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JULY, 1962

CEYLON TODAY

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State Opening of Parliament

DRESSED in a simple white national dress, in contrast to the ceremonial uniforms of the Colonial days worn by his predecessors, the Governor-General, Mr. William Gopallawa opened the Third Session of the Fifth Parliament of Ceylon at 9.30 a.m. on July 11th at the House of Representatives.

His Excellency delivered the Speech from the Throne in Sinhala. It was later read in Tamil by Mr. K. Alvapillai, Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Commerce, Trade, Food and Shipping, and in English by Mr. D. G. L. Misso, Additional Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture, Land, Irrigation and Power.

The Governor-General who arrived from Queen's House escorted by Mounted Police inspected a guard-of-honour of the Royal Ceylon Air Force. A 21-gun salute was fired by the Artillery Corps of the Ceylon Army.

The Clerk to the House of Representatives and the Clerk to the Senate who met Mr. Gopallawa at the entrance to the House of Representatives were greeted in oriental fashion with clasped hands. Boy Scouts and Girl Guides who had lined the steps saluted him as he walked up to the Assembly Hall.

As the Governor-General entered the Hall three loud blasts of the conch shell greeted him. "Jayamangala Gathas" were sung by school girls as Mr. and Mrs. Gopallawa mounted the dais from where he delivered the Speech. Also on the dais was the Private Secretary to the Governor-General, Mrs. Iranganie Ratwatte and the Lady-in-waiting to Mrs. Gopallawa, Mrs. W. Molligoda.

The Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike who was seated in front of the dais with Cabinet Ministers, Members of Parliament and Senators handed over the Throne Speech to the accompaniment of "Magul Bera".

The following is the full text of the speech from the Throne :—

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

The victory of the people in achieving a peaceful transformation towards a socialist society, which commenced under the leadership of the late Prime Minister, Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, must be vigilantly safeguarded and protected against inroads and



The Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, handing over the Throne Speech to the Governor-General, Mr. William Gopallawa

attacks calculated to deny to the people the fruits of that victory. The bitter lesson to be learned from the assassination of Mr. Bandaranaike and from the more recent coup conspiracy during the last Session of Parliament is that there is no room for complacency, and that My Government and My People must be watchful and alert to withstand reaction, in whatever form it may manifest itself, against the onward march of progress and democratic socialism in our country. The paramount duty of My Government during the forthcoming year must be to consolidate and further the victory of the people, so that they may without hindrance forge ahead to new horizons

along the middle path to socialism mapped out by the late Mr. Bandaranaike.

My Government will maintain peace, law and order for the benefit and progress of the people.

My Government's policy of non-alignment and neutralism is receiving wide recognition abroad. My Government's relations with other countries continue to be friendly. Diplomatic relations have been established with several other countries during the last Session.

Diplomatic Missions abroad will be instructed to take all necessary steps to further our trade and to develop tourism in this country.

Talks have been initiated at an official level for the settlement of the question of persons of Indian descent resident in Ceylon and will be continued during this Session between the Prime Minister of India and My Prime Minister.

Constitutional reforms to establish a Republican form of Government will be considered by a Select Committee of both Houses of Parliament.

My Government is having under close examination the implications to the trade of this country of the entry of the United Kingdom into the European Common Market.

A number of new Trade and Payments Agreements with other countries were entered into during the last Session.

Reorganisation

DURING this Session the Armed Services will be re-organised, the Civil Service will be abolished and a Unified Administrative Service established. New Administrative and Financial Regulations will be introduced shortly.

Although the international prices of rubber and coconut products have continued to fall, the efforts taken by My Government to increase production and exports and reduce imports have succeeded in reducing considerably the deficit on merchandise account. My Government has been obliged to keep import policy under continuous review.

The import control policy of My Government, although it has caused some inconvenience to the public, has greatly encouraged the establishment of new industries for the manufacture of consumer goods and considerably increased the output of existing industrial projects. Up to the end of June, 1962, one hundred and thirteen applications for the establishment

of industrial projects have been approved and a sum of over sixty million rupees is expected to be invested on these projects by the private sector during the next two years.

Steps will be taken for the elimination of the waste and misapplication of public funds by Government Departments and Public Corporations. You will be asked to consider a measure entitled the Public Property (Summary Disposal of Offences) Bill.

Measures will be taken in order that there might be greater co-operation between the Government and Government Service Trade Unions.

Consistent with the broad objectives of the Ten Year Plan, a short term programme of economic development to be carried out over a period of three years will be placed before you in the near future for consideration.

The problems relating to the revenue of Local Authorities will be reviewed. The Housing programme will be further accelerated.

It is proposed to place before you a new Rating and Valuations Bill which will enable properties in areas of Local Authorities to be assessed on a uniform and scientific basis and in which provision will be included for a graded system of taxation and for the compulsory revision of assessments every five years.

Education

CHANGES in education matters are awaiting the receipt of the Final Reports of the Commission on National Education and the Commission on Technical Education. A Commission to investigate the working of the three Universities is being appointed.

To meet the dearth of Engineers, a higher course of Technology will be established at

the Ceylon Technical College. The buildings necessary for the Second Medical School at Peradeniya are in course of construction.

It is proposed to enhance the jurisdiction of Courts of Requests.

The Commission to investigate the political aspects of the assassination of the late Prime Minister Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike will start functioning very shortly.

You will be asked to consider Bills for the Amendment of the Partition Act and the Mortgage Act.

MR. SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the forthcoming Financial Year will be laid before you.

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

A Bill will be placed before you to amend and consolidate the law relating to marriages and matrimonial causes and to repeal the Marriage Registration Ordinance. Bills will also be submitted for the establishment of a Standards Bureau, for the regulation of industries, and for the amendment of the law relating to the manufacture of matches.

A vigorous policy of implementation of the Official Language Act will be adopted in Public Administration and in the Courts of Law.

The Co-operative movement which has been entrusted by My Government with additional responsibilities in the last two years will further expand its activities. My Government hopes that the services of selfless co-operative leaders will be forthcoming to guide the movement in its new

tasks. It is proposed to consolidate the law relating to co-operative societies.

My Government will make the Bank of Ceylon, the People's Bank and the Insurance Corporation instruments of even greater service to the people. The Petroleum Corporation has commenced business. My Government intends to set up a Shipping Corporation at an early date to enter the business of the carriage of goods by sea.

The Port of Colombo will be further developed and careful consideration is being given to the report furnished by a firm of consultants on the proposed development. The minor development scheme for the Port of Galle is progressing satisfactorily. Steps have been taken to develop Kankesanturai as a harbour.

My Government will continue to provide the Nation with additional and better medical facilities. The death rate in the country was the lowest in South-East Asia during the past year.

Ayurveda has been given a special status and recognition by the new Ayurveda Act which will be brought into operation shortly. A Research Institute on Ayurveda will soon be opened at Navinna. Work will proceed on the establishment of an Ayurvedic Drugs Factory.

The Katunayake Aerodrome is being expanded to provide facilities for the landing of modern jet aircraft. Work has commenced with foreign aid and will be continued.

To relieve the congestion in the Postal and Telecommunication Services in the City of Colombo work on the construction of a new Central Telegraph Office, and a Mails Sorting Office is in progress.

The railway line to Puttalam is being re-laid and will be extended to Arukalu to

serve the second cement factory, work on which will commence shortly.

To cover Island

THE Paddy Lands Act will be extended to cover all the districts in the Island. The Act will be amended to make it an effective instrument towards the increased production of paddy and to safeguard the interest of tenant cultivators. The Crop Insurance Scheme will be made more effective. The system of agricultural credit will be revised so as to provide a liberal expansion of credit to farmers. Greater emphasis will be laid on the improvement and restoration of minor irrigation works.

A Condensed Milk Factory and a Spray Drying Plant to convert surplus milk into full cream powdered milk will be set up. These measures will save valuable foreign exchange now being spent on imported milk.

The State Plantations Corporation which will shortly have its first one thousand acre plantation will undertake work on three new plantations of similar size next year as well as the rehabilitation of acquired estates. Two tea factories for the benefit of colonists under highland schemes are under construction and work on a third will commence shortly.

A factory for the manufacture of instant tea is being built in collaboration with private enterprise and will come into production during this Session.

The Re-Afforestation Programme will be accelerated with a view to setting up a forest industry. It is proposed to undertake a survey of our forest resources with the aid of the United Nations Technical Assistance Programme.

A Fisheries Training School for the training of local fishermen in modern techniques has been established at Negombo. A new Fisheries Harbour is under construction in

Galle and improvements are being effected to the Mutwal Fisheries harbour to cope with the increased number of trawlers which will shortly be purchased. It is proposed to organise the deep sea fishing industry.

Work on Stage IIB of the Laxapana-Hydro-Electric Scheme scheduled for completion in 1964 has reached an advanced stage and arrangements are now in hand for undertaking the first stage of the Maskeliya Valley Project. The completion of this scheme will provide the people with the additional power required by them for domestic and industrial purposes.

The Electricity Bill which lapsed on the Prorogation of Parliament will be re-introduced in a revised form in which will be included satisfactory guarantees of the rights and conditions of service of public servants of the Electrical Department who are transferred to the proposed Electricity Board.

My Government proposes, at an early date, to consider a comprehensive reform of excise policy and procedure, including measures to combat the menace of the illicit distillation of deleterious alcoholic drinks.

Negotiations have been completed for obtaining additional machinery for expanding the textile industry.

A Small Industries Services Institute to provide technical assistance to personnel in small scale industries is being set up with assistance from the United Nations Special Fund.

An Advisory Committee has been set up to keep under constant review the implementation of the report of the Kandyan Peasantry Commission.

Negotiations have been completed for the purchase of a fourth Sizing Plant, forty-eight powerloom and one powerloom work shop. It is expected that installations will be

completed in the Year 1962/63. Additional machinery for a textile finishing plant at Velona is to be installed shortly.

Industrial Estate

A RURAL industrial estate will be established at Nattarampota in the Kandy District. The Ceramic Corporation is meeting one-third of Ceylons requirements. A Kaolin factory will soon come into production at Boralesgamuwa. Plans are ready for the establishment during the next financial year of a second ceramic factory at Boralesgamuwa. Provision has been made for the establishment of a Hardware and Small Tools manufacturing plant with foreign aid.

Project reports in respect of the establishment of a flour mill, silicate brick factory, ship-building yard, and a glue factory are being considered by the Development Division. Investigations are proceeding on the possibilities of setting up a Chemical Industry based on petroleum by-products. World-wide tenders will be called for the establishment of a Fertilizer Factory for the production of ammonium sulphate. Progress is being made in the establishment of a petroleum refinery.

Five Tile Factories are in course of construction and work on five other factories will commence in the new Financial Year.

The production of paper at Valaichenai has been doubled. Proposals are being con-

sidered for the manufacture of paper-board and newsprint.

A Bill to amend and consolidate the taxation laws, a Bill to consolidate all Government Credit Institutions, and a Bill to prevent Press monopolies will be submitted for your approval.

You will also be asked to consider some of the Bills which lapsed on the Prorogation of Parliament, a Bill for the establishment of a National Sports Council and a Bill relating to Public Corporations.

These various detailed measures are designed to give practical form and substance to the hopes and aspirations of our people, to build for themselves and for future generations, a nation worthy of the name. There are only three keys that will open the doorway to national prosperity, they are hard work, honesty, and sacrifice. I appeal to all citizens to co-operate with My Government wholeheartedly in the cause of national economic development, so as to reap the fruits of democratic socialism, now and in the years to come.

My Government acknowledges with gratitude the technical and financial assistance which it has received from Commonwealth and Foreign countries during the last Session.

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

An Year's Progress in Education

THE most significant change in educational administration was the decentralization of Administration in October, 1961. Most of the administrative functions, either in regard to General Administration, Finance, Establishment or Educational work, which were once the reserve of the Education Department Head Office, were decentralized, and 23 Regional Education Offices, 10 of them under Assistant Directors of Education, and the others under Education Officers, were established. The administration of Education in remote areas is now directly the function of Education Officers whose educational districts comprise 400 to 600 schools.

As a preliminary to decentralization, a Conference of the officers of the Education Directorate and Senior officers of the Education Inspectorate was held in April, 1961, in order to gear administration to changed

and changing conditions of the country. This Conference discussed three aspects of education—the administrative set-up, educational services and research—and submitted a valuable report.

In pursuance of the policy of establishing a unified system of national education, the Assisted Denominational Schools that were brought under the management of the Director of Education in 1960, are gradually being vested in the Crown. In the year under review, 554 such schools were vested and action is being taken in regard to the others. Since all schools now come under a single management, a programme was initiated to provide a co-ordinated scheme of educational facilities in each educational zone and to cut down duplication and waste. This work is now being continued.

Expenditure on Education

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

			1960		1961		Increase %
			<i>Rs. c.</i>		<i>Rs. c.</i>		
Administration	..	..	5,056,636 50	..	5,549,486 0	..	+ 9.75
Inspection	..	..	2,428,327 56	..	2,774,743 0	..	+ 14.27
Primary and Secondary Education							
Government Schools	..	..	119,046,314 43	..	127,825,682 0	..	+ 7.37
Assisted Schools	..	..	108,328,993 7	..	101,991,841 0	..	- 5.85 ¹
Training of Teachers—							
Government	..	..	10,469,382 40	..	9,782,494 0	..	- 6.56 ²
Assisted	..	..	464,815 29	..	608,829 0	..	+ 30.98
Adult Education	..	..	58,832 35	..	67,000 0	..	+ 13.88
Technical Education	..	..	134,828 35	..	210,000 0	..	+ 55.75
Capital Expenditure	..	..	20,132,917 35	..	13,145,449 0	..	- 34.71 ³
Mid-day Meal	..	..	10,733,044 17	..	11,287,500 0	..	+ 5.17
Other Expenditure	..	..	8,024,926 71	..	15,843,125 0	..	+ 97.42
			284,879,018 18		289,086,149 0		+ 1.48
			<i>1960</i>		<i>1961</i>		<i>Increase %</i>
			<i>Rs. c.</i>		<i>Rs. c.</i>		
Technical College Department	..	..	1,688,619 0	..	2,290,230 0	..	+ 35.6

1. Negative increase is due to non-registration of new Assisted Schools in accordance with the new policy.
2. Negative increase is due to admission to Training Colleges of Uncertificated Teachers whose emoluments are lower than those of the majority admitted earlier.
3. Negative increase is due to the implementation of building programmes being slowed down owing to factors beyond the control of the Department.

School Buildings

THE school building programme continued to make good progress. 524 school build-

		1960	1961	Increase	Percentage
Primary	..	1,640,235	1,661,846	21,611	1.32
Secondary	..	590,861	656,500	65,639	11.11
		<u>2,231,096</u>	<u>2,318,346</u>	<u>87,250</u>	<u>3.91</u>

The number of schools in the Island increased from 8,049 in 1960 to 8,247 in 1961 to cope with the growth in the school-going population. The total number of teachers in schools showed an increase of 3,362, i.e., 4.7 per cent as against an increase of 3,564, i.e., 5.2 per cent the previous year.

Curricula, Syllabuses, Methods

Science.—The expansion in this field necessitated the recruitment of a number of new Inspectors. Their training has been carried out through Workshops, Seminars and Conferences organized with the assistance of the UNESCO Advisors. In order that high standards of teaching could be ensured a residential course for Science teachers together with a programme for designing detailed schemes of studies in Science subjects was initiated.

Handicrafts.—The long-felt need for trained personnel in handling education in

ings, 43 teachers' quarters, 28 science laboratories, 10 workshops, 17 playgrounds, 12 hostels, 24 wells, 139 latrines and 22 agricultural units were constructed during the year. Nine schools were provided with pipe-borne water supplies. In addition to these, the Parent-Teacher Associations, Past Pupils' Associations, Rural Development Societies and individual benefactors have generously gifted buildings and equipment.

Quantitative Development

THE number of children in schools rose from 2,231,096 in 1960 to 2,318,346—an increase of 87,250 or 3.91 per cent. The following table shows the increase in enrolment at the primary and secondary levels:—

this sphere, was met to some extent by the appointment of more teachers with specialized training to schools. Inspectors of schools who had specialised in wood and metal work and arts and crafts were also appointed. The techniques of teaching too have undergone a change with the introduction of new revised projects for all types of handicrafts.

Agriculture.—A further step in Agricultural Science teaching was marked with the appointment to selected schools of the first batch of specialist teachers trained in Agriculture. Their work will be assessed as an experimental programme under the guidance of the UNESCO Consultant.

Technical College Department

IN addition to the Junior Technical Schools functioning at present in Galle, Kandy and Jaffna, work is afoot to expedite the establishment of the proposed technical school at

Badulla. As a result, an increase in the total expenditure this year over that of last year reflects the demand for an expanded programme of technical education.

English as a Second Language

THE year under review saw an important development in the teacher-training programme. In addition to the greater number of Specialist Teachers trained at the two Specialist Training Colleges for teaching English at the post-primary level, courses in English methodology were introduced at the 22 non-Specialist Training Colleges to cover the teaching in the first three years of English. This measure is expected to meet the need for an adequate supply of Trained Teachers at the primary level.

An attempt was also made to acquaint the Untrained Teachers of English with new and advanced methods of teaching the subject, through two types of courses. At the In-service Training Courses for urban teachers, the same programme as is undertaken in the Training Colleges was followed at 3-hour weekly classes throughout one year. For the benefit of English Teachers in rural areas, voluntary training groups on a circuit basis continued their informal training of teachers, started last year.

At a more advanced level, a residential vacation course in the teaching of English was held in collaboration with the British Council. This course was intended for lecturers of Training Colleges and served as a follow-up of the course held in 1960.

With a view to reorganise the content of English teaching in Ceylon draft syllabuses had been prepared for all classes. Many reports which were received during the course of the year on these syllabuses were found to be helpful.

Two lecturers at Training Colleges left for the U. K. for training in teaching English as

a Second Language while five others returned to their posts after a course of training at the University of Sydney. Two teachers returned from England after obtaining their Diploma in the teaching of English as a Second Language. The British Council, the Asia Foundation and the United States Embassy continued to provide books and other material for distribution, while UNESCO continued to provide a full-time Advisor to the Department.

The Training of Teachers

THE training of teachers continued to receive high priority in 1961. Of the 12 Assisted Training Colleges functioning under the management of the Director of Education six were vested in the crown and two taken over by the Department of Education. During 1961, 5,052 teachers were under training representing an increase of 142 over the number in the previous year, and it is noteworthy that all these trainees were on full pay study leave. Of these, the number of Specialist Teachers in English, Science, Mathematics, Handicrafts, Commerce and Agriculture was 112 more than the number in 1960. With the inauguration of the compulsory National Service Programme in Schools, it is gratifying to note that the Training Colleges have taken the initiative in voluntarily participating in various work camps designed for rural upliftment.

Health and Physical Education

WHILE the normal In-service Training Courses for teachers and Inspecting Officers continued to be held during the school vacation, Inspecting Officers met this year at a special two weeks' Seminar to draft the post-primary syllabuses in Physical Education for boys and girls. These syllabuses have been sent out to various leaders in the educational field for their comments before

a final copy is sent out to the schools. Meanwhile a unified syllabus of work in Health Education for Teacher Training Colleges has now been put into effect.

Audio-Visual Education

A NEW feature in the use of the radio for educational purposes was introduced by the Monthly Special Rural Programme for which Adult Education Centres were responsible. Steps taken this year in promoting Visual Education included islandwide tours by the twelve Mobile Cinema Units of the Department and commencement of the task of compiling a catalogue of films for distribution among schools. This section received a further impetus by the gifts from foreign agencies under the Colombo Plan Aid from Canada and the five 16 mm. projectors and 213 films obtained through U. S. A. Aid.

Special Subjects

THE expansion of the programme in Commercial Education, made necessary by the increased demand, was effected with the appointment of an unprecedented number of 200 qualified Commerce Teachers. Commercial subjects have been added to the curricula offered by over 80 schools. The training programme kept pace with this progress and the first batch of Commerce Teachers who had undergone pedagogical training assumed duties as teachers in charge of Commerce subjects in Central and Senior Schools. Three short In-service Training Schemes were also initiated for Untrained Commerce Teachers.

Art.—Emphasis was placed this year on strengthening what has been achieved and reaching out to wider frontiers. Thus provision was made for Weekly Art Classes for teachers conducted by the Inspectors of Art with the help of teachers who have had training earlier. Appreciation of Art was

more and more evident with the inauguration of Art Clubs and an Art Library. The exhibition of Child Art proved to be very popular.

Music.—An increase in the number of schools commencing this aspect of work as a regular curricular activity has been the cause of the increase in the number of pupils learning instrumental music, the special interest taken in Eurhythmics training, organisation of school bands and orchestras, school choirs and musical competitions. A great impetus to music education was given by the Ceylon German Association which donated valuable musical instruments and prizes.

In order to meet the long-felt need of introducing indigenous music as a systematic form of education, this aspect of the subject was incorporated into the school curriculum from 1961. Revised syllabuses giving a prominent place to folk music and dancing are now in use. The re-orientation of music teachers required by this change was undertaken at a Refresher Course. On the other hand, opportunity for expansion was afforded by two islandwide competitions, one of them under the auspices of UNESCO held during the year.

Adult Education

A NEW impetus to action was created this year by a residential In-service Training Course for adult education workers and as a result, there was an increased demand for registration of new Adult Classes in hitherto untapped areas. Another feature worthy of note was adult participation in the schools voluntary work camp movement for rural upliftment.

Vocational Guidance

CONSEQUENT upon the demand for knowledge and training in this relatively new sphere, and in addition to the Training

Courses for Teacher-Counsellors, class-room teachers and Heads of Schools, it was found expedient to arrange an Advanced Course in Vocational Guidance and Employment Counselling for personnel in other Government Departments, the private sector, for lecturers of Teacher Training Colleges and Principals of Schools. Moreover, a concentrated attempt was also made to bring out as many publications as possible on this subject and several occupational information pamphlets, ten occupational monographs, the Sinhala translation of Principles and Techniques of Vocational Guidance by Myers and the English edition of Vocational Guidance in Ceylon Schools were published. The training of all class-room teachers in the country in the maintenance and use of cumulative records was completed during the year. An Inter-Departmental Committee was set up to compile a standard classification of occupations in Ceylon. The work which is based on the International Standard Classification of Occupations is nearing completion. The testing programme was stepped up with the administration of a verbal intelligence

test in Tamil to a selected sample of children for purposes of standardisation, while preliminary training in the administration of the Non-Verbal Intelligence Test was given to all Inspecting Officers.

A Multilith machine and an Addressograph machine donated to the Education Department by the Asia Foundation this year would be of much value in dissemination of Vocational Guidance information.

Auxiliary Services

THE P. T. A. Movement was reorganized by the formation of Conferences composed of representatives at Circuit and Provincial levels. This step was taken with a view to facilitate co-ordination and the exchange of views on mutual problems.

National service in the schools on the basis of self-help to the community was inaugurated on 1st December, 1961. In addition to the individual projects in schools, training of work camp leaders was also undertaken.

A Census of Agriculture

DALTON DE SILVA

A CENSUS of agriculture was held in Ceylon starting on 1st July, 1962, and it lasted three weeks.

The census will show what progress the country has made in the field of agriculture since the last census was held in 1952, and it will enable the Government to draw up plans for the further development of agriculture.

An army of 4,000 enumerators conducted the census carrying with them schedules on which answers to about 20 questions were entered. When these answers are tabulated and analysed they are expected to reveal, among others, the following information:—

The extent of land now under agriculture in the country, the different uses to which these agricultural lands are put and the extent under each type of use ;

The number of persons occupied full-time in agriculture, the number of part-time helpers and the number leaving agriculture for other occupations ;

The average size of an agricultural holding, how many different pieces of land form the average holding and the kind of crops that are grown ;

The different terms and conditions under which tenants hold agricultural land ;

The readiness with which improved agricultural practices are adopted by cultivators ;

The number of livestock and poultry in the country.

The basis of the census was the "Agricultural holding" of a person, that is all lands directly cultivated by a person whatever the cultivation is and wherever

the lands may be, were treated as forming a single group. In the case of estates and holdings which are not less than 50 acres in extent, information was collected in respect of every such holding. But in cases of holdings which are less than 50 acres, information was collected only from a ten per cent sample carefully selected.

Facts about Estates

ON this basis information was gathered from about 1,700 estates registered for food control purposes, 4,000 other estates and holdings 50 acres or more in extent, and from about 140,000 small holdings. This was not a census to ascertain ownership. Information was collected from those who actually cultivated the land irrespective of whether they were owners or not.

The information from the 1,700 estates registered for food control purposes was collected by the Census office directly by post while the information in regard to the other estates and small holdings was obtained through the 4,000 enumerators.

The work of the enumerators was supervised by about 450 supervisors who were in turn responsible to 150 Chief Supervisors. These Chief Supervisors worked under the direction of Government Agents, Mayors and Chairmen of Urban Councils.

Past experience had shown that many people were reluctant to answer some questions asked during a census. These persons feared that the information given by them would be used for the collection of income tax and other similar purposes.

The authorities assured the people that nobody need have any fears on that score.

All information collected during the census is strictly confidential and under the Census Ordinance cannot be divulged to any person—not even to the Department of Inland Revenue which collects the taxes.

All officers concerned with the census were sworn to secrecy and they were given strict instructions not to show the schedules when filled to any unauthorised person or retain copies of them.

While the enumerators had certain rights laid down in the Census Ordinance—e.g., the right of admission at all reasonable times to every land or house and to ask all questions necessary for the purpose of the census—they were told to be always courteous and tactful. If any person objected to answering a question, the enumerators were instructed to explain as kindly and courteously as possible that the information given would be kept confidential and it would not be used in any way that would harm his interests.

If a person still refused to answer a question, then the enumerator would inform him gently of a fact that is not generally known—that failure to give the information required is an offence under the Census

Ordinance the punishment for which can be a fine up to Rs. 100 or imprisonment up to one month or both.

Planned ahead

THE census was planned with the advice of F. A. O. and work on it was actually started nine months ago by the Department of Census and Statistics. The colossal task of gathering particulars of all the households in the country took three full months—that was the time when headmen and other officers visited houses, and after obtaining the necessary particulars, pasted a pink label giving a number to each house.

Since the beginning of this year the Department has been occupied with the drafting of census schedules and instructions to enumerators, selection of the ten per cent sample of agricultural households and the training of all those concerned with the census.

The census is now over and the information collected will be utilised to draw up plans for the further development of agriculture in the country.

Electorate Farms

THE Government's decision to establish electorate farms was made on the recommendation of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Land, Irrigation and Power, Mr. C. P. de Silva. The scheme has three main objectives :

- (i) increasing the production of subsidiary food crops such as chillies, onions, yams, potatoes, dhal, green-gram, turmeric, ginger, papaw, passion fruits and the raising of poultry and livestock ;
- (ii) saving foreign exchange which is now drawn out from the country for importing subsidiary food stuffs ; and for
- (iii) providing gainful employment to rural youth and for training them to take to agriculture as a career.

The establishment of electorate farms was timely as it devetailed into the National Food Drive which commenced in 1960. Members of Parliament have shown the keenest interest in this project and most of them have gone out of their way to help in the establishment of these farms.

These farms are run co-operatively by young men who have an agricultural background. In selecting farmers to run these farms preference has been given to Practical Farm School Students who have passed out and are unemployed, and to members of Young Farmers' Clubs. The working members of each farm have been formed into Young Farmers' Co-operative Societies. These societies are run on a self-help basis and the farmers chosen to run them are not paid wages by Government at any stage, but the societies as such are provided with land under lease and assistance in the form of

grants and subsidies from the Land Commissioner's and the Commissioner of Agrarian Services votes for jungle clearing, fencing, soil conservation, construction of temporary buildings and wells, for manure subsidies, seed subsidies and loans for the purchase of livestock, poultry, construction of deep-litter houses and for the purchase of pumps, &c.

Number Restricted

THE number of farmers has been restricted to four per acre but more may be accommodated giving due consideration to the nature of the agricultural pursuits chosen by the farm. Selection of farmers is being done by a board consisting of the M. P. of the area, Divisional Revenue Officer and the District Agricultural Extension Officer.

The Commissioner of Co-operative Development has provided the model by-laws for the running of these farms and the Co-operative Department has registered the farms as " Young Farmers Co-operative Societies ". Besides, the Assistant Commissioners of Co-operative Development in the various districts have been required to help the societies in keeping accounts and they are responsible for auditing the accounts of the societies.

The Co-operative Department has stressed the need for educating the members of these societies in co-operative principles and action has been taken to afford this opportunity to farm workers. The general supervision and guidance of the workers of these farms has been undertaken by the District Agricultural Extension staff.

Electorate Farms are being set up according to the availability of land and therefore

in districts where Crown land is freely available farms have been set up and cultivation is in progress. Conversely, in districts where Crown land is not available unproductive or under-productive privately-owned land has to be acquired. Acquisition procedure is generally of a protracted nature and this has naturally delayed the establishment of farms in some districts.

Number of Farms

ELECTORATE farms have not been set up on the basis of one farm to each electorate as is generally believed. For instance in some electorates there may be about 10 farms, each 5 acres in extent. In some electorates there may be 5 farms each extending over 10 acres and in other electorates farms extending over 30 acres to 50 acres according to the availability of contiguous blocks of Crown land. However, the total extent of all such farms for any one electorate does not exceed 50 acres in case of Crown land and 30 acres in case of private land which may be acquired.

Electorate farms of the nature now being set up will not be established in the Vavuniya District; instead Government will encourage the establishment of Educated Youth Schemes which are progressing quite satisfactorily in this district.

As Crown land is very scarce in the Jaffna District and undeveloped private land is also scarce, the Ministry of Agriculture proposes to establish additional farms in Vavuniya District on the same basis as Educated Youth Schemes and settle youth from Jaffna on these farms.

The Department of Agriculture encourages Young Farmers' Clubs to run electorate farms where ever possible but youth interested in agriculture and who are not members of Young Farmers' Clubs are also chosen to run farms.

Up to May, 1962, seventy-four electoral farms have been established and are carrying on various agricultural pursuits.

Great Enthusiasm

RECENTLY the Additional Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture, Land, Irrigation and Power, Mr. M. Sri Kantha inspected the Electorate Farms in the Kurunegala District and expressed his satisfaction in regard to the manner and enthusiasm with which they are run. Representations made by the youth in the farms regarding the lack of a proper marketing scheme for their produce has resulted in Mr. Sri Kantha initiating action with the assistance of the Co-operative Department and Marketing Department to evolve a Central Marketing Scheme for electorate farms. Such a scheme will save these farmers from the rapacious private traders who form themselves into rings to dictate prices. Mr. Sri Kantha has also asked Government Agents to expedite the payment of subsidies and loans to these farms so that work on these schemes does not suffer from bureaucratic delays.

The Ministry has also directed that efficient members of these farms be given preference in selection of allottees for land at Land Kachcheries in colonization schemes.

The largest number of electorate farms set up so far are in the Kurunegala District where 15 are being worked. Land has been cultivated with chillies, kurakkan, onions, green grams, gingelly, turmeric, vegetables and fruit trees, poultry raising also goes side by side with the cultivation of subsidiary food crops. In the Kurunegala District in addition to the 15 farms already established the Department of Agriculture, proposes to set up 27 more, depending on the availability of private land which will have to be acquired.

In the Ratnapura District 11 farms have been set up on Crown land and the Agriculture Department has taken steps to open six more.

In the Matale District 11 electorate farms have been established on Crown land and privately owned land is ear-marked for one more.

Other Districts

IN the Galle District four electorate farms have been set up on Crown land and steps have been taken to establish five more while privately-owned land has to be acquired to establish an additional 20 farms.

In the Kegalle District 18 electorate farms are to be established 11 of which will be on privately-owned land which will have to be acquired and the rest on Crown land.

In the Trincomalee District three electorate farms have been set up on Crown land.

In the Nuwara Eliya District 3 farms have been set up on Crown land and three more are to be established on Crown land while two other farms are to be set up on land which will have to be acquired.

In the Amparai District three farms are to be set up on Crown land shortly.

Four electorate farms have been established on Crown land in the Polonnaruwa District and two more will be established shortly.

In the Kandy District three electorate farms are functioning and 22 are to be set up on privately-owned land.

Six farms in the Puttalam District set up on Crown land are now working and another is proposed on Crown land. Five more are proposed on private land.

It is proposed to set up four farms in the Hambantota District on privately-owned land.

Of the ten farms for Matara District four will be on Crown land and two of these have in fact been established. Acquisition proceedings will have to be entered into in respect of six blocks of land which are privately-owned.

Twenty-two farms are to be set up in the Badulla District, 6 of these will have to be set up on privately-owned land and the rest are to be on the Crown land.

In the Anuradhapura District out of 8 farms proposed on Crown land four have already started functioning.

Fourteen farms are proposed in the Kalutara District. Seven of these will have to be on private land.

In the Colombo District though Crown land is scarce, land has been found for 3 farms which are working now. Crown land is earmarked for six more while 21 are to be set up on privately-owned land.

In the Batticaloa District of the proposed 14 farms on Crown land two have been set up lately. Private land will have to be acquired for one more.

Three farms of the four proposed are functioning in Mannar and the other is to be established shortly.

Controlling the Coconut-Caterpillar

S. V. O. SOMANADER

A RECENT visit to the lately-established Parasite-Breeding Station at Batticaloa revealed that much intensive work is being done for the control of the Coconut Leaf-Caterpillar pest, which is one of the most serious pests of the palm in this area, as it is in certain other parts of Ceylon.

The work of control and of further research, with a view to combatting this pest, is being done under the enthusiastic direction of a Colombo-Plan entomologist (Mr. Edwin Dharmaraju, M.Sc.), who has been seconded for service from India, and who is being assisted by a Technical Assistant and a Field Assistant (both Ceylonese), in addition to some employees recruited locally.

During an interview with entomologist Dharmaraju in his office, he told me that the Parasite-Breeding Station in Batticaloa—a large coconut-growing centre—was opened only last year. The other unit of the station was at Lunuwila—the headquarters of the Ceylon Coconut Research Institute.

Getting interested, I asked him, "What are the various pests that attack the coconut palm in our country?"

"There are several pests like the Black (Rhinoceros) Beetle, the Red Weevil, the Nettle grub, Termites, Yellow-spotted Locusts, the Coconut Scale and the Coconut-Leaf Caterpillar", he replied. "But the last-named seemed to be the chief threat to the coconut palms of East Ceylon. We are, therefore, concentrating most on fighting the coconut caterpillar to see that the palms are saved from attack, that the pest does not spread to other parts, and that the palms are rendered healthy to ensure better yields".

"And what methods are you adopting to control this pest?" I inquired.

"I shall take you round in a while and show you what we are doing", he told me. "Of course, there are various ways of controlling the coconut caterpillar, but this pest lends itself most easily to control methods by *biological means*".

"Can't you apply *chemical control*?" I wanted to know.

"Yes", he remarked, "but chemical control is neither economical nor easy, due to the high recurring costs of the insecticides and the height of the palms. Biological control, on the other hand, is cheap and effective. Once the parasites establish themselves in the field, they multiply automatically, and there is no necessity for repeated releases."

I agreed. And he continued: "In nature, you must note, this caterpillar, which has been regarded as a serious pest not only in Ceylon, but in India, Pakistan and Burma, is attacked by different parasites, especially in the larval and pupal stages."

More Details

CONVERSING further on the life-history of the cocount caterpillar pest (its Latin name being *Nephantis serinopa*—Meyr.), Mr. Dharmaraju gave me further details in reply to my queries. He explained to me that the egg-period of this caterpillar pest lasted from 6 to 10 days; its larval stage from 5 to 8 weeks; and its pupal stage from 7 to 13 days. The average length of the whole life-cycle of this pest was, therefore, about 61 days. Each adult insect (which is a moth) laid about 300 to 400 eggs, and six generations were completed in a year.

“So you see,” he added, “that a proper knowledge of the life-history of this pest (or any other pest, as a matter of that) is essential for its effective control. Especially in the Eastern Province of Ceylon, the coconut caterpillar is an iniquitous pest, and that is why we are working so hard at this station. The caterpillar feeds on the palm-leaves, eating away the underside of the leaflets. And the damage to the coconut estate can be spotted, even from a distance, from the burnt-out appearance of the palms. The pest becomes more serious during the hot, dry season—that is during the middle months of the year in this Province.”

“And what are the parasites you employ to get rid of the caterpillar pest?” I asked him.

“Well, there are different kinds”, he replied. “But as I cannot give you their English or Vernacular names, let me give you their Zoological names. They are *Microbracon brevicornis*, *Perisierola nephantidis*, *Elasmus nephantidis*, *Stomatomyia bezziana*—all attacking the caterpillar pest in the larval stage; *Trichospilus pupivora* and *Tetratichus israeli* in the pupal stage; and *Trichogramma minutum* in the egg stage. All of them, except *Stomatomyia bezziana* (which is a fly) are tiny wasps.”

“Are you using all these parasites to fight the caterpillar pest?” I asked him.

“Yes” he replied, “Millions of these parasites, which are all under rearing both here and at Lunuwila—the two breeding stations in East and West Ceylon respectively—have already been released in the country against the coconut caterpillar. And these parasites are being distributed, free of cost, to all estates. A significant fact I would wish you to note is that all the above parasites have short life-cycles (that is, the development of egg to adult) of only 15 days or less, with the result that a large number of generations of the parasite can develop during only one generation of the caterpillar pest against which we are waging war.”

“How are you able to procure large numbers of coconut-caterpillars to act as ‘hosts’ for the numerous parasites you are rearing and multiplying at this station?” I questioned him.

“It is sometimes a very difficult and even expensive matter”, he replied, “to collect and rear thousands of caterpillars to provide food for the breeding of the parasites. For this reason the parasites, you will notice when I take you round, are being bred on ‘alternate hosts’ (like *Coreyra cephalonica*), which can be more easily reared in the insectory”.

Exotic Parasites

MR. DHARMARAJU further explained that, in biological control—while encouraging local parasites—an attempt must be made to import exotic parasites, that is, parasites from other countries. He drew my attention to the fact that, in nature, most of the local (useful) parasites had other (harmful) parasites on them. That is to say, local parasites were often so “hyper-parasitised” that their efficiency in the field was reduced.

“In getting parasites from other countries”, he told me, “we get only the parasites, and not the hyper-parasites on them, with the result that the former are more effective than the local ones in controlling the caterpillar pest. With this end in view, we are also now exchanging parasites with India”.

After this interesting and informative chat, the entomologist took me round to see the various sections of the work in progress, including the rearing of the ‘alternate host’ material; the stocking, on shelves, of hundreds of specimen-tubes containing parasites ready for despatch to infected areas far and near; the rearing of the parasitic fly in cages; the handling of a large number

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Ceylon and Asian Regional Co-operation

A WORKING Party session, the first stage of a seminar on Ceylon and South Asian Regional Co-operation, was held at Nuwara Eliya, Ceylon, in May this year. At the end of the session the group issued a statement which stressed the need of Asian Regional Co-operation and it called on Ceylon to take the initiative and play a leading part in the attainment of the goals of regional co-operation. We publish, as a matter of general interest, a summary of the statement issued.

The trend towards regionalism is one of the striking developments in the world today. In Western and Eastern Europe and in Latin America individual states have forged closer relationships with each other on the basis of arrangements for regional collaboration. In Africa the possibility of similar groupings is being actively explored. And in Asia too there is a marked awakening of interest in the creation of a new framework of co-operation and inter-dependence. A whole complex of forces underlies this trend. Political and strategic motives, social and cultural bonds, the very logic of long historical processes—all these and other factors have prompted this development. Yet, it is primarily in the economic field that there has been the strongest manifestation of the move towards regionalism. It is essentially in these terms, therefore, that the true rationale of co-operation could best be expressed.

In the industrially developed countries of Western Europe, the trend towards economic co-operation has emerged in the context of a degree of interdependence that is already well advanced. In Asia, the rationale of co-operation must necessarily be different. Although the extent of intra-regional economic relationships in Asia is not insignificant—nearly 30 per cent of the trade of the Asian countries is within the

region—the countries of the region remain economically backward or have evolved patterns of dependence based on the sale of primary products to the industrialised countries. The progress of co-operation in Asia, therefore, cannot be in terms of the further development of existing patterns. It must reflect the logic of enhanced economic growth which seeks to transform old relationships.

Economic Development and Regional Co-operation

ECONOMIC development is the common objective of all the countries of the Asian region. Virtually everywhere governments are engaged in formulating and implementing plans of economic development which seek to raise standards of living and to bring about a process of cumulative growth. There is a sense of urgency to these tasks. Despite their best efforts, the gap in living standards between the underdeveloped and the industrialised countries continues to widen from year to year. At the same time the underdeveloped countries are experiencing mounting pressures from within, associated with new expectations and a new awareness amongst their growing populations. In this context, the overriding need is not merely that economic growth should take place, but that it occurs at a rapid and adequate rate.

The very process of development involves the generation of continuous pressures on imports of machinery, raw materials and consumer goods. Whilst foreign capital and aid could make some contribution, it is essentially the exports of the countries themselves that provide the means of paying for these imports. However, the prospects for increasing the traditional exports of

such countries, comprising primary products, is severely limited. The market for raw materials is threatened by the production of synthetic materials and other substitutes capable of being produced within the industrialised countries themselves.

Faced with this situation, the countries of the Asian region have been obliged to husband their earnings of foreign exchange by measures such as the erection of restrictive barriers against certain imports, and to promote the domestic production of import substitutes. In the result, the countries of the region have denied themselves access to each other's markets and are rapidly creating an autarchic pattern of development in respect of the new and emergent sectors of their economics. This process is inimical to rapid economic growth. There are severe limits to the extent of import substitution. Often, the domestic market is too restricted to provide an adequate basis for efficient production; and an attempt to produce a wide and varied range of goods on a relatively small scale leads to a wastage of resources. In the pursuit of autarchy, the countries of the region forego the advantages of specialisation and of the economies of scale. The overall rate of economic expansion is thereby slowed down and the scarce resources of individual countries are deployed into uneconomic and unproductive channels.

It is in this context that the need for arrangements for closer economic co-operation amongst the Asian countries becomes apparent. Such arrangements would provide for an extension of national markets and create a wider basis for economic growth for all the participant countries. Through regional co-operation it would be possible for industrial countries to reap the advantages of specialisation of development plans. Such co-operation would extend the boundaries of import substitution from the national to the regional area. This would

enable, in each case, a larger volume of production at lower cost and better service. The objection of economising on earnings from traditional products for the purchase of essentials from the outside world. Regional economic co-operation would, in fact, make possible a progressive expansion in the volume of intraregional trade.

Not only does regional co-operation make possible an acceleration in the pace of development, its absence could result in harmful effects on the countries of Asia. The emergence of regional groupings in other parts of the world implies that Asian countries will not enjoy the preferential treatment in markets abroad which members of these groupings afford each other. Moreover, in the absence of a regional economic community, the countries of Asia would be placed in a position of relative isolation and would be forced to individual dealings with large and powerful economic blocs. They would thus suffer the limitations of unequal relationships in negotiations with the outside world. Another factor is the lack of co-ordination among the countries of the region in the formulation and implementation of development plans. This results in the plans of some countries exerting a harmful effect on the plans of other countries.

Arrangements for Asian economic co-operation do not imply the establishment of a closed system. Even within the framework of co-operative arrangements the countries of the region would have need, both individually and collectively, of increasing their trade and other relationships with the outside world. To the extent that regionalism, both in Asia, and elsewhere, results in rising prosperity it would strengthen the world economy and accelerate the international flow of goods to mutual benefit.

For Asia and other underdeveloped regions, economic co-operation is an instrument for promoting and accelerating the

process of development, which alone could lead to a growth in intraregional trade and communications. It is, in other words, a dynamic concept of relevance to a fundamental transformation of the economic of these countries.

Ceylon's Need for Regional Co-operation

CEYLON has hitherto enjoyed a high standard of living relative to many of the countries of the region. Her favoured position has been largely due to the existence of a modern plantation sector which plays a dominant role in the economy as a whole. Today, however, Ceylon is faced with a threat to this position largely on account of an extremely rapid rate of growth in population amounting to nearly 3 per cent per year. This implies that Ceylon has need, not merely to raise national income at a rapid rate, but also to find avenues of employment for a rapidly rising work-force. To achieve this Ceylon has no alternative but to pursue the path of industrialisation so as to create additional avenues of employment and to establish a basis for sustained and cumulative growth. Ceylon has to meet and overcome several problems in the pursuit of this objective. Of these, the question of an adequate market for the products of industry is perhaps the most fundamental; for the domestic market alone does not provide a basis for sustained and extensive industrial growth in Ceylon. The most likely markets for the products of Ceylon's industry would, of course, lie within the Asian region. Yet, the process of autarchic growth pursued by the countries of the region is resulting in the denial of access to these markets for a country like Ceylon. In the result, Ceylon has to pursue a programme of industrial development which is limited to the restrictive confines of the domestic market and to forego the advantages of specialization and of large-scale production. Both the scale and the efficiency

of industrial development in Ceylon is in this way hindered.

It is in this context that the concept of regional economic co-operation becomes of relevance to Ceylon. Such an arrangement would enable Ceylon to base her programme of industrialisation on a foundation wider than that of the domestic market alone. It would make possible the establishment and expansion of industries that would not otherwise have been feasible; it would also enable production to be planned on a large scale and thereby improve the structure of productivity and costs over the economy as a whole. Such an arrangement would, in fact, revolutionise the prospects for Ceylon's economy. It will result not only in a large degree of industrial development but also in an acceleration of the rate of growth of these sectors of the economy as well. The type of industry that could be established need not be confined to those based on Ceylon's domestic raw materials and agricultural products, though these are likely to enjoy a specially favoured position. Like most other small countries which have succeeded in bringing about a large degree of industrial development, Ceylon could also establish industrial ventures on the basis of the importation of raw materials and their transformation into finished products within domestic boundaries.

The Social and Political Factors

THE objectives of co-operation have to be realised in the context of the wider social and political realities of the Asian region. These factors would inevitably influence the scope of arrangements for co-operation as well as the forms they could ultimately assume. Even within the traditionalist framework that prevails in Asian society, there exist close affinities amongst groups of countries within the region. These affinities would undoubtedly serve to reinforce the economic factors which would make co-operation possible amongst these countries.

The very process of industrial development and the spread of modern technology results in the diffusion of common cultural and social elements. In Asia, the prevalence of traditionalist societies and the existence of social and cultural differentiation is to a large extent a consequence of a retarded pace of economic growth. To the extent that economic co-operation in Asia succeeds in creating a framework for economic development, it must serve as an instrument for forging closer social and cultural ties in the future.

In fact, a process of rapid economic and social change is already taking place within the countries of Asia. Almost everywhere there is an effort to establish a new balance between national traditions and modern requirements. This process of change has given rise to a leadership stratum in the different Asian countries with common links and a certain universality of outlook. It has already provided a basis for an increasing degree of communication and understanding between the different countries of the region. The spread of modern science and technology and of concepts of organisation and administration results in a common language of communication and provides a means for the extension of economic and other forms of co-operation. Most of these countries have emerged from a similar colonial past and have a common background in respect of their struggle for independence. They are faced with a similarity of economic and other problems.

Marked Differences

THERE are undoubtedly marked differences throughout the region in political institutions and in regimes. There are also political conflicts between individual countries. These differences and conflicts are factors which would influence the scope and pattern of co-operation that would be possible in Asia. At the same time, it would be

erroneous to conclude that these differences will preclude co-operation altogether. Despite such differences, the countries of the region have already been able to collaborate on several issues. The emergence of such wide groupings as the Afro-Asian powers, the Colombo powers, and others, are a reflection of the overriding community of interest amongst these countries. Countries with political differences also collaborate closely in the United Nations on a variety of issues and participate successfully in such organisations as the Colombo Plan and the Commonwealth. In the last analysis, all the countries of the region, whatever their differences, have a common and overriding stake in the objective of economic development. The ability of these countries to attain national goals is itself dependent on the achievement of economic progress. No country can, therefore, afford to permit progress. No country can, therefore, afford to permit political and other factors to stand in the way of rapid economic growth. It is this factor more than any other that will eventually provide the strongest motive force for regional co-operation.

Area and Forms of Co-operation

THERE are many possible forms of regional co-operation. At the one extreme there is the full Economic Union which involves complete economic integration covering the free movement of goods as well as of labour, a capital and other factors of production, and also the co-operation of economic and social policies. Other forms of co-operation are Customs Union and the Free Trade Area. These involve far-reaching measures of integration and will not be practicable for the Asian region. Apart from the social and political issues, the fact of an unequal degree of economic development amongst the countries of the region suggests that far-reaching forms of integration would be premature, although there may be scope for closer forms of union within smaller groupings.

There do exist, however, other forms and instruments of co-operation which are less far reaching and which would well prove practicable in Asia. There is, for instance, scope for the gradual liberalisation of tariffs and quantitative restrictions on a preferential basis in respect of intra-regional trade and in manner consistent with the development programmes of individual countries. There is also scope for the co-operation of development plans in respect of specific sectors on a mutually advantageous basis. In the case of individual products or group of allied products, there is the possibility of a "Single Product Customs Union" which provides for sectoral integration in terms of a common market for specified products or a group of products. There is also likely to be a significant field over which there is room for the establishment of joint industrial ventures amongst countries, particularly where the size of national markets or the scale of investment present difficulties to individual countries. The integrated development of whole industries is still another possibility where, for example, a single country would specialise in the final product and others in the production of components.

There are numerous other fields which offer scope for co-operation. The countries of the region could, for instance, collaborate in schemes designed to stabilise fluctuations in commodity prices. They could also participate in the establishment of multi-lateral credit and payments arrangements; facilitate wider travel within the region and overcome the existing restrictions which impede such travel. Such an arrangement would serve the useful purpose of improving contacts and of further strengthening the basis for regionalism.

There are two general considerations which should guide the nature of the arrangements that would ultimately emerge. First, the forms and instruments of co-operation that are evolved must take account of the existence of different degrees

of development among participating countries. They should enable the continuance of a measure of protection for the less developed countries and thereby enable these countries to overcome the limitations which handicap the establishment of new industries. Second, the forms of co-operation that are evolved must recognise the fact that most of the countries of the region are pursuing the objective of development through the medium of conscious planning.

The area of co-operation would depend on the possibilities that would be revealed through detailed and comprehensive studies and techno-economic surveys. It would appear useful to pursue two broad approaches. On the one hand, it would be desirable to promote the establishment, in the first instance, of a relatively wide and representative forum of the Asian countries as a framework within which the scope for sub-groupings could be further explored. ECAFE has explored the possibilities of regional co-operation and its efforts merit support. However, in view of the limitations which confront ECAFE in the making and implementing of decisions, it may be desirable to establish a separate organisation that is widely representative of the Asian countries, on the lines of O. E. E. C., for example, which existed in Europe from 1948 to 1961.

Second Approach

THE second approach is equally important. There is no reason as to why selected groups of countries should not at the same time examine the possibility of arrangements for closer economic co-operation amongst themselves. The Federation of Malaya, Thailand and the Philippines have already taken some preliminary measures for co-operation amongst themselves. In addition an economic union of the Federation of Malaya, Singapore, Brunei, North Borneo and Sarawak has been proposed. Ceylon's

House of Representatives recently passed a resolution, supported by all political parties, urging that the prospects be explored for closer economic co-operation between a group of countries comprising Ceylon, India, Pakistan, Burma, Indonesia and the Federation of Malaya. The possibilities of an alternative grouping comprising Ceylon, India, Pakistan and the countries more closely adjacent to India may also be investigated. Once there is a clear indication of the willingness of individual countries to participate in arrangements for economic co-operation, it would be necessary to establish a representative body such as an Executive Council and a permanent Secretariat, which could in turn set up a wide range of technical committees, study groups, and so on.

Ceylon, in view of her size and location, is in a position of advantage to take the initiative in this field and to play a positive role. She has already played an important

part in the past in supporting and organising forums of international and regional co-operation. The time factor is of considerable importance. As arrangements for closer co-operation in other regions get under way, the countries of Asia would become increasingly vulnerable to the adverse effects of these developments. On the other hand, the longer arrangements for co-operation are delayed the greater the danger that individual countries would commit themselves to conflicting plans and to investment patterns that could not subsequently be varied. The stratification of industries in individual countries on autarchic and un-economic lines would serve only to narrow the scope for specialisation in the future and the potential benefits from regional co-operation would be reduced. The time is not too early, therefore, for Ceylon to take the initiative in this field and to play a leading part in the evolution and attainment of the objectives of regional co-operation.

CONTROLLING THE COCONUT-CATERPILLAR

(Continued from page 18)

of specimen-tubes for the multiplication of the different wasp-parasites; and the arranging to pack and despatch the parasites in tubes to the affected coconut estates, often many miles away.

I also noticed that the Technical and Field Assistants were busy working with the fly-parasites and the egg-parasites, and engaging themselves in the examination of affected coconut-leaflets, besides doing other connected work. And the locally-trained employees were seen busily engaged, seated on the ground, in the work of setting cages for the different wasp-parasites.

Towards the end of my visit, Mr. Dharmaraju emphasised that the sole aim of the Colombo Plan which had sent him to Ceylon was to train local men in the rearing of these parasites for "the greatest good of the greatest number" of coconut palms, and of the people who owned them.

Needless to say that I returned home after the visit, much impressed with this very useful service, which ensured for the coconut-palm better health and higher yields—and, automatically, more prosperity for the coconut people, and the country generally.

The Propitiation Ceremony of the Veddahs

JAMES GOONEWARDENE

NEARLY seventeen miles from Polonnaruwa, surrounded by an elephant and bear infested, flat, jungle, rises a hill which has a history perhaps older and more varied than any other hill in Ceylon. It was known in earlier times, as now, as Dimbulagala, and round it, at its foot lie a group of Veddahs, the Ceylonese aboriginy. According to the tradition in the area Dimbulagala was the first home of the Veddahs, after their defeat by Vijaya's men, the first settlers in Ceylon. How in the course of time, the Veddahs moved down from the caves on the hill is a story that is lost in the dim past. To learn how this happened is to learn the history of Dimbulagala itself, which when the Sinhala kings grew in strength and power apparently made it a centre of religious activity. The chequered history may now be gathered in broken bits through the ruins of beautifully sculptured heads of the Buddha, Buddhist hermitages and ponds, which bear such exotic names as Na Pokuna and Nil Mal Pokuna. But the race memory of the Veddahs is still strong. There on the hill live their guardian spirit whom they call the Gal Yakka, and to whom they still perform propitiatory ceremonies.

Recently the Veddahs of the four villages, which lie round the base of Dimbulagala gathered in a forest glade at the foot of the hill to propitiate the God of this hill. The ceremony was scheduled for Monday night, a day after this last Poson Poya.

Preparations for event

ALREADY on Sunday night there was an unhappy bustle and activity as if people were getting into readiness for a village fair, for the villagers had heard there was to be such ceremony. Tea kiosks had sprung up

complete with transistor radios and mineral waters. Vendors of trinkets and indigenous cakes sat by their wares under the forest trees. Fluorescent lighting was improvised and strung up on large, gnarled forest trees. There was a curious irony in this, which the Veddahs and probably the Gal Yakka himself had accepted philosophically. We could only hope that once the ceremony had begun, the Veddahs would be too moved by race memories to notice the incongruity of the scene. A forest moon moved high in the sky and burned out the unnatural lighting. In the moon's light we saw groups of Veddah women and children sprawled on the ground. They were silent and mystified, watching from behind their half wild eyes the fantastic scene, in the centre of which now dominated the Radio Ceylon van with modern recording instruments. A Veddah man called Yappa sang a beautiful Veddah song and it was recorded on the instrument of the van.

Shoot, O leader at the leopard
The arrow, it goes under its belly
The arrow, it goes over its back ;
Shoot, O leader at the leopard.

Yappa sang again and after recording it was played back to him to his great surprise, and this was his song.

The leopard lies dead
An arrow in its heart,
Why do you not rise, my husband
Asks its mate, why do you not rise,
Why do you not go hunting above
Why do you not go hunting below
But there he lies and she must go.

There were others who sang and they too were recorded, and Radio Ceylon amassed a wealth of Veddah lore. They were all part

of the Veddah history and tradition, which was soon to disappear. Their strange, slow chant was the same for the hunting song as for the lullaby, and also for their propitiation ceremony.

The Ceremony

ON their way to extinction few Veddah communities continue to worship the deities and spirits their ancestors had worshipped before them. They worshipped the Gal Yakka, who was the Spirit of Dimbulagala, the Dhadayan Yakka, the Guardian Spirit of the hunters, the Maha Yakkini, the Great She-Devil and also the spirits of their dead folk whose presence they specially seek on a ceremonial occasion. When a relation dies, how after three days of his burial they turn him into a spirit is, I am told, an exciting ceremony. But the one we had the privilege to witness was the one performed invoking the aid of the Gal Yakka.

There was still light in the evening on Monday when the Veddahs who had gone up Dimbulagala began to return, carrying to a rhythmic chant a great long, straight pole about forty or fifty feet long, which was to be the orbital centre of the major part of their dancing that night. With great shouts and hooting, which with some uncanny trick of voice they made to sound like the hooting of jackals, they planted this pole in the earth at a spot which apparently had been dedicated for the purpose earlier, and where had stood a less elaborate bathmaduwa than the actual one they constructed for the ceremony. The totem pole which they called the Kodi Rual was planted firmly, and round it they built the new bathmaduwa, which was to be their altar. This they decorated elaborately and plentifully with leaves from the Na tree which they brought down from Dimbulagala. At three points on the totem pole they tied a cluster of these Na leaves. On a platform inside the bathmaduwa they arranged a few bees honey pots, their bows and arrows and rice cakes. On the side, a few feet away

from the bathmaduwa, stood from the previous day a strange and cleverly designed pandal which they called the Wata thana which were Sinhala words as the words Kodi Rual were Sinhala.

When the setting of the stage was completed the Veddahs rested, until their dancing began much later that night. The ceremony itself was a simple and uncomplicated thing, repetitive and monotonous, most of the time.

Slow Rhythm

THE dancing consisted of a continuous stamping of the feet in a slow monotonous rhythm while moving round the bathmaduwa to the accompaniment of a simple drum rhythm which remotely resembled the drum rhythm in a Sinhala tovil. While they danced round the bathmaduwa they beat together two clusters of na leaves and chanted a weird song. Very soon they would go into a trance. Now and then one of the dancers would stiffen and drop on the ground. To prevent these falls someone held each dancer all the time, by the waist. This went on all night, with breaks when the dancers would rest. Sometimes worked into a frenzy one or two of them would climb up the bathmaduwa and dance on the top of it, holding onto the totem pole. At one stage a frenzied dancer clambered up the bathmaduwa and then up the totem pole, dizzily, right to the top and then slipped quickly down. When they were under a trance they were supposed to have clairvoyant powers and they read peoples' mind. The chief of Veddahs in fact read the mind of the Government Agent who was present, and according to the Government Agent six of the readings were accurate. This reading of the mind they called "Pāna kiyanava".

There is a curious noise every dancer makes while he chanted, which seemed to come from the back of the throat, which was

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Our Banking System—II

N. KARUNARATNE

I WILL now try to outline the role of the banking system and other specialised credit institutions in the provision of finance, to the rural sector and to other types of enterprise particularly industry.

The availability of credit in the rural sector has been linked with the development of Co-operative Credit institutions in the country and the development of the latter itself has been largely determined by the growth of the Co-operative movements. The Co-operative movement in Ceylon is one of the most developed in South East Asia. It has developed both its credit and non-credit aspects. Before the last war co-operation was virtually identified with credit co-operation. Since then, however, the movement has spread in other directions principally to production, processing, marketing, and sales.

The importance of rural credit arises on account of the nature of our economic system. Approximately 75 per cent. of the population of Ceylon is engaged in peasant agriculture. The peasant is the backbone of the country and agriculture his major economic pursuit. As these two features are dominant in the economy and will continue to be important in the years to come the provision of credit for agricultural development and rural industry would have to be an important function of our banking system.

A survey of rural indebtedness conducted in 1950-51 showed that the peasant met 3.6 per cent. of his credit needs from boutique keepers, 7.4 per cent. from the Co-operatives, 23.4 per cent. from Government and Government sponsored credit institutions and 65 per cent. from private sources. These figures show that the peasant

agriculturist gets his finance largely from private sources.

The availability of finance is not the only consideration. A factor which should also be taken into account is terms on which finance is available to the agriculturist. Although credit has been available to the peasant it is equally important to find out from where and how he obtains the funds. The disadvantage in getting funds from private sources is mainly that the interest rate charged is very often exorbitant and the other conditions attached to the loan, such as the terms of repayment, are generally unreasonable and tend to act as a severe burden on the borrower, putting him into great hardship especially when he is in the process of repaying the loan. Hence there is the need for facilities to make available credit on very reasonable terms to the peasant farmer according to the nature of the security the latter is able to offer.

Very few of the village cultivators and peasant farmers come within the sphere of the banking system. Cultivators require funds for short periods of time for expenditure on seeds fertilisers, the employment of casual labour and for their subsistence during the interval between sowing and harvesting. Funds would also be required for the purpose of preparing the crop for the market.

Apart from short-term credit the agriculturist also requires medium and long-term capital to purchase land equipment and implements, construct buildings for the storage of produce and to effect improvements to existing holdings. The profitability or the soundness of agriculture depends not

only on productivity or the yields from cultivation but also on the terms and the cost at which the agriculturist could obtain credit.

Credit facilities

IN the field of making credit available on reasonable terms, the Co-operative Credit system in Ceylon has played a very significant part. For the purpose of distributing credit the co-operative system has a well organised mechanism. If you look at the Co-operative Credit system in Ceylon you will note that it is organised in three layers. At the bottom are the primary societies, the Co-operative Agricultural Production and Sales Societies and the Multi-purpose Societies which were set up in recent years. Individuals obtain loans only from societies at the primary level, chiefly primary credit societies, Production and Sales Societies and Multi-purpose Societies.

The rural primary credit societies are those with unlimited liability and a nominal share capital. The members of the credit societies themselves manage the affairs without remuneration and the profits are usually not distributed. Their area of operation is chiefly confined to one village. Today there are nearly 5000 Co-operative Multi-purpose Societies. In the Multi-purpose organisation credit and marketing are integrated because experience in Ceylon has shown that credit without marketing or marketing without credit leads the peasant nowhere. According to this scheme every village has its own multi-purpose society which provides credit or production, purchase of consumer goods, the settlement of prior debts and doing co-operative marketing. The funds for the Multi-purpose credit scheme comes from the apex institution in the co-operative credit structure.

With regard to the Urban societies, there are two types—the Urban banks and Thrift Societies. Both of them have been established

on the limited liability principle. Of the loans granted by the Credit Societies 88 per cent. have been classified as productive. In the case of the Multi-purpose Societies and Production and Sales Societies all loans are productive. In addition to these there are thrift societies which grant loans to individuals. There is also a considerable amount of Government money from certain heads of expenditure deposited in various societies for specified fields of lending. At the end of 1959 these deposits amounted to Rs. 37 million. Although financial resources of the Co-operative Credit system have expanded in recent years these sources have been able to provide only the minimum credit requirements of rural agricultural and industry.

The second layer of the Co-operative Credit system are the Co-operative Provincial and District banks which were originally known as Central Banks. In 1942 there were four such banks situated in Jaffna, Colombo, Kandy and Batticaloa. In addition to the Central Banks there were also six Banking Unions at the end of 1944. These Banking Unions were really less developed Provincial banks or District banks. They were not able to attract deposits in quite the same manner as the Central Banks and their main source of funds was the Local Loans and Development Fund. These Banking Unions were eventually converted into Central Banks. By the end of 1950 all Co-operative Central Banks in the provinces were restyled Co-operative Provincial or District banks. At the time when the People's Bank commenced operation in 1961 there were four Provincial Banks and 11 District Banks in operation.

The Co-operative Federal Bank which was absorbed by the People's Bank last year was established in 1948. After its establishment it was considerably instrumental in strengthening the Co-operative Credit system. In addition to being the apex institution of the Co-operative Credit system the Bank also carried on normal banking activities. The

Bank was owned by the Co-operative Societies and managed by a Board on which Government was represented.

Rural sector

THE People's Bank which commenced operations last year was established principally to develop the Co-operative movement, rural banking and agricultural credit by providing finance and other assistance to Co-operative Societies, cultivators and others engaged in rural agriculture. In addition, one of the tasks of the Bank will also be to ensure that banking is developed in the rural sector and to mobilise rural savings and to meet the credit requirements of the peasants. As most of the other Commercial Banks in Ceylon have been providing credit mainly to the business community and to the middle class the People's Bank policy could also be to meet the credit requirements of the small man in Ceylon. In this way it would be filling an important gap in the supply of credit to the economy.

There is provision in the Act for the grant of short-term, medium-term and long-term, credit to co-operative societies and cultivation committees. The Bank has also been empowered to grant loans of all maturities to approved societies, Cultivation committees and individuals for constructing, repairing or renovating buildings.

Special provision has also been made to grant loans to any person who is carrying on any agricultural, industrial or business undertaking which is the opinion of the Board of Directors of the Bank is a small scale undertaking. There is also provision for the grant of short-term loans to persons resident in rural areas for the purchase of articles required for personal needs or domestic consumption. The Act also permits the Bank to carry on pawn broking business subject to any conditions that may be prescribed. Pawn broking today constitutes an

important form of lending in the rural areas. The Bank will be able to considerably ease the burden of rural indebtedness by making loans to peasants to meet their personal requirements and other contingencies on the security of valuables.

Since the requirements of rural banking are different from those of the Commercial banks there is also provision in the Act for the bank to provide technical assistance to any person who granted a loan or overdraft. The Bank may also sponsor the training of persons in assessing the value of loans to borrowers, in banking and in finance. The Bank is also permitted to lend on mortgage, it could acquire or give on lease or hire, mortgage, pledge and sell immovable property. The Board of Directors has been given authority to lend for the purposes laid down in the Act on any type of security which they may consider appropriate.

Bank of Ceylon

IN addition to the important role that the People's Bank will now take in the provision of finance especially to the rural sector, with the nationalisation of the Bank of Ceylon the latter will also be a very important institution in providing credit to types of enterprise and to those sectors of the economy which have not had access to the Banking system. The Bank of Ceylon has control of 43 per cent of the deposits in the Banking system and its loans and advances were approximately 1/3 per cent of the total credit available from the Banking system as a whole. From the volume of its deposits and its loans and advances alone it could be seen that the Bank of Ceylon was responsible for more than a third of the banking business in the country. Since, at the time of nationalisation, it was the only large indigenous bank, also having the largest number of branches located in all parts of the country, the State

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Foreign Affairs

A PROTOCOL amending the Agreement concluded between Ceylon and the U. S. S. R., on February 25, 1958, under which the latter was to provide the Ceylon Government with a loan of Rs. 142 million (120 million roubles) as economic assistance, was signed on June 12, by the Minister of Finance, Mr. Felix R. Dias Bandaranaike, and the U. S. S. R. Ambassador in Ceylon, Mr. N. Y. Tarakanov.

The following communique was issued in this connection by the Ministry of Finance:—

“An agreement was concluded on February 25, 1958, between the Government of Ceylon and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics by which the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics provided a line of credit of 120 million roubles (approximately Rs. 142 million) over a period of 5 years commencing, April 1958, at 2.5 per cent interest, for 16 projects listed in the Schedule to the Agreement.

“When the Minister of Finance visited Moscow in March 1961, the progress on each of those projects was reviewed and it was decided that as the 5-year period was due to expire in April 1963, the Schedule be amended by the deletion of those items on which reasonable progress had not been made to justify their retention in the Schedule.

“A Protocol to the Agreement was signed today (June 12, 1962), in the office of the Minister of Finance to give effect to this decision. The protocol amends the Schedule to the Agreement by the deletion of the following items from the Schedule:—

“Item 3—Preparation of the Kalu Ganga Basin Scheme.

Item 10—Establishment of a plant for building materials and prefabricated units for housing construction.

Item 12—Establishment of a plant for extracting flour from monioc.

Item 13—Rendering technical assistance in the development of fisheries.

Item 15—Rendering assistance in equipping “Science teaching laboratories” for junior secondary schools.

Item 16—Rendering technical assistance in the restoration of some irrigation structures damaged by floods.

“The Protocol also provides that in respect of any balance of the credit that may remain unutilized the U. S. S. R. will make available goods to Ceylon the sale proceeds of which could be used by the Government of Ceylon for financing the local costs of projects executed under the Agreement.

“The Hon. F. R. Dias Bandaranaike, Minister of Finance, signed the Protocol on behalf of the Government of Ceylon and his Excellency the Ambassador for U. S. S. R., in Ceylon on behalf of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.”

Australia gifts Three Iron Lungs

THE Minister of Health, Senator A. P. Jayasuriya, accepted on behalf of the Ceylon Government, three iron lungs gifted by the Australian Government at a ceremony on June 13, at the Children's Hospital in Colombo. The iron lungs were handed-over by the acting Australian High Commissioner in Ceylon, Mr. Murray Bouchier.

The three machines would increase the capacity of the hospital to keep children alive if they should fall victim to polio in its more severe forms.

Earlier the Australian Government gave Ceylon three respirators of a special type

designed for the emergency treatment of acute polio cases.

Senator Jayasuriya thanked the Australian Government for having come to the rescue of polio-affected children in the country.

Ceylon Stall at Florence Fair

THE Ministry of External Affairs announced recently, that Ceylon's participation in the 26th International Market Fair of handicrafts held in Florence, between April 26 and May 20, had been a major success.

Ceylon had exhibited a large collection of handicrafts at the Fair, which is a well-known fair where handicrafts from many countries are exhibited.

The handicrafts sent from Ceylon were provided by the Handicrafts Panel of the Arts Council of Ceylon and represented a wide range of crafts that exist in Ceylon. The handicrafts were priced very attractively and fell within a wide range.

It has been reported that nearly the entire collection of handicrafts valued at a little over Rs. 6,000 had been disposed of in Florence. In addition numerous individual inquiries had been made at the Ceylon Stall and several importers of handicrafts in Italy had expressed interest in importing handicrafts from Ceylon.

Most popular among the Italian buyers had been wooden-masks, brass-trays, hand-woven curtains, Dumbara mats, lacquered walking sticks, tortoise-shell ware and silver-bracelets. Letters already received from Italy indicate that several buyers are interested in making further purchases of these items from Ceylon.

Ceylon and Bulgaria

THE Governments of Ceylon and the People's Republic of Bulgaria have decided to establish diplomatic relations at Embassy level.

High Commissioner leaves Ceylon

THE British High Commissioner in Ceylon, Sir Alexander Morley, left Ceylon on June 14, for London, accompanied by his wife.

Sir Alexander, who had been the British High Commissioner in Ceylon for the last 4½ years, will assume duties shortly as the first British High Commissioner in the West Indies which will attain independence on August 4.

Among those present at the airport to bid farewell to Sir Alexander and Lady Morely were the Minister of Health, Senator A. P. Jayasuriya, the President of the Senate, Mr. C. Wijesinghe, the U. S. Ambassador in Ceylon, Miss Frances Willis and several other distinguished persons.

Greetings to Her Majesty the Queen

HIS Excellency the Governor-General, has sent the following message of greetings to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on the occasion of Her Majesty's Birthday:—

"The people of Ceylon join me in tendering to Your Majesty our humble duty and sincere good wishes on the occasion of Your Majesty's Birthday."

The Prime Minister has also sent a message of loyal greetings to Her Majesty, the Queen on Her Majesty's Birthday.

Japanese Teleprinters for Ceylon

WITH a view to facilitating the direct transmission of Sinhala telegrams, two Sinhala/English (Combined) Teleprinters have been made in Japan under the Colombo Plan Aid Scheme and will be brought to Ceylon shortly.

Two Japanese Telecommunication Experts are also due shortly to conduct field tests on the machines. After these tests, the

machines will be used for the direct transmission of Sinhala/English telegrams between Colombo and one or two provincial stations.

If the scheme proves a success it will be extended to other provincial centres.

The specifications for these two pilot machines were worked out by a team of experts, from the Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Public Corporation, the Yamura Shinke Seisakusho Co., Ltd., and two officers from Ceylon. The Nippon Telegraph and

Telephone Public Corporation is responsible for the Inland Telecommunication Services in Japan while the Yamura Shinke Seisakusho Co., Ltd., are manufacturers of Telegraph and Electronic Equipment in Japan.

The entire cost of the project including air passages and living expenses of the two officers from Ceylon during their six months' stay in Japan was met by the Japanese Government under the Colombo Plan Aid Scheme.

OUR BANKING SYSTEM—II

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ownership of the bank may be considered a very important event in the economic development of the country. Since economic development in the private sector requires the provision of additional credit facilities not only to existing enterprises but also financial assistance to establish and develop new types of business enterprise, under State ownership, the Bank of Ceylon will be in a better position to become a leading agency in financing the economic develop-

ment of the country. It is now in a better position than before to finance types of enterprise which were hitherto not financed by the banking system. Since it is Government owned it would be in a better position to bear risks which it would not have undertaken when it was jointly owned by Government and private shareholders.

(Adapted from a talk broadcast by Radio Ceylon.)

THE PROPITIATION CEREMONY OF THE VEDDAHS

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something between a cough and squeal. It is impossible to describe the sound. It is so animal-like and weird. In the morning they are still dancing. At this stage the dancers suddenly change direction and go round the Wata Torana and then worked into a frenzy, seven of them clambered up the thorana and danced holding its sides. Before long the final stage is reached, and two of the dancers

stamp into the bathmaduwa and from the altar they take two bows and arrows and still dancing they move towards a tree. It has to be a tree with sap. In their trance they are supposed to know this, and when they come to the tree they shoot their arrows into it, praying, maybe that their bounty will be as rich as the sap which flowed out of the tree.

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