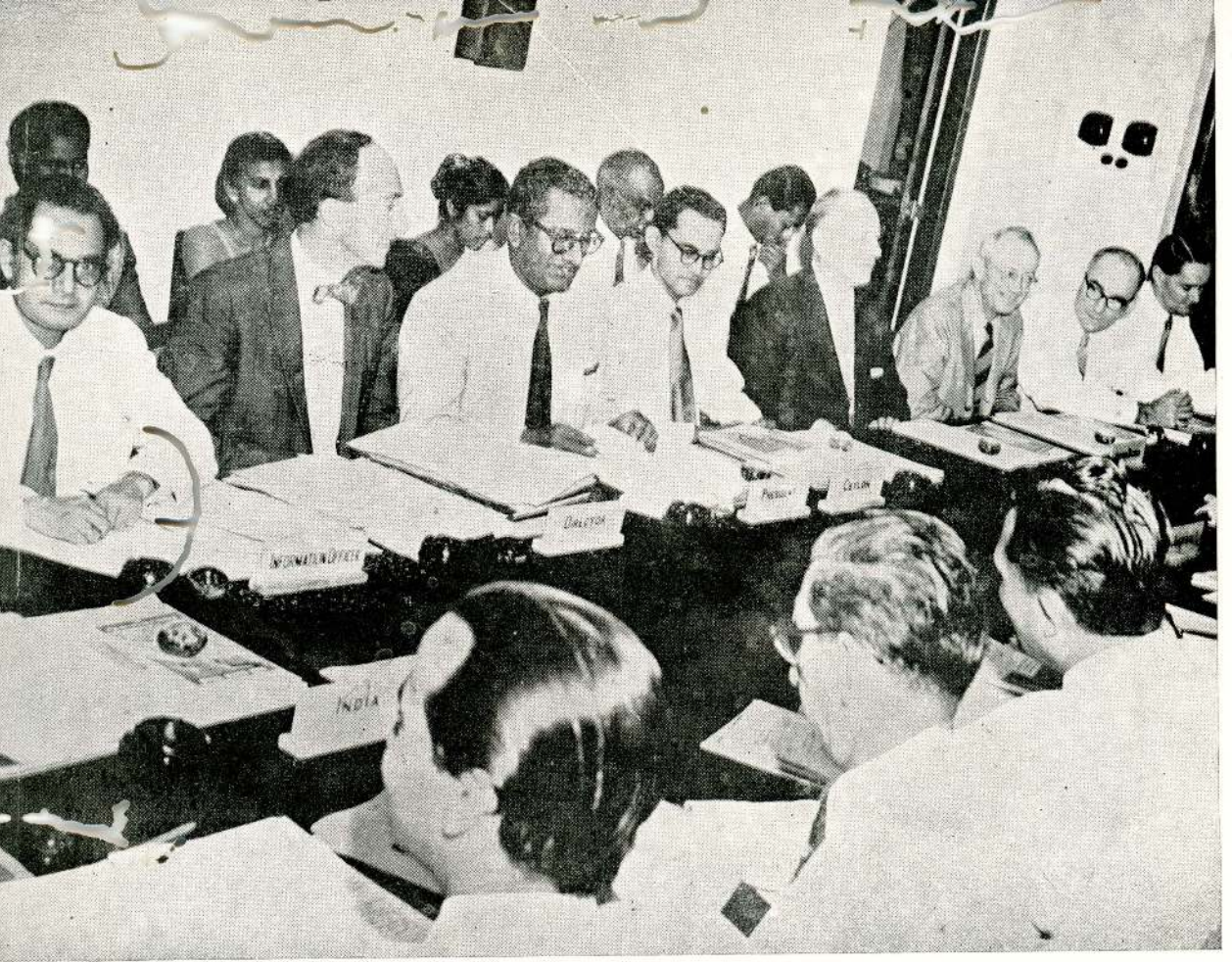
IN August 1795, six British transports captured Fort Frederick and a few days later Ostenberg. Trincomalee became the headquarters of British naval and military forces. In 1796 a Master Attendant was put in charge. On Christmas Eve, 1800, Colonel Wellesley—

the future Duke of Wellington—arrived in Trincomalee with 5,000 troops for operations further afield. Here he met North, first Governor of Ceylon, who wrote to Lord Mornington, Wellesley's brother, informing him of the fact. Forty-six pages of correspondence, preserved in the Government Archives in Nuwara Eliya, passed between North and Wellesley after North's return to Colombo. The letters deal mainly with stores, ordnance, and provisions. Ten pages are given to the conditions on which the Hon. George Turnour of His Majesty's 19th Regiment (father of the Turnour who made the first English translation of the MAHAVANSA) was being released for service under Wellesley; a request from Wellesley to North to direct that certain allowances paid to the European troops in the Island might be continued to their families while the men were on active service abroad, to which North agreed; another request for the

preparation of a statement of accounts showing the cost incurred on provisioning Wellesley's forces: in a footnote news of the capture of Malta by the British.

Wellesley stayed in Trincomalee about three weeks. North minuted in Colombo on January 13, 1801: "Arrival of Colonel Wellesley at Trinco alarmed Court of Kandy and the 1st Adigar sent letter to Māna Modeliyar to know meaning of his arrival". Clive informed Wellesley that he was to sail for Egypt under the command of General Sir David Baird, which meant that Baird would now supersede Wellesley. This did not suit the future Iron Duke and Wellesley on his own responsibility immediately embarked his troops and went to Bombay. Baird arrived in Trincomalee to find his force gone.

In 1833 Governor Barnes's road linked Colombo with Trincomalee. In 192 it became a railhead.



Members of the Colombo Plan Council for Technical Co-operation in South and South-East Asia who met in policy session in Ceylon recently

Foreign Affairs

AT a ceremony at the Port of Colombo recently, the Minister of Transport and Works, Mr. Maithripala Senanayake, accepted on behalf of the Government of Ceylon, two sets of gifts from the High Commissioner for Canada in Ceylon, Mr. Nik Cavell, who presented them on behalf of the Canadian Government.

One was a set of nine 6-ton level luffing portal dual speed cranes, and the other a 25-ton stiff leg steam-operated derrick.

These cranes, valued at more than Rs. 3,000,000 are part of Canada's Colombo Plan operation in Ceylon.

Mr. Cavell said that the cranes had been built at Niagara Falls by Provincial Engineering Limited, a company which had had considerable experience in building cranes of all types and their two engineers, Messrs. Ernest Straight and John F. Smith, who were also present, had supervised the erection of the cranes and explained their workings to the Ceylonese operators.

These cranes are of very modern design and on behalf of Canada he most sincerely hoped that they would assist the Port Commissioner and his staff in building up the



The Minister of Transport and Works, Mr. Maithripala Senanayake, accepting a gift of portal cranes from the Canadian Government. The High Commissioner for Canada, Mr. Nik Cavell, is also in the picture

efficiency of the Port which was such a vital factor in the economic growth of Ceylon and the well-being of her people.

Colombo Plan Council Meets

THE Colombo Plan Council for Technical Co-operation in South and South-East Asia



Ceylon received recently another gift of flour from Canada. The High Commissioner for Canada with Senator Sarath Wijesinghe at the ceremony

which had its deliberations in June, approved of a proposal for a meeting of the National Information Officers of the Member Governments of the Colombo Plan countries to discuss, at the professional level, matters of mutual interest concerning dissemination of information, and international co-operation in national development with particular reference to the Colombo Plan. The Council accepted with appreciation the offer of the Government of Singapore to provide the venue for the Conference and act as its host. The Conference is likely to be held within the next three months.

The draft annual report of the Council which was presented evoked considerable discussion, particularly on matters concerning optimum utilisation of technical assistance provided under the Scheme and

the need for development of regional training institutions internally in the area.

The Council reiterated its opinion expressed at earlier meetings about the need for development regional institutions for training in the area. While considerable outside technical assistance was available to the countries of South and South-East Asia not only under the auspices of the Colombo Plan Technical Co-operation Scheme but also through the programmes of the United Nations and its Specialised Agencies and the bi-lateral aid programmes of the Governments of other countries, notably the United States of America, the requirements of technical skill and knowledge in the area were of such a large order that unless more and more training could be organised internally in the area, the pressure on outside countries was likely to be too great,

The Council noted with appreciation that already a number of countries of South and South-East Asia were providing training to the students of other countries in the area and that a few regional training institutions had been developed. It hoped that there would be greater developments on this line in the future.

Gift of Canadian Flour

THE first consignment of 10,000 tons of flour, out of a total of 38,000 tons, gifted by the Government of Canada for flood relief and rehabilitation, was handed last week over to Senator C. Wijesinghe, Acting Minister of Finance, by Mr. Nik Cavell, Canadian High Commissioner in Ceylon. The ceremony took place at the Delft Quay. The proceeds of the sale of this Canadian gift flour will be used by the Ceylon Government for flood relief work.

At the brief ceremony held at the Delft Quay, the Canadian High Commissioner expressed the great pleasure he felt in handing over that initial consignment of flour gifted from the Government and People of Canada to the Government and People of Ceylon, as an expression of their desire to assist Ceylon to recuperate from the heavy losses experienced during the disastrous floods of last December.

Mr. Cavell further pointed out that at the time of the floods Canada had immediately made arrangements to fly out two special Royal Canadian Air Force North Star transport aircraft with medical supplies and concentrated food supplies. The first aircraft arrived at Katunayake on January 3 with 8,700 lb. of emergency supplies donated by the Canadian Government. The second arrived on January 7 carrying 8,000 lb. of medical and food supplies from the Canadian Red Cross. A Canadian Canso aircraft belonging to the Photographic Survey Corporation of Toronto, Canada, which was employed in an aerial and resources survey of Ceylon under the Colombo Plan, was also placed at

the disposal of Ceylon for emergency flood relief work. This aircraft made four flights with medical and food supplies.

Technical Assistance from W. H. O.

THE Minister of Health, Mrs. Vimala Wijewardene, who returned to the Island recently from a tour of the U. K., U. S. and Canada, told a press conference, that she had sought large scale technical assistance for Ceylon from the WHO, whose annual conference she had attended in Minneapolis. No agreement has yet been reached but the Director of Health has been asked to proceed further with the negotiations for technical assistance.

In the U. K. she met Sir Francis Fraser, Sir Bennet Hance and Sir John Charles who are eminent medical authorities. She had also discussions with the Earl of Home, Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations and high officials of the British Ministry of Health. During those discussions she sought technical assistance for the setting up of a second Medical College in Colombo.

Ceylon's Envoy in Greece

THE Government of Ceylon has, with the concurrence of the Government of Greece, decided to appoint His Excellency Mr. H. A. J. Hulugalle, M.V.O., Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary for Ceylon in Rome, concurrently as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary for Ceylon in Athens. Mr. Hulugalle will continue to reside in Rome.

Ceylon's Minister in Switzerland

THE Government of Ceylon has, with the concurrence of the Government of Switzerland, decided to appoint His Excellency Mr. Percival Reginald Gunasekera, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary for Ceylon in Paris, concurrently as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary for Ceylon in Berne. His Excellency will have his residence in Paris.

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