

CEYLON *Today*

United Nations' Day

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Some Developments in Education

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(Minister of Education)

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Pathok



NOVEMBER, 1958

CEYLON TODAY

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United Nations' Day

ON October 24 Ceylon celebrated United Nations' Day with a public meeting at the Royal College Hall. We give below the speech made on the occasion by the Prime Minister, the Hon. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike.

Today, the United Nations Association of Ceylon is celebrating, as indeed other such associations must be celebrating throughout the world, the 13th Anniversary of the foundation of the United Nations Organization.

The theme which has been selected, I believe, by the World Federation of the United Nations Associations is a very important one—"To live together as good neighbours". That, indeed, ladies and gentlemen, is the main problem of the United Nations Organization as it happens to be the main problem both internationally and nationally in the world today. I, therefore, intend to say something on this theme. It is an excellent theme that has been selected by the Federation of these Associations for worldwide celebrations today—"To live together as good neighbours".

Now, the very first thing that strikes one in the situation both international and national that faces us all today is a curious paradox: on the one hand there is a certain resurgence of various human conflicts and on

the other hand what appears to be a realization of the need for human unity. Now, this first point that I referred to, the resurgence of various conflicts—religious, national political, economical, social—some of the conflicts that existed amongst mankind in the past, had been accentuated. Others that did not exist before to a great extent exist today. Let us examine this. Why is it so? In the first place there are various factors that have contributed to this increase of conflict on the religious plane. I suppose the emergence of a point of view that does not accept the fundamentals of all religions—the one common factor that belongs to every religion, namely the belief that this life is not the be-all and end-all of things. It is in a sense a preparation, a testing ground for a continuance thereafter, may be some heaven, nirvana or some valhalla. It may be as some of us think that it is only one link in a long chain extending far into the past, extending far into the future before the final goal is reached. That is a common factor that belongs to all religions; that this life is not the be-all and end-all of things. There is no doubt that whatever the religion may be, it has stimulated religious feeling of a controversial nature. Take the political sphere. In politics, of course, the emergence of various political theories, totalitarianism

of the right, of the left, capitalism and socialism has increased such conflicts in the present age, but whatever has happened in past national conflicts, the revolt against imperialism and colonialism today has produced and stimulated nationalism throughout the world. Sometimes an undesirable narrow nationalism has been stimulated by the revolt against imperialism and colonialism in the economic sphere. It is so. Many challenges in the economic sphere today have also created conflicts. Thus, both internationally and nationally, we have today aggravated conflicts that existed in the past, with certain new conflicts. At the same time there is a realization that national as well as international unity is desperately necessary for us all today. The existence of various international bodies such as the United Nations, various specialized bodies and various other international organizations—women's associations, youth's associations, cultural associations, literary associations and so on—show this.

Good Neighbours

NOW then in dealing with the problem of "living together as good neighbours" we have the paradoxical position of various conflicts side by side with the urgent need to achieve harmony and unity. This indeed is the problem that faces the United Nations as it faces us all, whether it be on the national plane, or the wider international plane.

Primarily the objective of the United Nations is the preservation of peace and unity as well as the achievement of living together. Now, how is this objective to be achieved? Can it be achieved at all? If so, how can it be achieved? That is the real problem that faces us all—can it be achieved at all? Well, now unless we despair mankind must accept the position that it can and must be achieved. It is a must. How can it be achieved?

The United Nations is one weapon in the fight for achieving it. How must we proceed about that? In the first place it is mental and

psychological. We have to realize and realize acutely something which I have said before. I ask your permission to repeat that. Either we have to live together today or surely we shall die together. That is the stark truth of the matter. Either we must work out a way of being able to live together or else it is certain we shall die together. If there is aggravation of human conflicts, if any point is reached in our thinking, when I say that it is not possible for me to live with my good friend, Dr. N. M. Perera (Leader of the Opposition), or my equally good friend, Mr. Dudley Senanayake, either they must die or disappear, which heaven forbid, or I must die and disappear. If the people of the great United States of America think they cannot live in the same world with the people of the Soviet Union or with the people of the People's Republic of China, or the people of the Soviet Union and the people of the People's Republic of China think it is not possible for them to live and occupy the same world with the people of the United States of America it is a very sad day for us indeed! For then, we will be on the threshold of a conflict that will destroy us all. But if we do, then nothing can save us. So the first thing to realize is that, although we may be different in our views, in our ideologies, in our theories of government, we are all human beings striving in our various ways to benefit mankind. Though I may not agree with the other man and he may not agree with me, still we are striving for the end.

Co-existence

YOU will remember, that in the Bible Christ said on one occasion that the "Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath". I have felt all along that all these various ideologies and "isms" have been made for man to look at them all as co-operative methods towards the welfare of mankind and let man freely evolve for himself any scheme of thinking, of government, of politics or economics in the interests of mankind.



United Nations Day was celebrated in Ceylon on October 24, with a public meeting at the Royal College Hall. (*Inset*)
The Prime Minister addressing the gathering

I refuse to hate a man simply because I disagree with him. Mr. Dudley Senanayake and Dr. N. M. Perera can derive relief and consolation from this! While we agree to disagree with each other we agree to work as fellow human beings. I am sure, in the end, humanity will thrash out some system of co-existence.

The Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, gave a lead in that regard when he, I believe, was the first to enunciate what is now known as "Panchaseela"—the five precepts of good neighbourly conduct. You know them all. I need not repeat them all—respect for each other, non-interference in each other's internal affairs and friendly collaboration and so on. These principles were further expanded at Bandung. I am quite satisfied that they really provide for, amidst differences, room for human collaboration.

The United Nations Organization has been functioning for 13 years. It has been criticised by many people. It has been praised by others. And what is the real truth of the matter? The United Nations does happen to be the only real weapon we possess for the resolution of national disputes by negotiations without resort to war, for the increasing range of collaboration both through the United Nations and its multifarious

specialized Agencies. It is the only weapon we possess. The United Nations has had its successes. It also has had its failures which is inherent in the situation. Surely we do not want to blame the United Nations for this because it is inherent in the present situation.

U. N. Successes

LET us see what outstanding successes the United Nations has had in the last years since we last met. There was the Suez trouble. You know we were on a razor's edge at that time. We were nearer to a third world war than ever before and I do not think it is over. I say that it is the United Nations resolutions that were passed, and which were accepted by the countries concerned, that prevented a very widespread outbreak of hostilities, for it nearly developed into a third world war. Later there were the troubles that arose in the Middle East, in Europe, Lebanon and Jordan. What happened then? The United Nations General Assembly discussed this matter for some days and countries that were primarily concerned, the Arab countries, drafted a resolution which all other members of the United Nations unanimously accepted, and that was passed. That is one of the outstanding triumphs of the

United Nations. In the first place the parties concerned themselves came to agreement regarding a formula put forward by a resolution and it was accepted by all. Troubles are always there. When one is over another overtakes us. We have some trouble now, in quite a different part of the world in the Far East. Trouble, as you know, going on in the Straits of Taiwan. There too it is our hope, it is our intention that that too will not be allowed to develop but will have a just and honourable solution. I hope that that solution is not far distant.

Now the United Nations has its difficulties. I would like to see an overhaul of the Charter of the United Nations. As you know, one of the difficulties that arises is an intervention by certain countries in the affairs of other countries on various pleas. That still goes on. Section 51 of the Charter of the United Nations says that countries can intervene if there is aggression, military aggression in any country. That has been further explained in rather a nebulous fashion by two resolutions of the United Nations essential to peace.

These resolutions say that a country can intervene if there is some kind of subversion going on in the country direct or encouraged by some foreign country in its own interests. This is very unsatisfactory. I have suggested to our representative at the United Nations that I should like this matter if possible be put up for clarification. As you know when you have a nebulous definition like that any country can intervene on such grounds in the affairs of another on the grounds that there is subversion going on in the interests of a third party in some country merely to prop up or to support some particular government in that country against the wishes of the bulk of the people of that country. I am not saying that it has happened. It's a possibility that we have to bear in mind. I would like to see a complete overhaul of that particular article of the United Nations and the resolutions that are rooted with it so that the position is

clarified beyond doubt. There are also various other amendments that may be required to make the United Nations Organization really effective.

Fundamental Difficulty

OF course there is a fundamental difficulty which is inherent in the United Nations where you get, as indeed the members of the United Nations represent various views, various divergent views. Sometimes strong divergent views are represented by the United Nations. I would like to see a representative of any country, whatever it be, as he stands on the rostrum of the United Nations to feel, first and foremost, that he is a member of the United Nations and only secondly a representative of his particular country. I would like to see that feeling grow up in the United Nations. The United Nations must begin to develop a personality of its own. I stand for justice, not merely the pressing forward of one point of view alone. I know it is difficult. There must be the feeling that a member of the United Nations acts for the whole world. They are changes that must come in the United Nations, national or international, by our realization that we must live and let live and safeguard legitimate interests. We must live and have self-respect for the other man. The theme chosen is therefore an excellent one. As I stated in the beginning I go back to it at the end. "To live together as good neighbours." Let us all try to achieve it. Let us all work towards it. There may be plenty of difficulties but there is nothing beyond the capacity of human ingenuity or human will, if we have a will to consider, all of us, whatever our politics or religion or colour or anything else, as real members of a United Nations, a great brotherhood of man. Then indeed we will be able to make full use of the United Nations. Then mankind will be able to march forward not to the abyss but, literally and metaphorically, to the stars.

Ceylon at the United Nations

We reproduce below the text of the speech that was made by Ceylon's Permanent Representative at the United Nations, Sir Claude Corea, when he intervened in the course of a debate at the General Assembly. He was speaking against the U. S. resolution seeking to prevent the discussion of the proposal by the Indian representative. Sir Claude's point was that member states should not be denied the right to bring before the Assembly for discussion any matter that affected the peace of the world, and which they considered was vitally important.

WHAT is really before this Assembly at the moment is the question of whether or not the draft resolution of the United States, which was approved by the General Committee and which would have the effect of shutting out the Indian proposal completely, should be adopted. If we accept the United States proposal, it is quite clear that this Assembly will be deprived of the opportunity of discussing the question put forward by the Indian representative. In our opinion, that is a very serious matter. This point has already been referred to by previous speakers. I should like to avoid any kind of repetition in the course of the few remarks I propose to make, but it is essential that this particular point should receive the further attention of the Assembly, because it is a vital question. The question here involved is not whether the People's Republic of China is to be deprived of its lawful seat in the United Nations, bad as that would be ; the real question is whether members of this august body shall be deprived of the right to discuss any matter which affects the peace of the world and which is considered to be of vital importance.

Stifling Discussion

MY simple question to my fellow representatives, even at this late stage, is this : Should not some further reflection be given

to this matter so as to prevent the stifling of discussion in this Assembly ? We have come here in the hope and the full belief that all Member States are entitled to bring up for discussion matters which they feel are of vital importance. Differences may arise in regard to the substance of such matters. But the question is : Should Member States be denied the right to bring before this Assembly for discussion any matter which agitates them and which is considered by them to be vitally important not only in their own interests but in the interests of the preservation of peace, for which the United Nations is responsible ?

If one looks at it from that point of view, then surely, even if there are differences with regard to the basic question of the admission of the representatives of the People's Republic of China, there can be no difference whatsoever in regard to the rights of Members of this Assembly. It is perfectly clear that, even if the item were inscribed on our agenda, the different points of view in regard to the substance could be discussed, and the same majority which seems to exist for the purpose of preventing the inscription of the item could arrive at a decision on the substance which would be in accord with the views of that majority. We do not complain that our own point of views does not prevail. We are convinced, particularly as we come from the region of Asia, that our point of view is worth considering and has great merit. But we are prepared to face the fact that there are representatives here who sincerely believe that, in view of the circumstances which they believe to exist, the People's Republic of China should not be seated. We have no quarrel with that position at this point ; that is not the question to which I am now addressing myself. I want particularly to emphasize that point at this stage, so that, on further reflection, representatives may see that it is not right to deprive

Members of this Assembly of the opportunity to present their points of view in this open forum.

Let the majority decide the question according to the views of the majority if it cannot be convinced of the rightness of the attitude of the minority. That is a democratic system which prevails everywhere—not only in parliamentary institutions but in all countries which have adopted the democratic way of life. It is nothing strange or new. It is not a new doctrine that is being introduced for the first time. There is no fallacy in this argument. It is a straightforward issue. It is clear, there is no ambiguity at all, and it is a simple question that arises clearly before the Assembly. That question is, should not this opportunity be given by the majority to the minority? I hope that this will receive further consideration before a decision is reached.

Time not Inopportune

IT has been urged here that this is not the proper time to permit this issue to be discussed. I am new to this Assembly personally, but I have been at pains to read the record of the previous discussions of this august body and have noted that this same inopportune has existed all through the years when this issue has come up for discussion. Last year, the year before last, and in the preceding years, whenever this question has been brought before this Assembly, the one persistent refrain has been, "The time is inopportune". One might be tempted to ask, "What is the criterion of when the time will be opportune? What are the circumstances which must be complied with in order to make it opportune?" Last year there was no exterior matter which could have supported the theory that the time was inopportune. There was no force exercised in connexion with this question. The world in that area was quiet, and yet it was inopportune. The year before there was no special circumstance which should

have prevented this issue from being discussed. Then what is the opportune time?

If there has been force recently in that area, then I think there are many here who believe that the fact that a certain amount of force has been resorted to is due entirely to the feeling of frustration resulting from the inability to discuss the matter in this forum. I think it is more a matter of the frustration resulting from the inability to discuss than the fact—if the fact is later established—of the rejection of the endeavour to seat the People's Republic of China in the United Nations. The feeling of frustration is a feeling which grows and over which there is no exercise of reason or even deliberation. The feeling creates an attitude even of irresponsibility sometimes. I do not say that there has been any indication of irresponsibility but we must be prepared to face even the appearance of irresponsibility when there is so much frustration when for no reason—because of the prejudice existing in certain quarters—the issue is evaded, the decision is postponed and people are left to imagine whether this postponement will go on to the Greek kalends.

That frustration must be avoided, and I make this appeal to the Assembly: "Let us decide this question one way or the other. Let us find out what is the majority view." We are prevented from doing that. We do not know really what is the majority view on the substantive question that is before us, and we are denied that opportunity. A feeling of frustration comes over us, and we should not be surprised if a feeling of frustration has come over the countries immediately involved.

Warsaw Talks

THEN it is said that the discussion of this question at this moment is inopportune because of the Warsaw negotiations. Obviously, as has been pointed out already, the simple answer to that objection is that

even if this item were inscribed on the agenda there is still time for its discussion to take place. This Assembly goes on until mid-December, and there is no need to force the issue and to open discussion immediately the item is before the Assembly. A reasonable time can be allowed to elapse between the inscription and the actual discussion, so that there shall be no interference with or prejudice caused to the discussions, that are taking place in Warsaw. On the contrary, the view of my delegation is that clearly a discussion in this Assembly will not prejudice the issue at all but, rather, will elucidate it and help to bring about an understanding at such negotiations. We would probably create some better atmosphere, even if certain hard words were used in the course of the discussion. But we have already experienced, as the result of this discussion, the antagonism which seems to prevail and the creation and existence of a kind of bitterness, as voiced by some of those who spoke here yesterday.

We would like to deprecate the tendency to discuss this question from the propagandist point of view instead of trying to create an atmosphere of objectivity and instead of trying to approach the problem from the angle of a dispassionate examination with a view to the settlement of one of the most important issues with which the Assembly has been faced. We should approach it in a friendly atmosphere of calm, judicial and deliberate consideration so that the issue might be settled, and that could be done even if the substantive issue were before us.

There is one further point which might touch on the merits of the question, and that is the matter of the relationship of the admission of China to the important question of disarmament. I have not the time to and I do not wish to delay our proceedings by elaborating on this point, but it would appear to be a simple proposition to state that without the admission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations the question of disarmament itself will be

seriously prejudiced. Can anyone conjecture the possibility of a decision, for instance, on the banning of atomic tests or the banning of atomic weapons unless the People's Republic of China is a party to the ban? Suppose the time comes, as indeed seems likely at the present moment, when it is possible for this Assembly to ban, with the agreement of all Member States, atomic tests or the use and manufacture of atomic weapons. Surely we shall be faced immediately with the impossible position that the whole world will agree to such a ban to the exclusion of the People's Republic of China, with a population of 600 million, with enormous resources, with a fairly large fighting force existing even now and with the possibility of even greater military strength. And if China is not included in such a ban what is there to prevent the Chinese People's Republic being the atomic arsenal of the world and the only country which will go on carrying out the process of manufacturing and storing atomic weapons while everyone else in the world has decided to abandon them. There is nothing to bind the People's Republic of China in that respect unless it is a Member of the United Nations. Otherwise, of course, what is happening now will have to be repeated. In other words, we will keep the People's Republic of China at arm's length, we will not deign to sit down with it in the United Nations as partners, but we will call it into conference as each occasion arises when its consent or participation is necessary.

Representation for China

THAT is a necessary step, I concede, but it is somewhat unifying for us to keep out a country which, on all accounts, is entitled to participate in the United Nations. But this is denied to it and yet it is called into conference, almost at the level of a diplomatic conference, in order to decide certain issues which concern them. Are we going to wait and repeat the performance on the question

of atomic weapons when some decision has been reached by the General Assembly? That shows that it is unrealistic to deprive the People's Republic of China of its proper place and indicates that we will be forced, willy-nilly, at some time or other, to invite the representatives of the People's Republic of China to sit down with us at some place and thus satisfy ourselves that after all we have kept them out of the United Nations, even though we have to sit with them in some other place. That position is unsatisfactory.

I should like to refer to one last point before concluding, namely the question which is brought up from time to time when this issue arises, that after all China is an aggressor country, that the United Nations in 1950 condemned the People's Republic of China for its aggression and that therefore it is not a peace-loving country and should find no place in the United Nations.

Taking it as a fact that there was such a resolution condemning the People's Republic of China in 1950, I do want to ask the representatives here one question, in all sincerity and simplicity. Is the lapse of eight years since that event took place not a sufficient time for us to reconsider that position? Are we going to have anger and hate in our bosoms for all time? Are we going to continue this condemnation of a country, even if that condemnation was justified at that time, over a long period and provide no opportunity for reconsideration, to see whether a change has taken place, to see whether that one action has been followed by some recognition, let us say for purposes of argument, of an error on their part? Are we going to shut them out for all time because of one lapse? Does not history—and recent history at that—abound with instances of countries which have perhaps committed actions that were more condemned at the time they were committed, and in more

recent times, and yet which have been brought into the family of nations and admitted into the bosom of friendship?

Have not those countries been given a great measure of assistance to set themselves up again? Why should a difference be made with regard to the People's Republic of China? It is true that there was a condemnatory resolution. But particularly as regards those of us who profess the Christian faith, should we not look at it from the point of view of what Christian civilization means by recognizing the fact that forgiveness is sometimes a divine quality which has been enjoined on all who belong to those parts of the world which have a Christian civilisation.

Basic Principles

WE cannot divorce these essential principles in actual life and fail to apply them in the context of world situations. We have to create our policies according to the basic principles in which we strongly believe. Surely eight years is time enough to reconsider the position and see whether what did take place in 1950 should not be overlooked or forgotten or new action taken to meet the new situation. That would become possible if we could discuss the question. But we can do something more. It was only a few weeks ago that there was a very crucial issue which led to the summoning of the emergency special session of the General Assembly. The question was brought before the Assembly. At the beginning no one believed that a settlement would be possible. A majority decision might have been enforced. But very few did believe that the General Assembly, true to its Charter functions, true to its traditions, would be able to bring about a settlement and unite people of different views and create a settlement acceptable to all and which would be likely to lead to a more peaceful atmosphere.



Students from one of the schools performing a dance

Some Developments in Education

THE HON. W. DAHANAYAKE

Minister of Education

NEVER in its history has there been so much talk and discussion about education in this country as today. Laymen as well as professionals, highly educated as well as those with little or no education, all take a hand in it. Accusers exaggerate complaints and defenders are far from conciliatory.

Nevertheless, never has there been clearer trends in education or a more genuine attempt to put first things first than now, and it is the purpose of this short article to point out some of the more prominent landmarks.

If the State's authority to enforce education is absolute, so is the State's duty to supply it. The present Government considers its duty to provide free education because it is the inalienable right of every citizen in this country to be able to have the highest education for which he is qualified by ability,

aptitude and interest. That the State is also determined to enforce a minimum education for all from the age of five to fourteen is evidenced by the appointment of a Committee in February this year to study and report on non-school-going children between the ages mentioned above.

Primary Education

CAREFUL attention has been paid to education at the primary stage. A new and dynamic curriculum has been evolved for the primary classes and a circular issued to schools prohibits the loading of unnecessary text book knowledge on little pupils.

The new approach to teaching in primary classes while acknowledging that formal class teaching is necessary, nevertheless,



Children at play in one of the Schools in Colombo



Buns and milk being served in a Government School during the recess

stresses that young pupils should also be encouraged to learn by seeing things and doing things.

The subjects in the Primary Schools are grouped as follows :—

- Group I (a) Religious Education
- (b) The mother-tongue
- (c) Number
- (d) English as a second language from Std. III.

- Group II (a) Physical Education—Games, Eurhythmics
- (b) Constructional Activities—Art and Handwork, Gardening, Needlework
- (c) Environmental—Nature Study, Local History, History of familiar things, lives of great men at home and abroad, local geography, workers at home and abroad, &c.

The training of the young in certain necessary skills, without which the adult is condemned to an inferior status in life, is given the primacy it deserves. The purpose of the primary schools, which had been deplorably confused in the past, has been clearly defined and teaching in primary classes will be judged by the degree of success of the new methods employed.

The maintenance of Cumulative Records for every child on forms supplied by the Education Department has been made compulsory by law. Apart from the value of such records in other services which a school might offer, the proper use of Cumulative Records will result in individualizing learning and teaching. The immense amount of study devoted to the psychology of children in recent times has resulted in sound education taking a close note of children's mental and emotional growth, development and trends. Teachers will soon recognize that there is no sense in doing anything against the grain if it can be done with the grain.

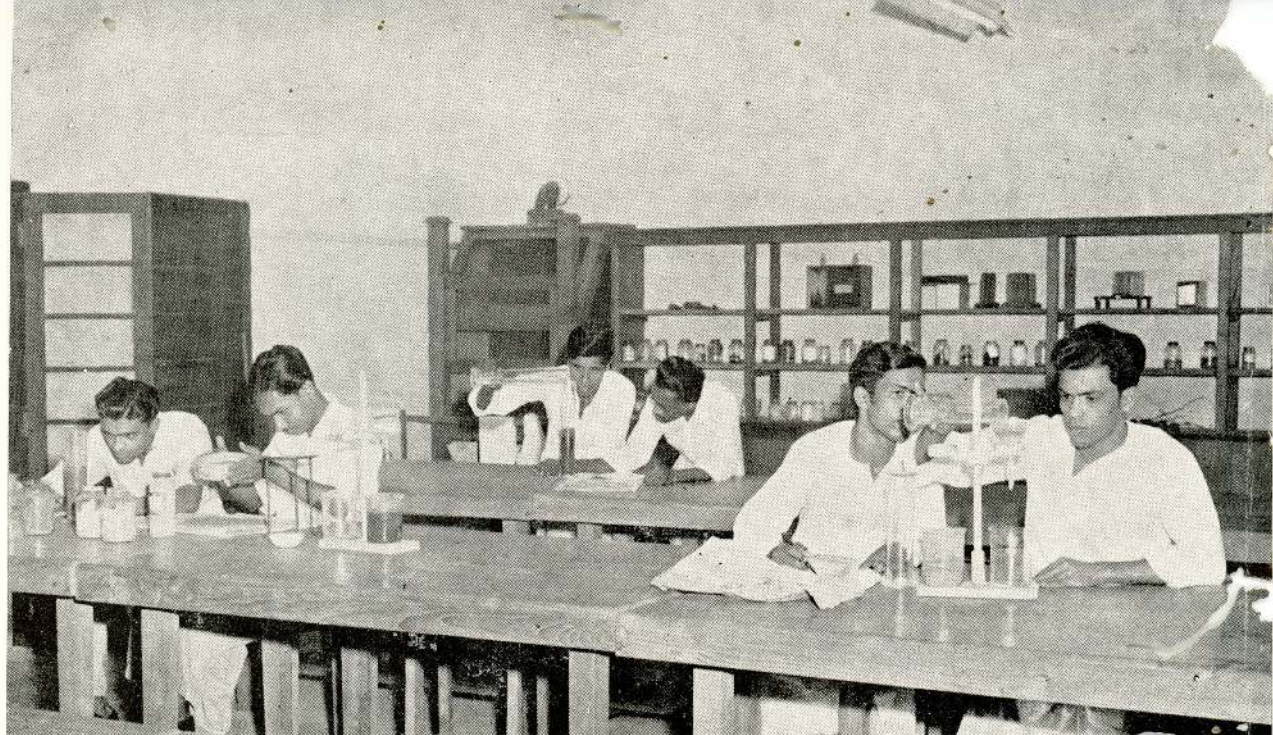
A determined effort is now being made to train every teacher in the proper maintenance and the use of these Cumulative Records. In their report, the Special Committee on Education deplored that in 1943, the statistical handling of marks was hardly known by a dozen teachers. Every teacher in Ceylon will, within the next two years, know the nature of mental measurements and how to deal with marks scientifically.

Practical Courses

THE Inter-Departmental Committee on Continued Education after Standard VIII appointed by me in 1957, recommended the introduction of practical courses to the Senior Secondary Schools to give pupils who had aptitudes and interests in such courses, preliminary and exploratory opportunities for discovering professional skills which may be developed in vocational institutions in later life. The courses suggested were : (i) Agriculture, (ii) Fisheries, (iii) Handicrafts, (iv) Arts and Crafts, (v) Home Science, and (vi) Commerce.

The greatest problem to be faced in the introduction of practical courses is the grave shortage of teachers trained in these subjects. The training of teachers of Handicrafts and Arts and Crafts initiated under the guidance of a C-Plan Advisor from New Zealand is now being consolidated and extended at the Government Training College, Maharagama. Schemes have been drawn up with the Department of Agriculture and the Ceylon Technical College Department to train annually about 25 teachers of Agriculture and 20 teachers of Commerce respectively to teach these courses in the senior classes. The way is thus paved for the diversification of the curriculum in the near future.

The Government has taken action to see that education contributes to the increase of national wealth in the form of efficient manpower and increased production. Education perforce has vocational implications ; the acquisition of knowledge must go hand in



Science has now been introduced to swabasha training colleges

hand with self-discovery and both should proceed to the exploration of and preparation for employment. Accordingly a vocational guidance service has been started for schools and has rapidly expanded. In February 1957, very comprehensive instructions were issued for using schools and school personnel in all phases of Vocational Guidance. The Vocational Guidance scheme envisages a five-step programme :

- (1) Information to pupils about vocational opportunities and about themselves. This involves maintenance of cumulative records for each pupil which, as mentioned before, has been made compulsory by law. These records are to be kept highly confidential and would move with the pupil up to employers, post secondary institutions and the University. A series of vocational guidance information sheets on job opportunities based on the National Occupational Classification are also under preparation. In this matter a closer co-operation between labour and education authorities is considered necessary as the

former does not provide occupational information for use in schools and labour market information is insufficient to meet the needs of rapidly expanding guidance programme ; amongst the techniques being developed are psychological tests under the supervision of a Test Committee in the Education Department. By the end of 1957, four intelligence tests were being standardised, one of which was non-verbal and three verbal in the English, Sinhalese, and Tamil languages for age group 11-16. They would later on be standardized for adults also. The aim is to put out four such tests each year followed by mass testing of pupils aged between 11 and 16. In addition an expert from abroad is to start work on aptitude tests also. Assistance in this respect is being given by the Asia Foundation.

- (2) The second step would be " matching ", that is helping the student to make a vocational choice. Since the beginning of the scheme, that is in about

one year; 400 Teacher-Counsellors and 32 Lecturers in Training Colleges were trained to look after this work. 900 Teacher-Counsellors are now training. Vocational Guidance has been made a compulsory course for all Teacher-trainees in the Training Colleges which have in addition optional two-year courses for those who seek certification as Teacher-Counsellors.

- (3) The third step would be to prepare the school-leaver for a job. This involves training and curricular construction and adjustment. This will inevitably lead to the diversification of curricula.
- (4) The fourth step is actual placement. This would be done under Youth Employment Service to be opened under the Ministry of Education to keep and impart all information about occupational opportunities, find out part-time work and holiday work for poorer students.
- (5) The fifth step is represented by "follow-up" which would apply only to

senior and collegiate schools. The follow up would be for two years or more through questionnaires to be sent to the school-leavers each year and check-lists to be used by schools to find out from employers how the young person was doing.

Teaching of Science

ONE of the greatest developments in the sphere of education during the last two years is the attention paid to the teaching of Science. Till recently the teaching of Science has been considered only as a necessary preliminary training for later fields of narrow professional study. General Science now forms an essential component in the curriculum for the age group 11 to 14, irrespective of the fact whether they propose pursuing courses of professional study or not, and irrespective of whether they are in rural or urban areas. If we postulate that education is, in a wide sense, an activity designed to train a child to face situations which he will be called upon to meet with in life, then a training in elementary science will help the

Teacher-trainees harvesting the paddy they have sown



child to acquire a training in simple but refined processes of disciplined thinking in situations which he will accept as interesting and fascinating. The teaching of General Science to the age group 11 to 14 is, therefore, being pursued with the following aims in view :—

- (i) to give the children an appreciation and an understanding of the "world around them";
- (ii) to give the children a training in systematic thinking, expression and action ;
- (iii) to give them a training in applying (i) and (ii) in every day life situations.

Every effort is being made to extend the teaching of Science so that it will reach even children in remote areas. This programme is being supported by UNESCO, Colombo-Plan, U.S.O.M. and other International Agencies. As an essential preliminary step, Science assistants have been appointed to rural schools. These teachers are being given support by way of vacation courses and helpful suggestions are communicated to them periodically. Some essential items of simple equipment have been issued to about 70 schools in the last year and another 100 schools will receive similar rudimentary sets in the near future. The supply of Secondary Trained Science teachers has been increased by the intensification of the work at Maharama Government Training College.

The Ministry has approved of the development of approximately 150 schools to H. S. C. level in Science teaching. Most of these Government Schools are, at present, without laboratory facilities. It is expected that essential laboratory facilities will be established in these schools in the near future.

Other Facilities

THE Government has also demonstrated that in education, equality of opportunity is not enough ; equalizing of opportunity is also

necessary. With this in mind, it has addressed itself vigorously to the task of improving the quality of Swabasha education. The Swabasha medium of instruction has been logically extended to the Higher School certificate classes, provision has been made for the raising of the Pirivenas to University status and the quality of work done in rural schools has been greatly improved by the appointment of graduates and trained teachers. The tone of schools has been improved by the introduction of extra-curricular activities such as sports meets, exhibitions and concerts.

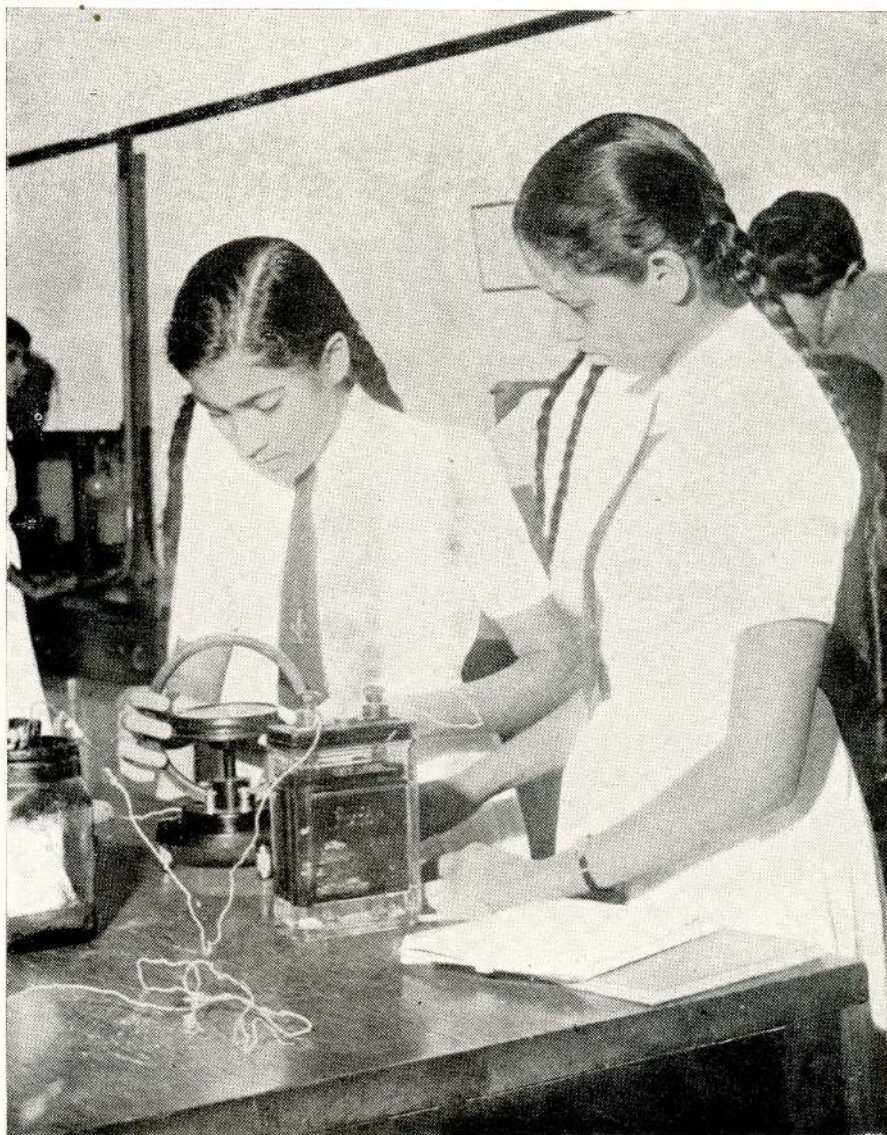
The training of teachers has always posed an important and impressive problem in this country. Lack of adequately trained personnel will, of course, render educational efforts ineffective. The number of students in training in 1956 and 1958 is shown in the table given below :—

	1956	1958
Government Training College : Secondary ..	382	554
Primary and Junior (Sinhalese) ..	1,302	2,073
Primary and Junior (Tamil) ..	324	525
Assisted Training Colleges		
Primary and Junior (Sinhalese) ..	551	701
Primary and Junior (Tamil) ..	273	353
Total ..	2,832	4,106

Efforts are now being made to expand further the intake of students and to make Training Colleges not only places where specific tasks of teaching are learnt but also centres of culture. These Institutions will not only train teachers but also contribute to the general progress of education.

Art and Music

IN Music and Art, attention is being given to the revival of the artistic and musical



Teaching science in a girls school in Colombo

traditions of this country. It is realized that in the case of the majority of pupils the home environment is not very conducive to the development of an aesthetic sense or to the cultivation of a love for music and art. Hence the school has to provide the opportunity. Those who have talent are encouraged to proceed to the G. C. E. Examination and as many as five hundred and fourteen children from rural schools have

offered music last year. To give an incentive to music and dancing, Island-wide competitions are being organized annually. The beautiful dances which were given by rural children at the last Independence Day Celebrations and at the UNESCO Competition, indicated that rich talent is being discovered and developed in our schools.

The place that English should occupy in the curriculum has been given careful thought.

The Education Ordinance provides for the teaching of English from the third standard onwards. There is also a tradition of English learning in this country, for, till recently, English was the official language.

English is the language of international communication and it has become the second language in several European and Eastern countries. English is now the language of international Science. Ability to communicate in English with clarity and intelligence has a vocational value which need not be emphasised in the world of International commerce, papers, documents and files. The geographical position and potential of Ceylon renders a knowledge of English a desirable equipment of all its citizens. Besides, if more and more people have the ability to read and understand English books, knowledge derived thereby will enrich the national languages.

Fifty teachers are being trained at the Government Training College, Maharagama, in the methods of teaching English as a second language. It is envisaged that this scheme will be expanded rapidly. Refresher courses have been conducted for Inspectors of Schools, English Assistants and other teachers to increase their efficiency in the teaching of English. Expert assistance in the work of training teachers is sought from other countries and several teachers of English have been sent to England and America to study at research centres and training Institutions.

A Committee was appointed by me on October 15, 1957, to consider and make recommendations on :—

The aims and objects of teaching English as a second language in our schools ; whether English should be a compulsory subject ; at what stage the teaching of English should commence ; the methods that should be adopted in teaching English as a second language ;

whether the text-books available for the purpose are adequate ; if not, what action should be taken to supply the deficiency ; the training and supply of teachers for the teaching of English and all that are necessary to maintain a high standard in the teaching of English in our schools.

The work of the Committee is nearing completion and its report is expected shortly.

Physical Health

MORE than ever before, attention is being paid to the physical health of school pupils. This Government restored a greatly improved mid-day meal consisting of a bun and milk to all pupils in schools. Data about the physical health status of each pupil is maintained in the Cumulative Records. Annual measurements of height and weight are recorded as are the results of serious illness and accidents. School medical officers enter the results of medical inspections in the Cumulative Records. All this information about the individual pupil will be carefully considered before physical training is prescribed. Physical education, of course, forms an essential part in any sound scheme of education. Great progress has been made in the last two years and physical education is a feature not only in the town school but also in the remotest village school in Ceylon. Frequent regional meets and tournaments are arranged ; physical training instructors are attached to most schools ; teachers are trained during Saturday classes, week-day classes, residential vacation courses.

Playgrounds are being supplied to many rural schools which had hitherto never dreamt of having them, and audio visual materials are used to spread the value of sports and physical education to the community. All these activities have resulted in the discovery of rich talent in games and athletics and more and more promising boys and girls are trained carefully to be the champions in the future.



The Colombo Fort Station

A Hundred Years of Ceylon Railways—II

J. D. BORGER

THE inauguration of the Railway was celebrated in an exceptionally lavish manner. It cost the company £2,000, an expenditure which the Colony had to ultimately bear.

On December 8, 1858, the Governor, Sir Henry Ward, announced in the Legislative Council that work on the first 13½ miles from Colombo was fairly started with a staff of about 1,000 "coolies" and that plans for covering another 13 miles were before the Government for approval. Beyond this the features of the country suddenly changed and preparation of detailed plans showed that Captain Moorsom's estimate was wholly insufficient to complete the line to Kandy.

Heavy and expensive works, such as cuttings through solid rock or loose masses of boulders at the bases of the mountains and steep embankments over valleys and gorges appeared inevitable.

Mr. Doyne, faced with a difficult and embarrassing problem, did his best to reduce

the expenditure but his estimate mounted to £2,214,000 or more than double that of Captain Moorsom's estimate of £800,000 with an expanding limit of £1,200,000. The result was that at a public meeting at Kandy on July 30, 1859, a memorial to the Governor was adopted demanding the cancellation of the contract to the Company.

Mr. Doyne was ordered to return to England with data, the contract was suspended and work confined within the narrowest limits. The Duke of Newcastle intervened and Mr. Robert Stephenson, son of George Stephenson, was appointed a referee between the Company and the Government. The local Government too acted promptly. On July 20, 1859, a committee of three officials and three unofficials of the Legislative Council were asked to report on the matter. This select committee unanimously reported that they considered the contract partial and inequitable, and suggested that it should be at once annulled.

The Auditor, Mr. G. W. Brown, in his report said "In the whole of my railway experience extending over a period of upwards of twenty years, I never recollect to have witnessed such unjustifiable extravagance, and such an utter disregard of economy and prudence. If this scale of expenditure is continued, the capital authorised to be raised, will, I fear, be exhausted long before the railway is completed".

Select Committee Appointed

NEGOTIATIONS began in England between the Government and the Company. At that stage everyone was up in arms. The Planters' Association, the Chamber of Commerce and certain other public bodies made representations. Sir Henry Ward was succeeded by Sir Charles McCarthy as Governor in October 1860, and at a meeting of the Legislative Council on November 8th, that year, he appointed a Select Committee consisting of the Hon'ble W. C. Gibson, Acting Colonial Secretary, the Hon'ble Major T. Skinner, Acting Auditor-General, Mr. W. P. Braybrooke, Government Agent, Central Province, and three unofficial members of the Legislative Council—Messrs. C. A. Lorensz, A. Nicol and J. M. Robertson to report on the question of continuing the contract. In their report on December 1, 1860, they too recommended that the contract be annulled and a tender by Brassey & Co. be accepted. Eventually the Ceylon Railway Company ended its career of "mishaps and miscalculations", and the Colony resolved with unalterable finality to have a railway to Kandy if someone would provide it complete for a maximum sum of £1,500,000 or have no railway at all.

An endeavour was then made to discover a route cheap enough to merit Government notice but in October 1861, Government took over the railway property. Tenders were called for in London early in 1862 and the revised specification was that the contract

was to be "an absolute guarantee to complete the railway and works with all accessories of every description at a given sum and without extras of any sort". Six firms tendered. Four of them restricted their tenders to the Dekande Route.

This route diverged from former routes near Ambepusse. It crossed the Maha Oya at the "Gold Mines" (among the "coolies" engaged in the work were some men with Australian mining experience; and they were reported to have discovered two or three places on the Maha Oya beyond Polgahawela where gold was found) and kept along the north bank of the river, while all other routes had been on the Southern Bank. After passing the Rambookan Oya, it left the valley of the Maha Oya traversing a long line of paddy fields, reached the foot of the Kadigamuwa Pass which it ascended for two miles, thence, keeping on the side of Alagalla mountain it crossed the Alagalla river below its most precipitous descent, thence skirting the Dekande amphi-theatre, it wound round the conical hill at Ballawatta and passing through Wyrley Group Estate, tunnels through a short spur and debouches high up on the Kadugannawa Pass and running along the North side of this Pass, it reached Kadugannawa Gap at Dawson's monument and joined the Gadadessa Route as before at Moolwatta. The other two tenders furnished alternative figures for both routes.

The contract of Mr. W. F. Flaviel, who had valuable experience on the Great Indian Peninsular Railway, for £873,039—12—4d. was formally accepted. Mr. Flaviel arrived in Ceylon on March 5, 1863, and work commenced within a few days. In January 1864, the first locomotive engine was landed in Ceylon and promptly utilised by the contractor for transport of material for ballasting purposes.

Progress of the work was thenceforth phenomenal. By the end of 1864 the state of the line was so advanced as to enable the engineers to undertake the great responsibility of conveying a Royal visitor, the Duke



The Ruhuna Kumari—the Express to the South

of Brabant, heir to the Belgian throne, by a special train from Veyangoda to Ambepusse and back to Colombo. This train was driven by Mr. G. L. Molesworth, the Mechanical and Locomotive Engineer, who came out to Ceylon in 1859. The engine of the train was christened "Leopold", after the Duke.

Meanwhile "Colombo Terminus was a scene of much activity, indicating that in a few years this secluded spot would be transformed into a busy centre of the City of Colombo. The view from the eminence above to the north—the site of the future general offices of the Ceylon Railway—embraced the Lake, Fort and harbour in front and extended over Slave Island and Cinnamon Gardens at the side and rear. A new road connected the Maradana Road across through the station by the side of San Sebastian Mills and the Lake to Norris Road at the Government Factory. Passing through a deep cutting, the lines issued from the Terminus parallel to Sutherland Road under the bridge carrying the Maradana Road across the rails and emerging upon flat but treacherous country with here and there large swamps and paddy fields. Over these, in many places, the line had to be carried on masonry bridges with flood gates, crossing two canals by screw-pile bridges, the one over the large Caltura Canal being in process of completion. Thence to the Kelani River was one long embankment, a temporary bridge carrying the rails across the river. Beyond Kelaniya the track lay across ancient marshes which gave considerable trouble".

Gongitota, had to be subdued by various expedients, finally carrying the line upon

beds supported on screw-piles, but not before the first disaster befell those working on the project, for on January 14, 1865, four miles beyond Kelaniya 36 "coolies" were engulfed in the morass and killed.

First Train to Ambepusse

THE section to Ambepusse was ready to be open to traffic on January 1, 1865, but late arrival of carriages and other appliances interfered with this plan and it was not until October 2, 1865, that the first train, open to the public, consisting of ten carriages left Colombo for Ambepusse (34½ miles), at 7 o'clock that morning.

Sir Hercules Robinson succeeded Sir Charles McCarthy as Governor in 1865. The operations during 1866 included the completion of the stations at Mahara (now Hunupitiya), Heneratgoda (now Gampaha) and Veyangoda and the consolidation of the permanent way. In the second sector between Ambepusse and the foot of the Incline "great progress was made in spite of a large amount of sickness, many of the engineering staff being seriously invalided". The bridge over the Maha Oya and the 60-ft. girder bridge over the Yangalla Modera, 43½ miles from Colombo, were completed, and the line to Polgahawela, 45½ miles from Colombo, was opened on November 1, 1866, both to goods and passenger traffic.

The third sector was also making progress. The headings had been pierced in all the tunnels—No. 8, the longest on the line, being completed. So was the important work on the Alagalla viaduct, and a 20-ft. culvert on the

Dekande ravine as well as the heavy embankment over it. The heavy rock cuttings, especially those at "Sensation Rock" and Meangalla, were sufficiently advanced to enable the track to go through to the top of the Incline. The rails were closed at 3 p.m. on March 20, 1867, and the first railway engine drawing a material train ran to the top of the Incline at Kadugannawa at 5 p.m., safely passing the precipices of Meangalla and the dreaded "Sensation Rock" and surmounting the rock barrier of "The Zone", a truly remarkable feat and a matter for wonder even to this day.

In the fourth sector the bridge over the Mahaveli Ganga and the girder bridge across the Maha Oya had been completed, and on October 25, 1867, the last rail to join Colombo and Kandy was laid down, enabling the first engine drawing a material train to enter Kandy Station between 7 and 8 a.m. the following day. Within four days of this, April 30, 1867, an engine with a train of materials ran the whole way from Colombo to Kandy and the first passenger to Kandy was booked at Polgahawela on August 1, 1867.

The cost of the line according to Mr. G. G. Molesworth, who was now designated Director-General, Railway and Public Works, in his report to the Colonial Secretary on January 9, 1868, was £1,436,127 or about £19,148 a mile, "a cost which, considering the rugged character of the country, the excessive unhealthiness of a large portion of it, and that the labour was almost entirely imported, may be considered moderate".

A railroad from Colombo to Kandy thus became a reality and today serves as a monument to the names of Sir Henry Ward, Mr. G. L. Molesworth, Captain W. F. Flaviel and others who had suffered, in common with their fellow labourers from the horrible malaria fever of the otherwise beautiful Maha Oya Valley through which "every sleeper was laid at the expense of a human life".

The total length of the line was 75 miles with 11 tunnels of which 10 were on the incline and the longest tunnel 365 yards. There were ten stations. A deviation was made at Kadugannawa in 1906 and two tunnels opened up.

"Colombo Station"

THE original Colombo station, from which the pioneer railway enterprise in Ceylon took its stride, engaged Flaviel's attention for six years. Marvellous changes were effected around the "quiet waters of the Marandhan inlet of the lake, between the tree-embowered Hindu Temple on the one side, Trinity Church on the other, and the imposing Moorish Mosque, with its scattered grounds to the eastwards", through which the line was at one time proposed to be run. Hugging the station on the northern side sprang up a two-storied building—a substantial square structure—designed for the use of the Company's offices, but before long presided over by the Finance and Traffic Manager. Within sight was the Fort "nearly embowered in foliage with glimpses of the Pettah Cathedral and the Racquet Court".

Today the Hindu Temple and the Mosque are still there, but in unnatural surroundings and deprived of much of their past grandeur. The Fort and its foliage, the Pettah and its romantic associations, the Racquet Court and its spreading Banyan tree—these are but memories. Even the beautiful lake with its meandering amulets has been encroached upon. The steam boat no longer offers to carry you across to Slave Island for half a penny.

Advancing business has, indeed, transformed this area of pleasant memories. The lake has been cut up to provide water-fronts for purposes of trade. The railway has spread out its steel arms and extended itself in all directions; and the snort and rattle of its engines and vehicles warn the straggler away from the scene of ceaseless activity. The new Fort station was opened on March 4, 1917.



The Minister of Transport and Works at one of the ceremonies which marked the handing over of some Canadian engines to Ceylon

Professor Ernst Haeckel, who visited Ceylon in 1881, describing the grandeur of the Kandy line said "Between Rambukkana and Kadugannawa the line is in point of scenery one of the most beautiful I have ever seen. The road winds with many zig-zags up the steep northern face of a vast basin of "Cirque". At first the eye is fascinated by the charming aspect of the immediate foreground; immense blocks of gneiss stand up amidst the luxuriant masses of dense forest which fill the ravines on each side; creepers of the loveliest species fling themselves from one tree-top to the next as they tower above the undergrowth; enchanting little cascades tumble down the cliffs and close by the railroad we come upon the old high road from Colombo to Kandy, formerly so busy a scene, which was constructed by the English Government to enable them to keep possession of the ancient capital.

"Further on we command wide views, now of the vast park-like valley which grows below as we mount higher, and now of the lofty blue mountain range which stands up calm and proud beyond its southern wall.

Although the forms of the higher hills are monstrous and not particularly picturesque—for the most part undulating shoulders of granite or gneiss—still a few more prominent peaks rise conspicuous, as for instance, the curious table rock known as "Bible Rock".

"Sensation Rock" as it is called, is one of the most striking and impressive features of the scenery. The railway after passing through many tunnels, now runs under overhanging rocks along the very edge of a cliff with a fall of twelve to fourteen hundred feet, almost perpendicular, into the verduous abyss below.

"Waterfalls come dashing down from the mountain wall on the left, rush under bridges over which the line is carried and throwing themselves with a mighty leap into mid-air are lost in mist before they reach the bottom of the gorge making floating rainbows where the sun falls upon them.

"The green depths below, and the valley at our feet, are covered partly with jungle and partly with cultivation; scattered huts, gardens and terraced rice fields can be seen,

"The railway, like the old high road, is at its highest level above the sea at the Kadugannawa Pass and a light-house shaped column stands here in memory of the engineer of the carriage road, Captain Dawson. We, here, are on the dividing ridge of two water sheds. All the hundred little water streams which we have hitherto passed threading their silvery way through the velvet verdure of the valley flow either to the Kelani Ganga or the Maha Oya—both reaching the sea on the Western coast. The brooks which tumble from the eastern shoulder of Kadugannawa all join the Mahaveli Ganga which flows southwards not far below. The railway runs along its banks which are crowded with plantations of sugar cane, and in a quarter of an hour from the place, we reach Peradeniya, the last station before Kandy."

Plans for Extensions

THE Colombo-Kandy line had hardly reached Ambepusse when there were talks of extensions. A branch line from Polgahawela to the North and East and extensions to Badulla were mentioned. Traces were authorised, surveys taken and the line to Badulla was

eventually opened to traffic on February 5, 1924, and to Batticaloa and Trincomalee on January 5, 1925.

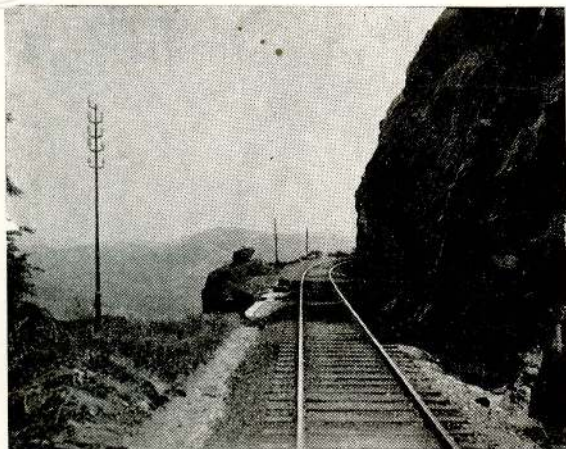
Since August 3, 1858, when the first sod was turned, many things have happened. The railway made its inroads to the North, South, East and Centre. To the North as far as Kankasanturai, Talaimannar and Puttalam. To the East as far as Batticaloa and Trincomalee; South as far as Matara and inland as far as Nuwara Eliya, Ragala and Badulla. The Kandy line was extended as far as Matale and the Kelani Valley line as far as Yatiyantota, Opanaika and Talduwa.

Of these the Chilaw-Puttalam section, the Nanu Oya-Ragala section and two sections on the Kelani Valley were closed down owing to competition by road transport. Two projected routes viz., Matara-Hambantota and the Dehiwela-Horana lines have yet to be taken in hand, and may not well be with the rapid growth of lorry transport. There was also a project to run a circular railway around Colombo. This need does not now arise because of the improved motor bus transport which adequately serves the suburbs.

Beginning with a modest 75 miles the railway today covers 900 miles. Revenue last

Sensation Rock near Kadugannawa





Another view of Sensation Rock

year increased to over Rs. 80,000,000 and is reported to be the highest yet earned by the railway during any one of the past 20 years. Working expenses too increased due to higher cost. Fuel and coal alone accounted for an increased expenditure of Rs. 4,400,000. Thus while the earnings recorded an increase of Rs. 3,100,000 the expenditure also increased by Rs. 7,500,000 and the year ended with a working loss of Rs. 15,000,000.

The railway now carries out all its repairs and builds all the coaches it needs at its Ratmalana Workshops and was recently credited with turning out its own diesel engine which is reported to be working very satisfactorily. In this connection it is well to remember that as far back as May 1896, the first railway engine to be turned out in Ceylon was completed in the Maradana yard.

Modernisation Schemes

SCHEMES are afoot for the modernisation of Ceylon's railway system. Aid to the extent of 4,700,000 dollars was granted last year by the Government of the United States and with this grant orders have been placed for 25 diesel powered coaches for suburban traffic. The Canadian government too has gifted several diesel engines, each bearing the name of a Canadian province. These engines are

now doing a magnificent job on the difficult Up-country sections where in the past "coal eaters" puffed and snorted up the hillsides.

It was not all smooth sailing for the Ceylon railway. In a country where very heavy rainfall is an annual occurrence, floods on the lower regions, earth-slips and wash-aways Up-country have taken their toll almost yearly. Beginning with the first mishap at Gongitota the record has been continued almost unbroken right up to December 1957. It is not possible in this limited space to record everything that happened over a period of one hundred years but the most disastrous of them were the slip on "Sensation Rock" on July 14, 1869, followed by floods round Colombo on September 30, 1872, when a bridge on the railway, three miles out of Colombo collapsed. In 1886 Colombo was swept by floods. Several bridges on the railway were washed away. The famous Black-water Slip, between Galboda and Watawala occurred on August 19th that same year. This is reported in railway records as "the most formidable known in the history of the railway. A whole side of a hill moved forward covering the line with debris 70 ft. high to a distance of 162 yards".

There were numerous slips in 1888 between Peradeniya and Nanu Oya and flood waters rose over the Geli Oya bridge to a height of six feet. The line between Peradeniya and Gampola was flooded on July 3, 1892, and as a result of an earth slip at Wangi Oya the Galboda Tunnel was blocked for three days. A serious rock slip occurred at Alagalla on September 1897, which interrupted through traffic for several months. This was cleared at a cost of Rs. 50,000 in January, 1898. Then on January 30, 1904, there was a subsidence of the embankment between Bandarawela and Diyatalawa. The Down express was derailed and seven wagons thrown down the incline and wrecked. Between Ohiya and Haputale, on October 6, 1905, the engine of a train fell into a ravine 50 ft. below killing the fireman and cleaner and injuring the driver.

The famous Fruithill accident occurred on October 27, 1906, when the 4.25 p.m. train from Nanu Oya was wrecked. The earth bank near Fruithill Estate had subsided and the train went over it. Ten were reported killed and several injured. On November 1, 1910, the line was completely breached and washed away at Veyangoda.

Coming to more recent times one records severe damage to the railway on the Northern Section when embankments were completely washed away due to severe floods. Two very serious accidents occurred between Maho and Ganewatte on January 15, 1923, and between Madawachchiya and Anuradhapura on January 25 as a result of night trains running into washaways. A number of passengers were killed. On March 24 that same year the up mail train was wrecked between Rambukkana and Kadugannawa when there was a head-on collision between the train and a run-away engine. The collision occurred in the Kadigamuwa tunnel. Two trains on the coast line collided head-on on the night of March 12, 1928, between Katukurunda and Kalutara South, killing 27 persons and injuring 38.

Severe floods in October 1947, resulted in several earthslips and was always in between Kandy and Nawalapitiya. The railway bridge at Peradeniya was washed away and took many months to replace, and last year, "as a result of widespread and heavy damage caused by floods, train services were brought practically to a standstill from December 25th. Of the 900 miles of railroads, only 160 miles of track were safe for traffic. The damage was of unprecedented magnitude. Cost of repairs to restore damaged railway property to pre-flood standards is estimated at over Rs. 25,000,000. Loss in earnings during that period was in the neighbourhood of Rs. 2,000,000. According to surveys made, a period of three years will be required to restore the track to its former condition.

Commencing with the first Director-General of Railway, Mr. G. L. Molesworth, there has been a long line of Europeans who controlled the destinies of the railway. Drivers, Foremen Plate-layers, Engineers and even Guards were European but today the railway is one hundred per cent Ceylonese in all its departments. The last European General Manager, Mr. T. E. Dutton, was succeeded by the first Ceylonese, Mr. M. Canagasabay, to hold that post and today Mr. B. D. Rampala is at the head and conducts its affairs.

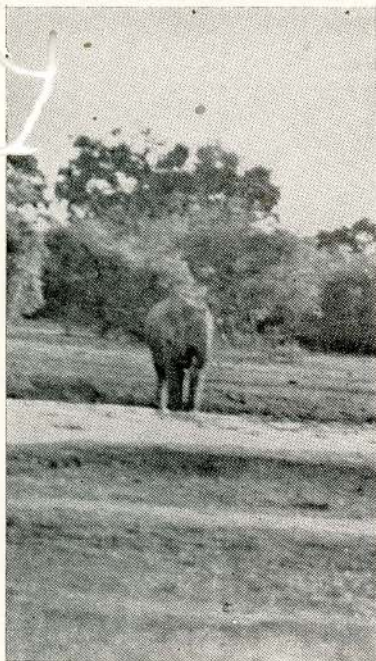
There are plans for the electrification of certain sections of the railway. There is a clamour for the restitution of the Puttalam line, closed some time ago, and there is also a demand for the extension to Hambantota. These are yet to come. Meanwhile the railway continues to maintain that degree of efficiency imbued over a period of one hundred years. A project originally intended to reach the heart of the coffee producing areas in the Central Hills has helped to change the outlook of those who lived in the hinterland and open up new vistas.

Ceylon owes its thanks to those pioneer planters and merchants who very cheerfully submitted to an Export Tax with the object of "providing additional means, in aid of the General Revenue, to pay the interest guaranteed to the Ceylon Railway Company, on the construction of a railway between Colombo and Kandy".

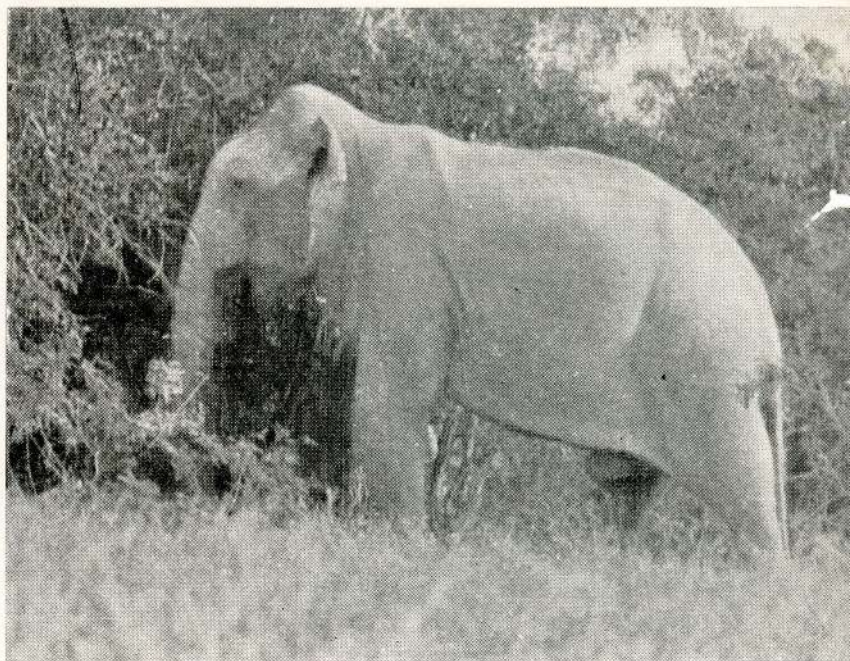
The struggle was weary and long. Many Governors came and went, each with his own views. Coffee was replaced by tea but the determination of the Planting Community to get their produce to Colombo in the quickest time, prevailed and Ceylon today has its railway.

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- "Observer", October 5, 1868
- Administration Reports* of G. M. R.



An elephant at the Ruhuna National Park



An elephant feeding among the scrubby bushes at the Ruhuna National Park

Ceylon's Wild Mammals

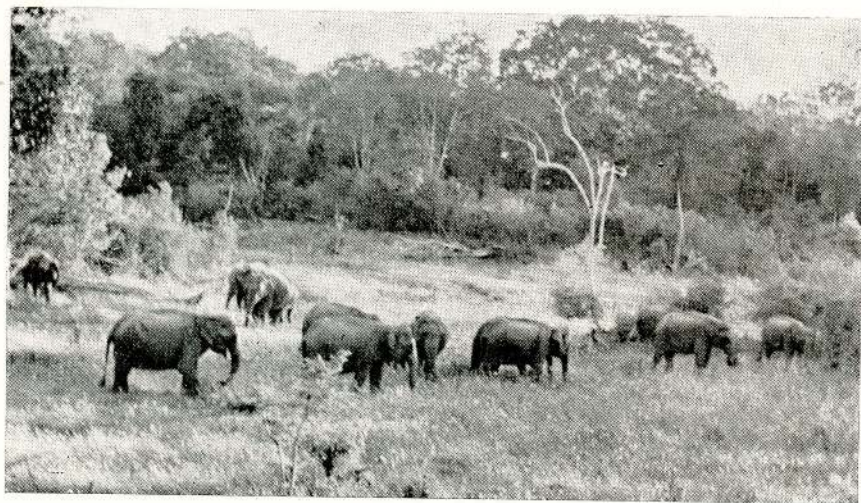
S. V. O. SOMANADER

CEYLON'S forests still abound in wild life. I use the word "still" decidedly, for, in spite of the fact that our jungle animals have thinned considerably owing to illicit shooting, wanton slaughter, the clearing of jungle for road-making, agriculture and industry, animal plagues like rinderpest, drought and so forth, there are yet areas not excluding our (more than one) "national parks", sanctuaries, reserves, and "intermediate zones" where wild animals exist in abundance—thanks to the awakening of the Ceylon Government, backed by the efforts of the Ceylon Wild Life Protection Society.

And yet what a pity it is that only a very few people feel the lure of the jungle, and know even the names of the animals which live there! I know of fairly educated folk who think that our Ceylon forests are the home of tigers and foxes, among other foreign beasts, when they really mean leopards (panthers) and jackals. And in a general knowledge paper at a certain school, the lion

was once mentioned in a list of five of Ceylon's wild mammals. All this is because people do not visit the jungle, and are not interested, as much as in other things, in its fascinating lore. It is for such that I write this article, and I shall confine myself to the larger wild mammals of our beautiful Island.

Our largest wild mammal is, of course, the elephant. He is the monarch of our wilds (just as the lion is "the king of beasts" elsewhere), and you see him browsing in our jungle plains, either alone or generally in small herds of a dozen to twenty or more. Although they move about quite a good deal during the rainy season, the best time to see them is during the dry season, when, in our irrigation tanks and water-holes, they congregate to drink—and also to indulge in aquatic sports, which include splashing water and mud on one another. Baby elephants, too, are often present in this happy family party, and join in the game. And what a joy it is to watch the mother showing great devotion to



◀ A herd of wild elephants in the Gal-Oya forest

▼ "Mr. Spots", a notorious cattle-lifer brought to book



◀ A wild buffalo (at Yala) looking furiously from the scrub jungle

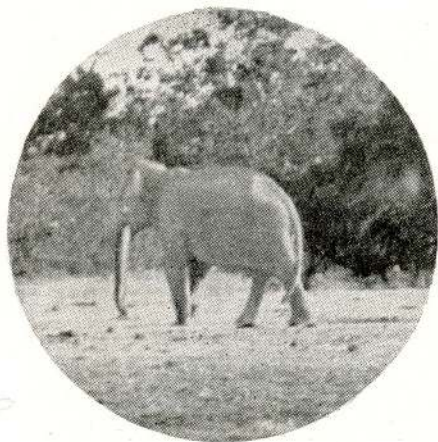
▼ Wild elephant roaming along one of the jungle-girt plains of the Ruhuna National Park

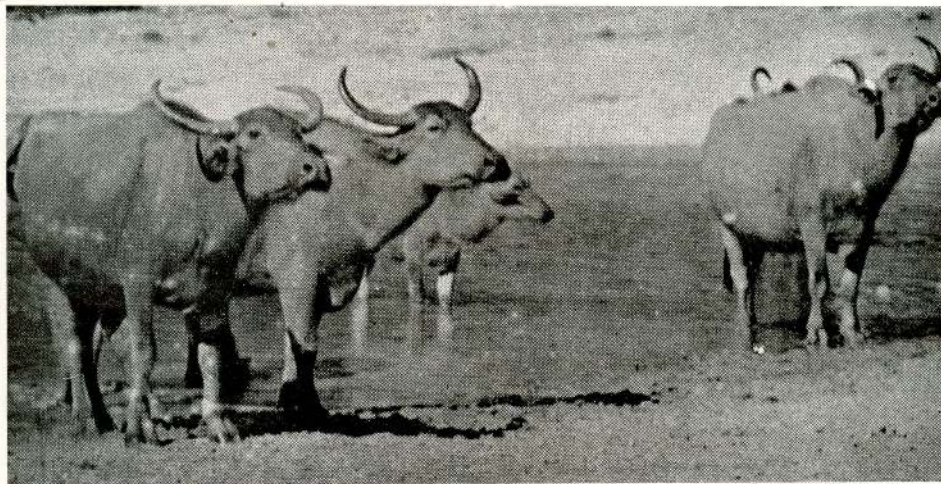


her young calf, and the latter, in turn, reciprocating her love! Such sights are worth going miles to see.

Wild Buffalo

THEN there are the wild buffaloes, often only semi-wild in most of the jungles of the low-country, unlike the really wild ones to be found in the remotest and least accessible districts as in the "parks" and sanctuaries. They, too, are found in herds of a dozen or more, with an old female as leader. For the old bulls, except during mating time, are usually solitary wanderers living by themselves. Unless wounded, they are generally





◀ Wild buffaloes which have been lying in the waters of a pool, get up to look inquiringly at the camera

inoffensive animals—despite that wild stare, which is all bovine bluff. But dangerous animals they can be, for, if molested or suddenly alarmed, they will charge furiously, raising the dust, and not minding anything in their path. If the wind is favourable—for the sense of smell of these beasts is very keen—you can however, watch them at close quarters; for instance from behind a bush, especially when they are lying submerged quietly in a swampy pool, with only their nostrils, parts of the head, and the crescentic horns exposed above the surface.

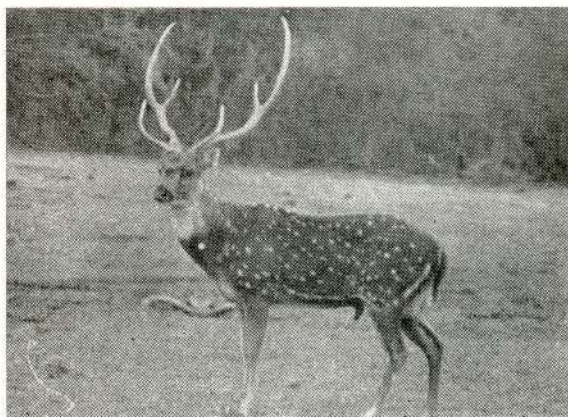
If you are lucky, you may also see abroad in daylight “Mr. and Mrs. Spots”, who are usually nocturnal in their wanderings. These leopards take heavy toll of our other wild animals like the deer, generally preferring a large stag on which they feed chiefly late in the evening. And in hunting their prey, what jungle tragedies are enacted in the dark silence of the forest! Spend a wakeful night at a remote Irrigation circuit-bungalow, and you will see (if you have a powerful torch) the leopard attacking a full-grown stag; or hear the agonising squeals of a wild boar which “Mr. Spots” has caught.

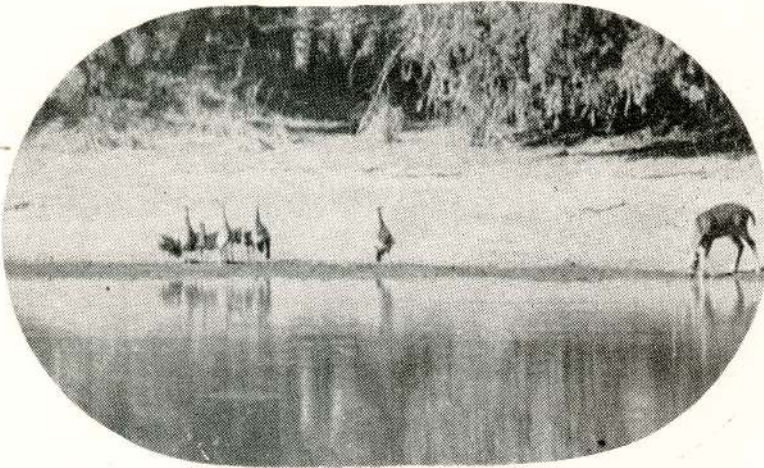
Among the four species of deer found in our forests, the spotted deer is perhaps the best known. It is a most attractive animal, the



▲ A bear on the rocks

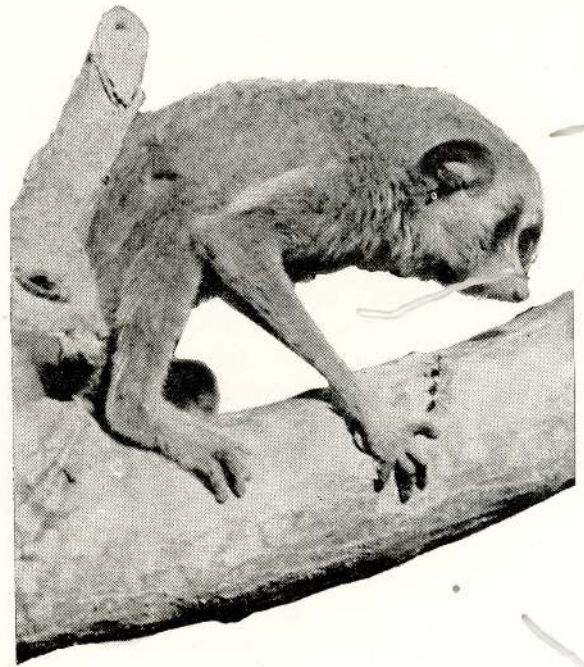
▼ A full-grown spotted deer with its majestic antlers (at the Ruhuna National Park)





◀ Spotted deer come to drink in a pool at Ruhuna National Park. Note the peafowls in the centre

▼ The Loris (nocturnal monkey) moving along a branch



Left, centre—A baby Giant-Squirrel having an afternoon siesta on a sloping trunk



◀ A wild boar returning to the jungle after a drink in a muddy stream

stag, especially, looking graceful with its lyre shaped antlers. Often a pair may be seen having a quiet noon-day drink in a pond or tank. Sometimes, you may come across herds, with a large number of hinds and fawns, of various sizes and ages, following. What a magnificent sight to see several dozens of them together, feeding or roaming in our open



The Langur Monkey (black-furred). Note its long tail

"park" country, and in the remote sylvan glades! In spite of their fleet-footedness and highly-developed sense of smell, they often fall a prey, not only to the leopards, but to other creatures like the python, the crocodile and the jackal (which kills fawns)—not to mention man, the great destroyer.

Then, there is the sambhur (mistakenly called the elk in Ceylon), which though more nocturnal in habit, has less of the herd-spirit of the spotted-deer. A solitary stag, looking up excitedly at you with its beautiful horns, looks majestic—and it is a sight which never fails to raise a thrill. Though it is fond of wallowing in pools and coating itself with mud, it may be seen—sometimes in small companies—among the sand-dunes

and beaches of unfrequented sea-coast bordered by thick jungle. It is a pleasure, or rather a luxury, to watch it drinking the semi-stagnant water of a jungle pool; and, if the water-holes and streams are dried up, digging for water in the sandy or clayey bed with the hoofs of its forefeet. Being tenacious of life, it will use all its cunning to elude the pursuer by throwing him off the trail, and fight to the last when wounded, hunted, or pressed, resorting to a stream or pond, when exhausted, to fight the better when brought to bay.

Wild Boar

MORE easy to see than the wild denizens already mentioned is the wild boar. In large sounders, these prolific animals roam the low-country jungles, feeding, drinking, grunting and wallowing the water-holes and swamps. This they do, not only because they are great lovers of water, but because they are fond of coating their bodies with mud, presumably (as also elephants, buffaloes and sambhur do) to keep off flies, ticks, and other insects which irritate them. Silent watching from a tree or tank-bund at early dawn, or during a moonlit night, will often reveal a happy family of them of both sexes, and comprising all sizes and ages. Sometimes, the "rivals" among the

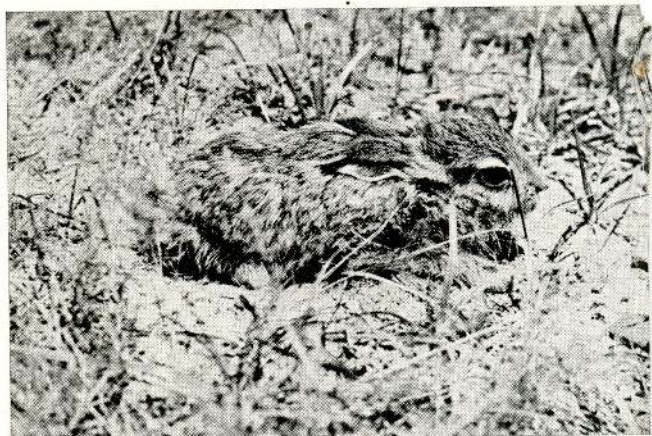
Toque monkeys (brown-faced) roaming among fallen leaves for food



males fight with one another, and it is interesting to watch a duel between two boars, each trying to have the better of the other, with forefeet upraised, and biting and grunting the while. The baby boar, by the way, is, curiously enough, striped longitudinally—unlike the parents.

Of bears, Ceylon's dry-zone forests hold a good number. But woe unto you, if, unarmed, you come across "Mr. Bruin" who is always in a bad temper. If, however, you have the good fortune to watch him, unseen, from a respectable distance—say, with a pair of binoculars—you may catch him digging for termites in ant-hills, or making a raid on a bee-hive for honey and grub, or occupying a "palu" tree, on the fruits of which it feeds. Large rock-caves in the forest house these bears, which also rear their cubs within them. That is why the cautious jungle-wallah thinks twice before he scales a large boulder with deep, dark cracks in it. And there are instances of men who have suffered much, if not been killed, by terrible encounters with these vicious and quarrelsome beasts—which will not only sweep you to the ground with the force of the rush, but attempt to maul, bite and scratch you. But this does not lessen the joys of the jungle; on the other hand, it adds to the thrill of it.

Among the smaller mammals are the jackals which hunt in packs, the hares which

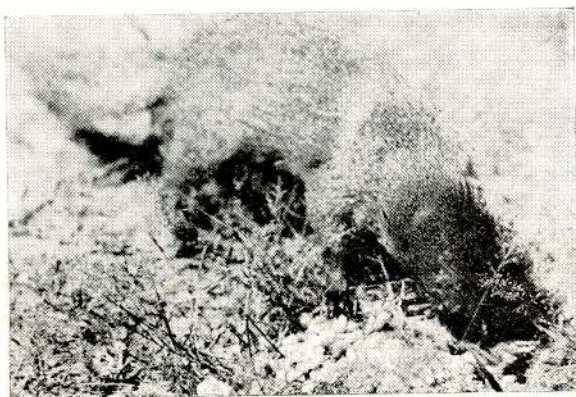


A young hare emerging from its "form" or burrow



A Sambhur deer

A mongoose feeding in a sylvan shade



communicate danger to their fellows by beating their hindlegs, the monkeys chattering in the branches, the giant squirrels "cackling" among the boughs and playing a sort of "hide and seek", and other animals like the mongooses, lorises, porcupines, mouse-deer (chevrotains), wild cats, rats and shrews, fruitbats ("flying-foxes") and bandicoots, not to mention the pangolin (which not only flexes its tail and neck to roll itself into a ball when in danger, but carries its baby on its tail to which it hangs on tight)—all of which enliven the forests of Ceylon, but cannot be treated severally in this article, owing to reasons of space.



▲ A pair of sambhur deer resting in the shade during a hot afternoon



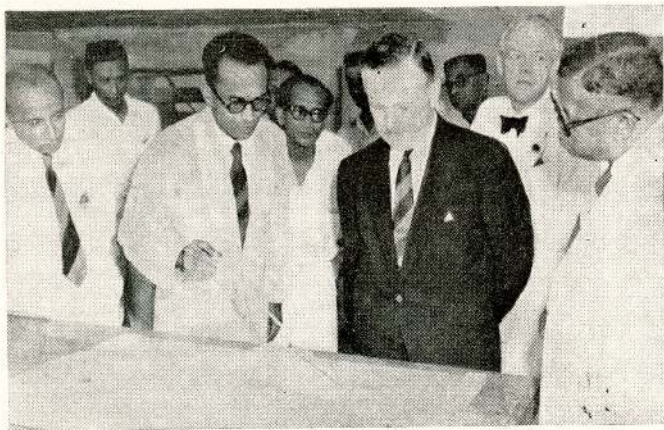
◀ Flying Foxes (Fruit bats) hanging upside down from the top of tree branches.

Before closing, however, I wish to say this, as a nature-lover, to all non-nature-lovers. You may find delight in attending horse-races and sports meets, visiting cinema halls or the ruined cities, and doing other similar things. But the jungle has joys of its own. And you cannot consider that your enjoyment of life is completely without a visit to the forest country, where communing with wild life lends an unparalleled charm, which in turn, has a great bearing upon the grand phenomena of life. That is my considered view after years of direct contact with Nature, her ways and her moods. But, of course, I quite realise that opinions differ—and tastes vary.

(Photographs by Mr. Gorton Coombe and the Author)

In Pictures . . .

▶ A casket containing Buddhist relics from Taxila was handed over by the High Commissioner of Pakistan in Ceylon to be installed at the Buddha Jayanti Chaitiya. Picture shows the handing-over ceremony



◀ The Canadian Minister of Finance Mr. Donald Fleming and Mrs. Fleming were in Ceylon from 24th to 27th October. One of the places Mr. Fleming visited was the Junior Technical School at Katubedde which is under construction with the aid of funds received from Canada under the Colombo Plan



◀ The Government of Japan has under the Colombo Plan gifted two mechanised fishing boats to Ceylon. The two boats were handed over to the Minister of Industries and Fisheries, Mr. P. H. W. de Silva at a ceremony last month by the Japanese Ambassador in Ceylon, Mr. Akira Matsui

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