

# The Ceylon Postnightly Review

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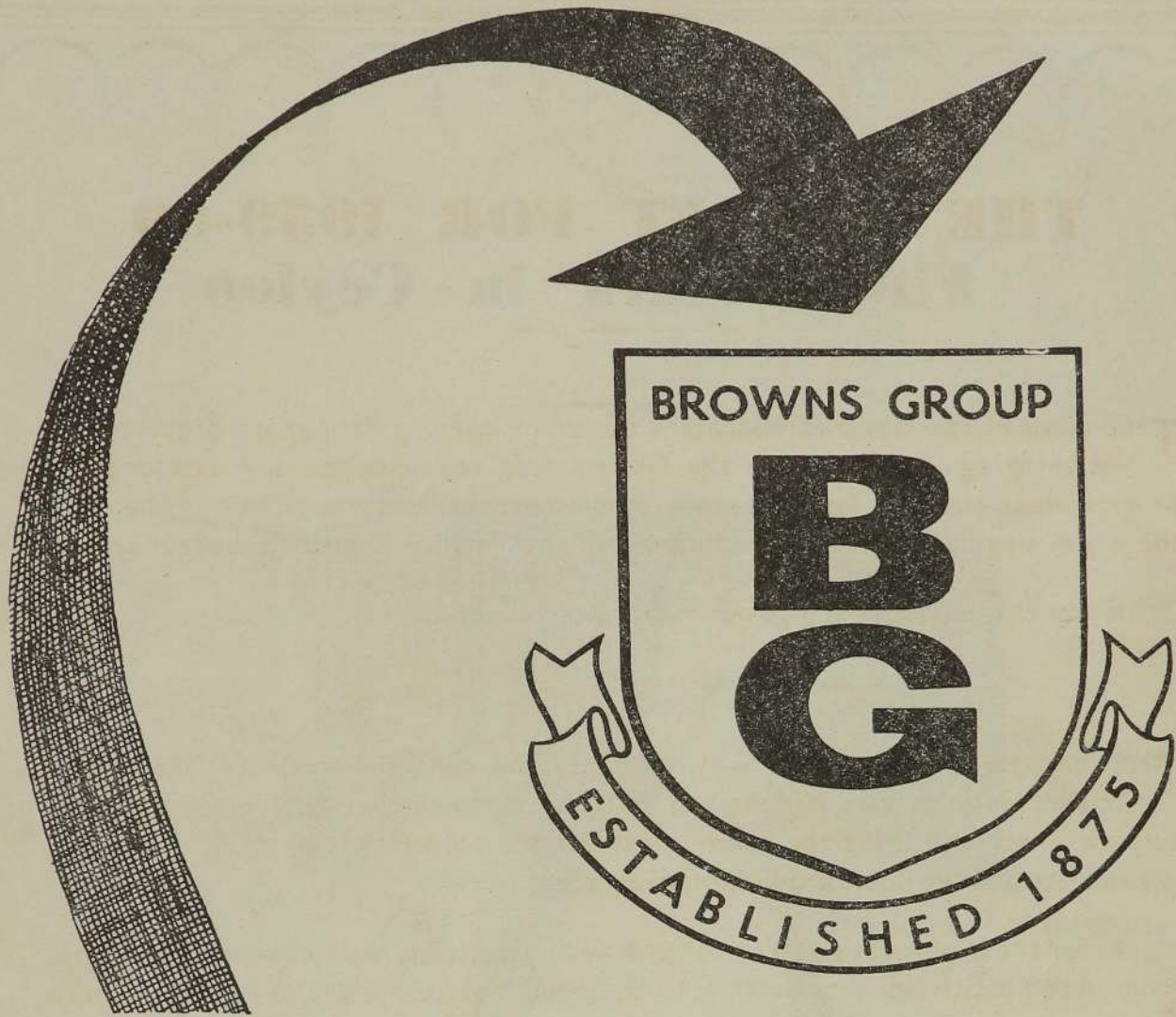


—Times

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## THE BUDGET FOR 1959-60

THE tenor of the Governor-General's speech in opening Parliament prepared the country against expecting the Government to announce any extraordinary programme in the next financial year. It is no matter for surprise that in the event there was singularly little public interest in the Finance Minister's budget speech.

It was characteristic of a government uncertain of itself.

\* \* \* \*

THE new taxation proposals will not cause any general hardship. The higher import duty on cars is definitely justified, but whether the increased excise duty on arrack will bring the revenue expected is problematical. It is more likely to stimulate greater illicit production of arrack.

As for the incentives given to nascent small industries, their capacity to turn out goods of competitive quality has, it is to be hoped, been subjected to expert scrutiny.

\* \* \* \*

THE Finance Minister defended the deficit financing that the Government has practised in consecutive years, but his claim sounds hollow considered in the light of the fact that the economy is being sustained to no small extent by foreign aid. It is noteworthy that in the next financial year the anticipated revenue, including the return from the new taxes, falls below the estimated recurrent expenditure.

Acceptance of foreign aid calls for corresponding domestic effort.

\* \* \* \*

THERE will be great disappointment that, for all the concern expressed from public platforms, no concrete measures have been conceived to bring down the cost of living. That a ten-year plan has been launched is all very well, but what the people look for is immediate relief.

Mr. de Zoysa deprecated the pressure brought to bear on the Government by industrial workers for higher wages without regard for the claims of the peasants. This view fails to take into account the difference in the conditions in rural and urban areas. However, when the cost of living is stabilised increased productivity is bound to follow in all spheres of activity.

THE EDITOR.

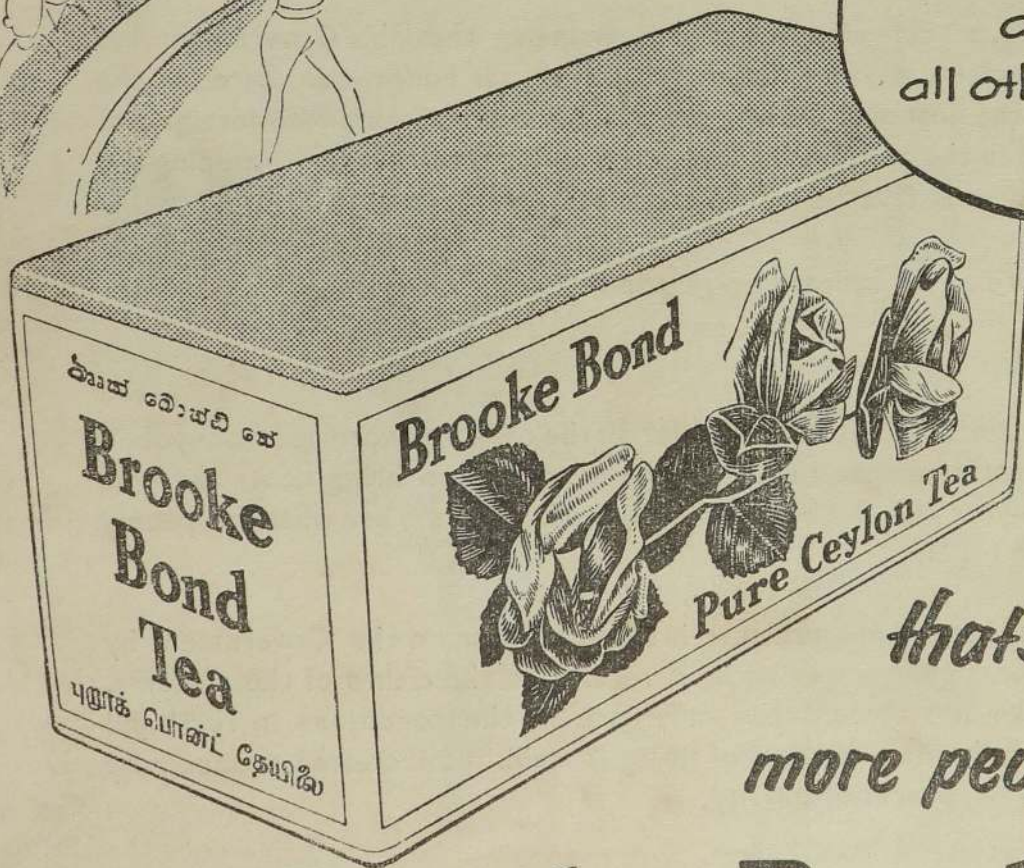


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## MATTERS OF MOMENT

By BRUTUS

NOTWITHSTANDING cuts in expenditure from revenue and from loan funds, the budget for the financial year 1959-60 shows a deficit of Rs. 394 million. The total expenditure provided for is Rs. 1,736.3 million, of which Rs. 336.4 is to be from loan funds. The estimated revenue is Rs. 1,342.4 million.

The corresponding figures for the current fiscal year are: expenditure 1,795.3 million (Rs. 432.3 million from loan funds); revenue Rs. 1,310.7. The deficit of Rs. 484.6 was to be met by new indirect taxes (Rs. 20 million), foreign aid (Rs. 100 million), internal borrowing (160 million) and foreign borrowing.

Thus the total expenditure for next year is to be some Rs. 60 million less than this year, representing a substantial reduction of expenditure on development. Increased provision is made for defence, police, health, education and social services. The biggest increase is in the education vote—Rs. 26 million.

As far as revenue is concerned, the return from the export duty on tea together with the *ad valorem* duty is expected to be less than that from the export duty under the old system by Rs. 22 million.

\* \* \*

AN increase of ten cents a gallon on petrol, Rs. 2 on a bottle of arrack, Rs. 3 on a bottle of whisky, higher import duties on cars and on watches were some of the new imposts announced by the Minister of Finance, Mr. Stanley de Zoysa, in presenting the budget. Import duties on a number of items are to be reduced in order to stimulate or protect local industries. The export duties on coconut products are increased in view of the good market they enjoy at present.

Mr. de Zoysa disclosed that in 1958 Ceylon spent Rs. 36 million in foreign exchange on the purchase of cars and Rs. 24 million on petrol. The higher duty on watches is to curb smuggling. Valuable foreign exchange is being utilised to supply watches to countries where there are restrictions on their importation, he said. The value of watches imported had risen from Rs. 4.7 million in 1956 to Rs. 7.7 million in 1957 and Rs. 11 million in 1958, with "no corresponding increase in national punctuality."

The taxation proposed, Mr. de Zoysa said, would result in an increase of revenue of Rs. 32 million.

The remainder of the deficit would be met, as before, by local borrowing (Rs. 150 million), foreign aid (Rs. 125 million), and other customary sources (Rs. 50 million), leaving a gap (Rs. 37 million) which he considered not necessary to cover.

\* \* \*

THE Prime Minister and his predecessor, Sir John Kotelawala, paid gracious tributes to Sir Arthur Ranasingha at a dinner given to him on Monday before his departure to take up duties as Ambassador in Rome and Athens. The toast to Sir Arthur was proposed by Sir Lalita Rajapakse, former Minister of Justice, and supported by his successor, Mr. E. B. Wikramanayake.

Mr. Wikramanayake, a contemporary of Sir Arthur at St. Thomas' College, said he opposed Sir Arthur's appointment as Governor of the Central Bank as Mathematics was not his forte but acknowledged that he had filled the post with honour and distinction. In his speech Sir Arthur declared that it was not

true, particularly of the Bank of Ceylon, that the Commercial banks did not pull their weight in the economic development of the Country.

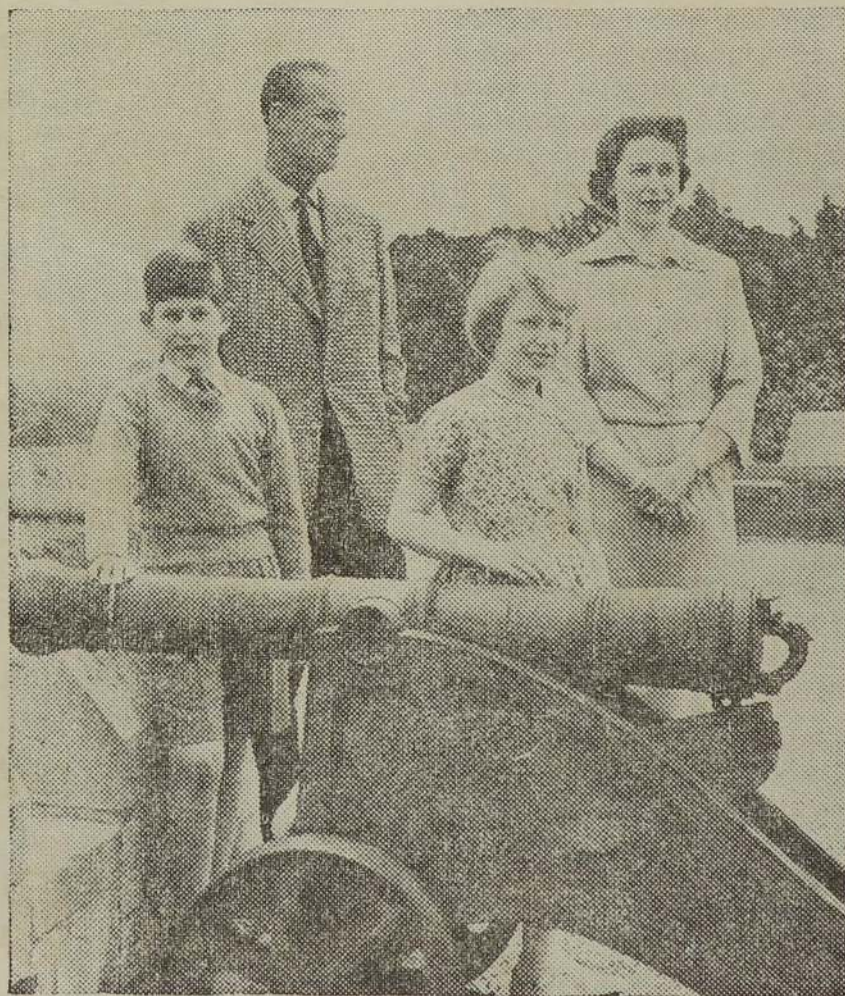
Mr. J. Tyagaraja, member of the Monetary Board of the Central Bank, presided.

\* \* \*

CANON R. S. de Saram, former Warden of St. Thomas' College, was the speaker at the prize day of Kingswood, Kandy, this year, renewing an association established during the war when a part of the Colombo school was accommodated at Randles Hill.

In his speech Canon de Saram said a disciplined life was the only free and full life. A disciplined man was a fine man, a man who was master of himself. An undisciplined man was a slave of his own passions, whims and fancies.

In his report the Principal, Mr. Kenneth de Lanerolle, said if leadership is the crying need of Ceylon, it is the schools that have to play the dominant part in the quest for and the production of leaders. A system of education that is diversified stands a greater chance of throwing up leaders than one that is uniform.



Her Majesty the Queen with Prince Philip, the Prince of Wales and Princess Anne are seen in this Royal family group posed against an old cannon on the East Terrace of Windsor Castle, the royal residence some 20 miles from London.



## MATTERS OF MOMENT

THE Capital Punishment Commission has, by a majority of two to one, recommended that capital punishment should continue to be suspended until April, 1961, "when the question may merit reconsideration". The period of suspension so far, they say, has been too brief to serve as a foundation for final conclusion, and nothing in the experience of the suspension between May, 1956, and the end of 1958 justifies the re-introduction of capital punishment.

This is the view of Prof. Norval Morris (Chairman) and Prof. T. Nadaraja. The third member, Sir Edwin Wijeyaratne, recommends that the death penalty be re-introduced for (a) deliberate and premeditated murders, (b) murder of law enforcement officers acting in the discharge of their duties and of persons who go to the assistance of such officers, (c) murder in the course of communal riots, racial or religious, robbery and rape. He makes the qualification, however, that capital punishment should be awarded only on a unanimous verdict of the jury.

\* \* \*

THE commission also recommends that an independent board appointed by the Judicial Service Commission should be responsible for determining the date and conditions of release of murderers sentenced to life imprisonment. Another recommendation is that the trial judge should be empowered to order as compensation to the dependents of the victims the payment by a convicted murderer of a sum up to that specified in the Workmen's Compensation Act, while the general question of financial assistance for the dependents of victims of murder and culpable homicide should be referred to the Minister of Social Services for sympathetic consideration.

\* \* \*

THE announcement of the formation of a volunteer arm of pioneers in the Army and the Navy brought thousands of young men to the recruiting centres last week. The number required was 5,000, of which 4,500 was for the Army and 500 for the Navy, but it is estimated that between thrice and four times the number applied for enlistment.

The Minister of Labour, Mr. M. P. de Zoysa, said in a statement that

the recruitment of pioneers had nothing to do with the strike of port workers, of whom some 5,000 belonging to Communist controlled unions returned to work on July 4, the larger number of members of the L.S.S.P. unions remaining out. Mr. de Zoysa said the formation of the pioneer force would be proceeded with whether the L.S.S.P. members resumed work or not. They would be trained for work in essential services.

The large number of would-be recruits, however, exemplified the extent of unemployment among young men in the country. About 150 of the applicants rejected at the Kalutara recruitment centre were so disappointed that they started on a march to Colombo to meet the Prime Minister. The march was halted by the Police at Ratmalana and four delegates were allowed to go to the Prime Minister's residence, only to find him away.

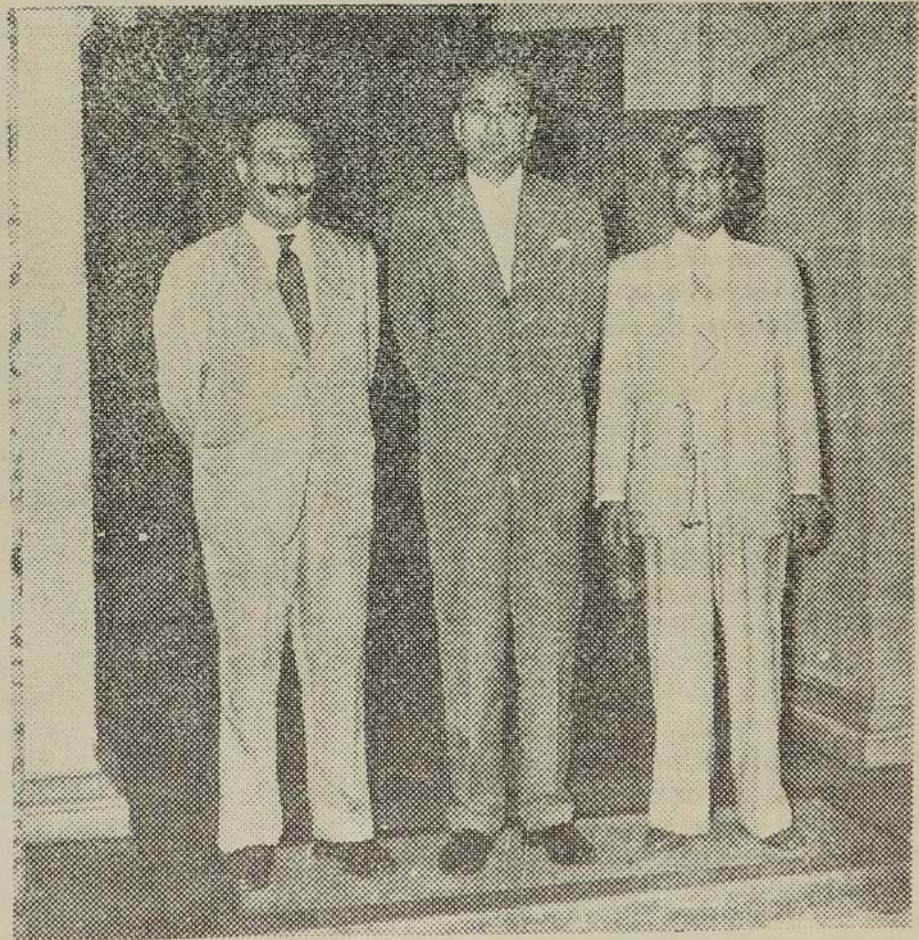
The first outbreak of violence during the port strike occurred

on Sunday night, July 5, when home-made bombs were thrown at a Communist dockers union office off the water-front in Colombo. Two passers-by were killed and a third severely injured. The Police discovered about a dozen more bombs on searching the neighbourhood.

\* \* \*

AN outcome of the creation of the sub-committee of ministers to deal with labour-management disputes in the public sector is the appointment of employment relations officers to departments with large labour forces. Mr. S. J. Walpita, C.C.S., Assistant Controller of Establishments, has been appointed to co-ordinate their work.

Government trade unions will hereafter have to place their grievances first before these officers, who will in turn make their recommendations to the Ministers concerned. Mr. Walpita will advise the Government on the recommendations.



— Times

A two-member Pakistan Trade Mission, now in Colombo, will have discussions with various business concerns on trade expansion between the two countries. The picture shows (left to right): Mr. M. Akram, Commercial Secretary of the Pakistan High Commission in Ceylon, Mr. A. G. Riza, leader of the mission, and Mr. Mohammad Hussain, the other member of the mission.



## MATTERS OF MOMENT

THE latest bulletin of the Central Bank states that the most important feature in the monetary situation in recent months has been the decline in commercial bank liquidity. Their excess reserves had fallen so low that they had been continually obliged to seek accommodation from the Central Bank.

The bulletin stated: "There was no improvement in the liquidity position of commercial banks in May and they continued to seek advances from the Central Bank. Reflecting the tight money situation, certain interest rates hardened in May. The money supply, in keeping with the rising trend since the beginning of the year, rose further. In contrast to recent months, however, when changes in the money supply were almost always due chiefly to changes in external banking assets, the increase in May was the result mainly of Central Bank operations."

The Central Bank announced that the list of subscriptions for the Rs. 30 million 3½ per cent loan 1980-84, which opened on July 1, closed at noon on July 3, after the loan was fully subscribed.

\* \* \*

STUDENTS from Ceylon enrolled for full-time study and research at universities in the United Kingdom during 1958-59 numbered 221. This is among the figures given in a booklet "Commonwealth Education: The United Kingdom Contribution" written for the Commonwealth Education Conference at Oxford.

In 1958 there were about 6,600 students from the Commonwealth studying in technical colleges in Britain. Of them 96 were from Ceylon.

\* \* \*

IT is reported that President Nasser of the United Arab Republic will visit Ceylon at the end of August. He is expected to spend three days in the Island.

President Nasser will come to Ceylon after a visit to India.

\* \* \*

SOME T.B. patients are in such a terrible plight that they preferred to have T.B. and receive the

allowance than be cured, because then they would cease to receive the allowance and have to starve, said Dr. J. H. F. Jayasuriya, Chairman of the Council, at the annual general meeting of the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis.

He also disclosed that according to available statistics, 60 to 70 per cent of T.B. cases are still undiagnosed, representing perhaps some 50,000 cases "undetected, untreated and untreatable". He described as an alarming feature that in some villages the morbidity rate had risen to 2 per cent, which had never been suspected, though in many of the congested towns this was well known to be the case. In Colombo alone there were 3 to 4,000 poor T.B. homes and 20,000 undernourished children, many of whom, if uncared for, might fall victim to T.B. Unless and until the "shameless slums" in the City and other large town are done away with T.B. will prosper, Dr. Jayasuriya said.

It was announced that at Kadawata a rehabilitation centre would soon be opened—a co-operative society

for tailors who had already undergone training. During the year it is hoped to commence special rehabilitation projects in Galle, Bandarawela, Jaffna and Ratnapura. Making an appeal for employment of persons cured of T.B., Dr. Jayasuriya said. "we have prevented them from dying; we must help them to live."

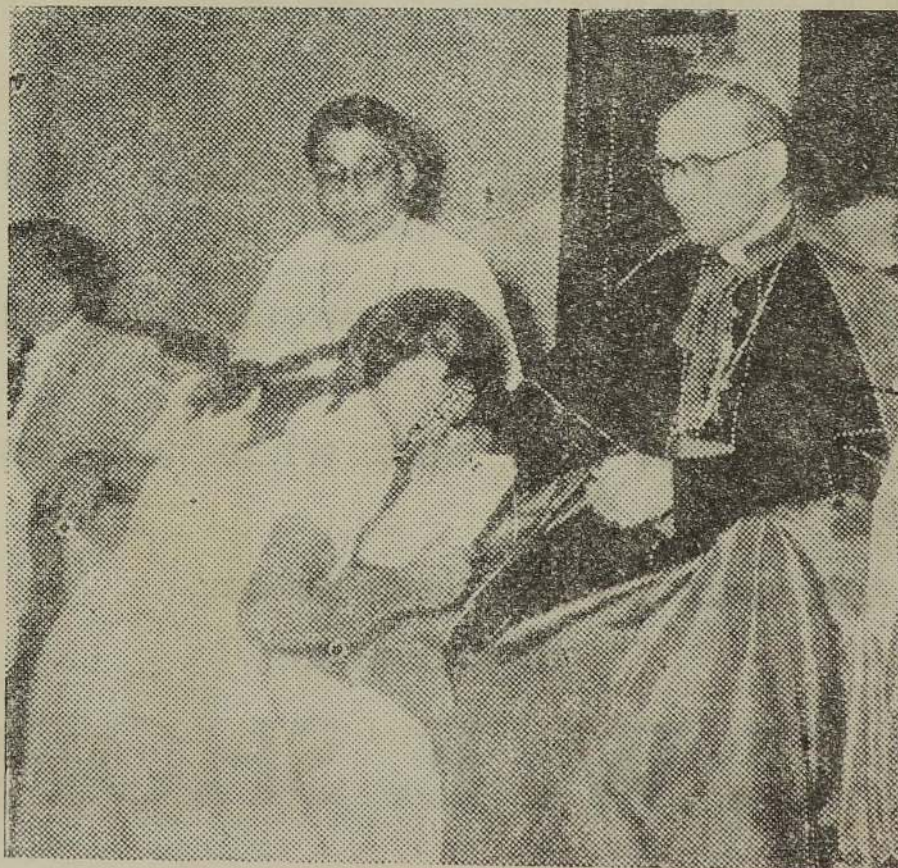
At the meeting Shri B. M. Cariappa, Secretary of the Tuberculosis Association of India, delivered a message from his Association.

Sir Cyril de Zoysa was re-elected President and Dr. Jayasuriya Chairman of the Council of Management.

\* \* \*

THE strike in the Port of Colombo has served to accelerate development of Trincomalee as a commercial port. It is reported that besides the export of 22½ million lbs. of tea in June, five ships discharged 25,000 tons import cargo at Trincomalee.

It is now proposed to export rubber as well from Trincomalee after arrangements for storage are finalised.



—Times  
The Archbishop of Colombo, Dr. Thomas Cooray, giving away one of the prizes at Ave Maria Convent, Negombo. By him is the Rev. Father Stanley Fernando-pulle, parish priest.



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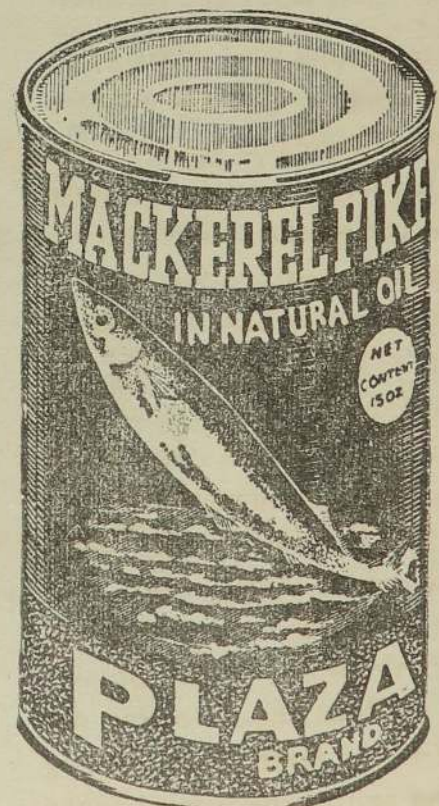
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# THE QUEEN AND HER WORK

By ERNEST ATKINSON

(Special to the Ceylon Fortnightly Review)

**Q**UEEN Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh have had a long and exacting programme in Canada. But the hard if enjoyable work it entailed cannot surpass the daily round in Britain.

One recent week offers a fair enough sample of what is expected nowadays of the Monarch in the way of outdoor duties.

It began with a journey to Winchester, one of the ancient capital cities of England, to open new offices of the Hampshire County Council. Then the Queen went on to Portsmouth to open a new Guildhall and to present the Queen's Colour to Submarine Command. Next day saw her back in London for the Royal Tournament. At the end of the week, on her official birthday, she took the salute at the ceremony of the Trooping of the Colour on Horseguards Parade.

\* \* \*

**T**HERE is in that one week a balance between the civil and military sides of the Sovereign's functions—a balance that might have been more marked in some other week that included a Parliamentary function or reception to adorn some aspect of public life. The week before the Queen had been to a dinner and reception to celebrate the 450th anniversary of the foundation of her bodyguard, the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms. The next day she attended the bicentenary garden party of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, the following day she went to the Derby race meeting and at the end of the week opened the conference of Parliamentarians from N.A.T.O. countries.

## Interest in Racing

**P**LEASANT though much of it undoubtedly was, the only function in all that range that would really represent private enjoyment according to the Queen's personal tastes would be the Derby. What the English call "the sport of kings" is her hobby and those close to her speak often of the way in which at races she finds relaxation from cares of State.

Two admirable books have recently been written about the way the Queen lives and works. Both are readable as well as authoritative.



Her Majesty the Queen

The earlier is the scholarly and urbane book of Dermot Morrah, *Arun-del Herald Extraordinary*, "The Work of the Queen". The other is a careful study by a journalist, Miss Dorothy Laird, "How The Queen Reigns".

In both of these a straightforward account of an ordinary working day in the Queen's life when she has no engagement to take her out of Buckingham Palace takes 25 pages or more. These authors have had exceptional facilities to study their subject and both agree that the

Queen deals in a most meticulous way with the vast amount of paper work that comes to her desk.

Much of it must be domestic—some will touch her own household which has to be run to a budget—but much more is on public affairs of every possible kind. Moreover, consultations with Ministers apart, the Queen sees all important State papers. This is made explicit by Dermot Morrah and is specially relevant at a time when she is going from the United Kingdom to stay in another part of the Commonwealth.

\* \* \*

## Unique Opportunity

**R**EFERRING to correspondence the Queen has with Governors-General, Mr. Morrah says: "All these letters have to be studied with particular care, for this is one of the ways in which the Queen keeps herself informed of affairs in all countries over which she reigns.

"There is no more important function of the modern monarch: it has to be remembered that there is today no other in England or anywhere else who has quite the same duty or quite the same opportunity to build up a mental picture of the whole unity in diversity of the Commonwealth and Empire.

"Neither of the Secretaries of State for Commonwealth Relations and for the Colonies is concerned with more than a part of the Queen's territories overseas and, moreover, both of these are limited to the political view. Professors of Commonwealth history, economics or law in universities may indulge themselves with a wider outlook on the life of peoples but they lack the special sources of information open to the Queen from whom no official secrets are withheld.

"Gifted as she undoubtedly is with a particularly receptive mind and retentive memory, she will in the course of years acquire inside knowledge of the entire family of nations which must be in its own way unique.

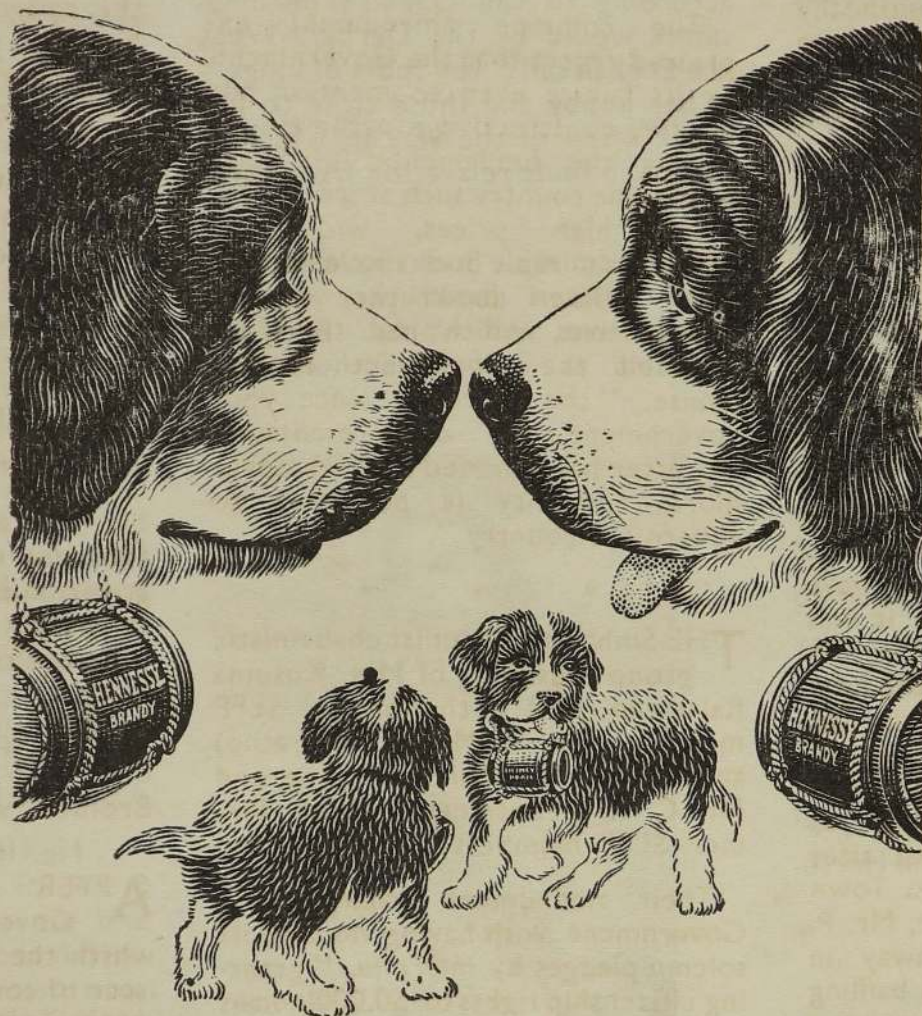
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# POLITICAL NOTEBOOK

— By CROSS-BENCHER —

THE Government staved off defeat over the Governor-General's speech in opening Parliament by a mere eight votes, of which six were of the appointed members and two from those who came from their sick beds—Mr. M. S. Dissanayake (Kalawewa), who has been continually absent since his election, being brought down from India, Mr. S. U. Ethirmanasingham (Paddirippu), the only Tamil in the Government group, coming from hospital in Batticaloa, Mr. Jayaweera Kuruppu, former Minister of Local Government and Cultural Affairs, who resigned owing to ill-health, Mr. Mahanama Samaraweera (Matara) and Mr. R. E. Jayatilaka (Nawalapitiya). The Government was anxious to rebut the taunt that it depended on the appointed members for a majority. Hence the round-up of those who would normally not have been present.

The Opposition at best could have mustered only 49 votes, but it was evident that there was division within their ranks. Thus Mr. S. D. Bandaranayake and Mrs. K. M. P. Rajaratna left the House before the division, while Mr. C. Suntheralingam was away in fulfilment of his pledge to court deprivation of this seat after his defeat at the Vavuniya Town Council elections. Moreover, Mr. P. Kandiah (Communist) is away in China taking treatment for a baffling ailment, while Mr. P. Tennekoon (Kandy) had left for the Youth Festival in Vienna, and Mr. K. Premachandra (Talawakelle) was "missing."

Although he suddenly returned from England, Sir John Kotelawala did not attend the debate. All the Opposition amendments were defeated, that moved by Mr. S. D. Bandaranayake receiving only two votes, his and Mrs. Rajaratne's.

\* \* \*

AS many as six amendments to the address of thanks of the Governor-General's speech were moved by the Opposition. All but one of the Opposition parties, however, also joined in a common amendment over the names of Dr. N. M. Perera (LSSP), Mr. S. J. V. Chelvanayagam (Federal Party), Mr. M. D. Banda (UNP), Mr. I. M. R. A. Iriyagolla (Samajavadi Mahajana Peramuna), Mr. T. B. Subasinghe (former Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister as Minister of External Affairs and Defence),

Mr. D. P. R. Gunawardena (VLSSP, former Minister of Agriculture and Food), Mr. Nimal Karunatilake (formerly of the SLFP, and ex-Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance) and Mr. Pieter Keuneman (Communist Party).

The common amendment expressed regret that the Government, by its failure even to mention any positive constructive programme for solving the fundamental problems before the country such as unemployment, high prices, widespread corruption, etc., had disclosed the utter political bankruptcy of the Government, which had therefore forfeited the confidence of the House, "the more so since your government's unrepresentative character has denuded it of whatever moral authority it possessed to govern the country".

\* \* \*

THE Sinhalese-Buddhist chauvinistic group consisting of Mrs. Kusuma Rajaratne (wife of the former SLFP member, Mr. K. M. P. Rajaratne) and Mr. S. D. Bandaranayake and Mr. C. R. Beligamma (both former SLFP members) stood alone.

Their amendment charged the Government with having violated its solemn pledges by, *inter alia*, "granting citizenship rights to 150,000 Indians without the Sinhala language qualification as required by the Delhi Pact; inclusion of Indians in the general electoral register contrary to provisions of the Delhi Pact and the granting of distinguished citizenship rights and inclusion of Indians to benefits under the Employees' Provident Fund; cancellation of full-moon poya days as holidays and retention of Sunday as a national holiday; attempt to rig the constitution in league with foreign inspired anti-national elements without consulting the people; the killing and imprisonment of thousands of patriotic Sinhalese during the emergency in 1958, while hardly taking any action against Federalist law-breakers; encouraging and supporting foreign-inspired anti-national espionage organizations like Catholic Action, Asia Foundation, etc., to undermine national unity and security and the creation of a situation like in South Viet-nam where in a predominantly Buddhist country

the Catholic minority has captured power; the formulation of a ten-year plan based on advice and guidance of imperialists which strengthens the position of foreign vested interests".

\* \* \*

IN his reply to the debate the Prime Minister said that when two Ministers and other members left the Government it would have been easy for him to have submitted the resignation of the Government, but that would have been followed by disastrous consequences. He did not wish to cling to power; it would have been a relief to him to give up office. But it was his intention as far as possible to stabilise democracy and give the people the benefit of the progress the Government had set in motion, be it ever so little. If he had recommended dissolution of Parliament, there was danger of a regime being enthroned far worse than the country had ever seen. There would have been a return to reaction, possibly even a military dictatorship. In the alternative a diffuse coalition government would have been set up consisting of the flotsam and jetsam of opposition parties.

Before the debate, Mr. R. S. V. Poulter, appointed member, resigned owing to ill-health and Dr. E. S. Brohier was appointed in his place.

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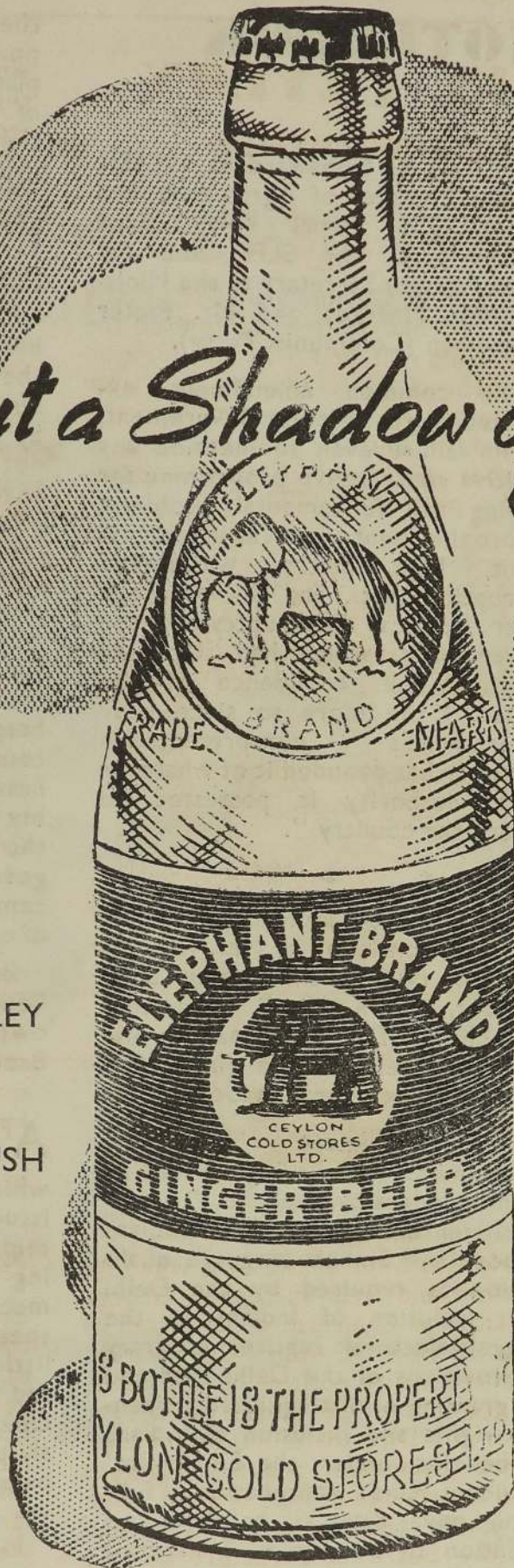
AFTER the debate on the Governor-General's speech, which the Opposition treated as an issue of confidence, and the dramatic midnight division on July 8 resulting in the survival of the Government, the Finance Minister's budget speech on the following day elicited little public interest, coinciding as it did with the strike of the Mercantile Union (except workers in retail shops, cinemas, druggists and newspapers) in support of the port workers who are still out.

In his speech Mr. Stanley de Zoysa justified deficit financing. The Government decided to take a calculated risk and run consecutive deficit budgets in order, he said, that incomes might be sustained over a difficult period and the work of development might not be retarded, causing problems consequent on such a slowing down.

On foreign investments, he reiterated guarantee of the right to repatriate profits for the payment of dividends to investors abroad, concessions by way of tax relief in appropriate cases, and the ultimate repatriation of capital.



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## COL. O. B. FORBES' DISTINGUISHED CAREER

By "OLD HAND"

**C**OL. O. B. Forbes, C.B.E., E.D., M.P., now past seventy, arrived in Ceylon fifty years ago on 3rd July, 1909, and is one of the very few of the merchant magnates of the past hundred years in Ceylon to be privileged to celebrate a golden jubilee. Ten years ago when Col. Forbes was appointed a Member of Parliament to succeed Mr. G. R. Whitby, we referred to his selection as follows: "Colonel O. B. Forbes takes to the House of Representatives knowledge and experience of business which is probably unrivalled among his contemporaries in Ceylon. Like many others of his generation, he is the son of a pioneer who had left behind an honourable name and reputation. To mention a few other names in the brokering business of sons who succeeded their fathers, we have Reginald John, L. C. A. Lefe, and N. Dru Drury."

In the spacious days when merchant princes of the Fort made and lost fortunes working under a punkah in poky offices and living like nabobs in Colpetty or the Cinnamon Gardens, there was always a career for the Boss's son in his father's firm, if he was prepared to wear a white tunic suit and ride in a rickshaw from office to office, office to bank and office to the stores. It was thus that O. B. Forbes became a broker and in due course head of one of the leading firms of brokers in Colombo.

\* \* \*

**J**AMES Forbes, the father, was a remarkable man. In later life with his well-trimmed moustache and beard, he looked like a retired Naval officer. One of his sons, Sir Charles Forbes, rose to be one of the senior Admirals in the last war. James Forbes arrived in Ceylon in 1876, with a Mincing Lane training in tea. He spent his first two years in the Island as a tea planter at Hunasgiriya, Wategama. In 1881, he joined George Chapman Walker, a former Ensign in the 73rd Regiment of Foot, to start the firm of Forbes and Walker and in a short time they had the largest tea brokering business in Ceylon.

In addition to the two partners, the office staff consisted of a boy at Rs. 7 and a punkah cooly at Rs. 4.

**B**ORN in Ceylon in 1887, Ossie Forbes was sent to England the following year, and after his education at Bengoe School, Herts, and later Haileybury College, returned to the Island in 1909 to join the firm of Forbes and Walker. He was admitted a partner in 1920.



Col. O. B. Forbes.

—Times

He was head of the firm when he retired and later succeeded George Whitby as Chairman of Directors of the British Ceylon Corporation Limited, which position he still holds. In due course O. B. Forbes was sought after as a Director of important joint stock companies and his judgment and knowledge proved of great value to them. Besides being Chairman of the Board of Directors of that vast concern, the B.C.C., engaged in the manufacture of high grade coconut oil, of soaps and cooking fats, he has for many years been on the Boards of the Galle Face Hotel, the Colombo Fort Land and Building Company and numerous tea and rubber companies. Indeed to those with any knowledge of business in Ceylon his name on a Directors' report is a guarantee that the affairs of the Company are prudently and ably managed.

\* \* \*

**C**OLONEL Forbes' old firm, Forbes and Walker, did not refrain from helping Ceylonese firms

which needed finance in days when the more abundant facilities of today were not available. Any impression that Col. Forbes has found no time for other than business activities would be entirely erroneous. The mercantile community has always displayed a keen interest in volunteering and in the two World Wars made a notable contribution, in proportion to its numbers, to the Empire's war effort. Like Col. Gordon Frazer, Col. (Sir) E. J. Hayward, Col. E. O. Mackwood, Col. (Sir) P. J. Parsons, Col. G. Griffith, Col. G. B. Traill, Col. O. B. Forbes rose to the command of his regiment, in his case the Ceylon Garrison Artillery, of which he was a most efficient and popular commanding officer.

Although not as good a cricketer as his elder brother R. W., who captained the C.C.C., Ossie Forbes took a tremendous interest in cricket in particular, and rendered splendid service to the C.C.C. and the Ceylon Cricket Association, being President of both these important bodies in his time.

It should be mentioned that a business life was not young Forbes' first choice. He had wanted to join the Army, and when turned down because of poor eyesight he decided to make a career in a commercial bank. His father, however, persuaded him to come out to Ceylon and join him in business.

\* \* \*

**M**R.S. O. B. Forbes, Australian-born, a very accomplished musician, has done much for music in this Island through the Music Society, of which she was President for many years, organising concerts in their home to promote a love of good music among a wide circle. Music brought her into contact with the late Lionel Wendt and they worked together and gave concerts on two pianos. Naturally as a result of this association she became interested in photography and was for some time an active member of the Photographic Society. Her work has been hung at the Society's exhibitions.

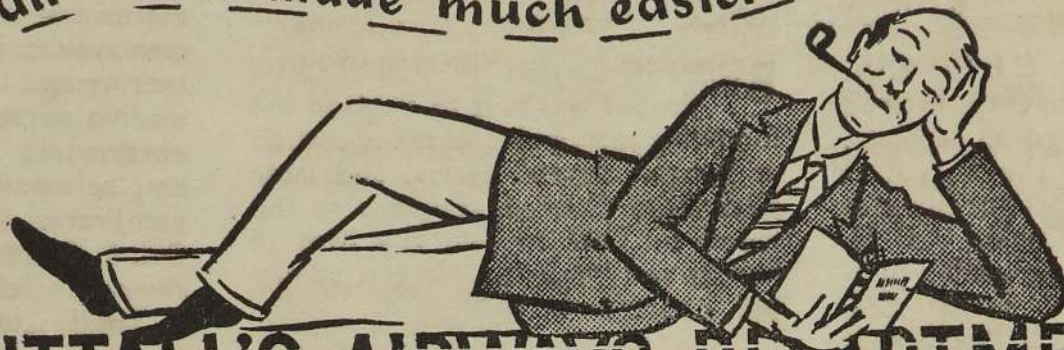
\* \* \*

**P**EOPLE like the Forbes's have made a significant contribution to the prosperity of the country and to amenities which make its life interesting and gracious. They worked hard in making their money and put most of it back, taking risks and backing their judgment to deve-

(Continued on page 32)



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# THE ESSENTIAL NEEDLE

By LEONARD RULE

(Special to the Ceylon Fortnightly Review)

A traveller in a distant land, coming one day to a remote village—so the story goes—found its inhabitants lamenting bitterly. “Why are you mourning?” he asked a passer-by. “Is it your Chief who is dead?” “What is Death!” replied the villager. “We have lost our needle!”

Yes, one small needle can be a very precious thing, as this simple story tells. Nowadays of course these tiny things are so easy to come by that we take them for granted. But they have an interesting history behind them.

IN the very heart of London, running by the Bank of England, is Threadneedle Street. That is not really its proper name for it used to be called Three Needle Street. The reason for that was that the ancient Needlemakers' Company had its Hall there, and that the sign of the Needlemakers, which hung outside, included three needles with crowns on them. It is just over three hundred years since the Needlemakers became a Company with a charter. In the ordinary way such a charter was only granted by the reigning monarch, but the Needlemakers' charter was granted by Oliver Cromwell during the period when Britain had no monarch. The charter laid down who should be entitled to make needles and be members of the Company, the conditions under which they could trade and the number of apprentices each member could teach the craft.

The members of the Needlemakers' Company, or, to give them their full title, the Worshipful Company of Needlemakers, did not all practise their craft in Three Needle Street. Far from it: many of them had their workshops on old London Bridge which had, at that time, houses and shops all along both sides.

\* \* \*

THEIR needles they made from iron wire. These craftsmen inherited a tradition going back many thousands of years to the time when skins were the only form of clothing, and the only way of fastening them together was by making small holes along the edge and drawing a thin strip, out from the skin, through the holes. That method is still used in some parts of the world. The “needle” was, perhaps, a larger thorn, a thin splinter of flint or animal bone, or a fish bone. Anyone who has tried passing a thong of skin through holes made in that way—or in any other way—knows how difficult it is. Then came the inevitable

genius who wanted to make the job easier. He—or she—cut a notch round the blunt end of the needle and tied the thong into the notch with a thin fibre.

The next step forward came from the people who inhabited Britain, Northern France and Spain, and parts of Central Europe. These were the Solutric peoples who became very fine craftsmen and made the first true needles. They used splinters of bone taken from the horns of reindeer. They sharpened them and polished them making, at first, the old type of needle. This was developed into a needle with a hook at the blunt end, and then into the needle with an eye.

\* \* \*

MORE than ten thousand years passed before the peoples living round the Mediterranean began making needles from bronze. Later on, about two thousand years ago, as iron came into use needles were made from it, and the form of this valuable instrument has hardly changed since. Now, of course, they are made of highly tempered steel and in many varieties to suit all sorts of jobs, from stitching the finest silks to sewing carpets and packing materials. A special branch of the trade is the making of surgical needles which are curved into half-circles to allow surgeons to sew up wounds.

As time passed the needle making trade in Britain moved to a place near Birmingham called Redditch. Today, that small town is the centre of a world-wide trade in the finest kinds of needles available. Of course, much of the old hand craftsmanship practised by earlier needlemakers has disappeared as machinery has been designed to do the work quicker and better. Nowadays, every needle starts its life as a piece of wire. This wire is long enough to make two needles and it is sharp-

ened at both ends by a special grinding machine. At this stage the wire is soft, and it goes through another machine which stamps out two eyes in the middle, the wire then being broken to form two needles. Each needle must be absolutely smooth on the outside and also through the eye so that it does not fray the cotton or thread. This means that every one has to be polished all over with the greatest care. Then the needles are hardened by being “cooked” in oil at a temperature nearly eight times that of boiling water. But if they were left like that they would be brittle and break easily, so they are tempered in furnaces at about twice boiling point.

\* \* \*

ALL this heating and cooling tends to discolour the needles, and everyone who uses them expects to see them bright and shining. So they are put into a bag—thousands of them—together with soft soap and emery powder and rolled backwards and forwards for hours. Quite a few get broken in this process, but all those that survive have the high polish for which British needles are famous. Special care has to be taken, too, in packing the needles because millions of them are sent to hot and wet countries. To protect them they are put in specially-made paper which has no acid in it. It is strange to think that in many countries wives are given a present of a box of needles when they marry and for many of them that wedding present lasts a lifetime. And yet Britain exports somewhere about twelve hundred million needles to the United States, the countries of the Commonwealth and other countries all over the world, so there must be a lot of wedding presents given every year!

Every single needle has to be perfect not only when it leaves the factory, but also when it reaches the person who is going to use it. But then that is part of the old tradition the British Needlemakers inherited from that ancient Worshipful Company I spoke about at the beginning. The Company still exists and it still maintains the same high standards of quality. Now that care in manufacture is allied to machinery which carries on—and has improved upon—the skill of the old craftsmen, is on a well-nigh immeasurably greater scale. Yes, not the least blessing which civilisation has bestowed on us is a plentiful supply of needles!



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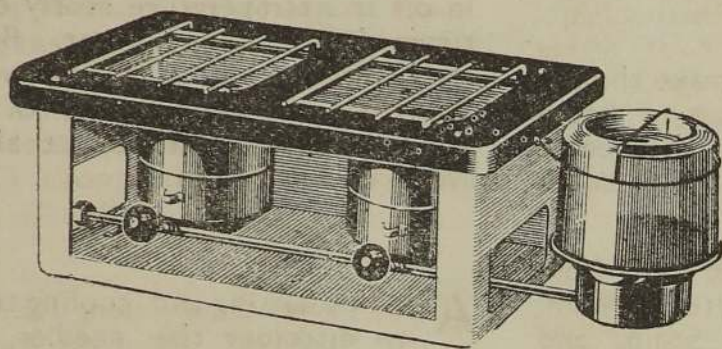
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# EAST COAST HOLIDAY

By DOUGLAS RAFFEL

## III

EVER since I ceased to be a student and began to fend for myself, I have chosen as a venue for a holiday the Wannii jungles, or the Southern Province jungles, or the East Coast, with its jungle and sea,

“and all my days, I shall sing in praise, of its forest waters and shining sands”.

Many years later, with my daughter aged six, I was holidaying in the very area I am now talking about, and she too, with shining eyes, in swim attire with her golden hair flying free, was fishing by me with my lightest outfit. There was a sudden cry “Daddy, I’ve hooked one!” Instructions were quietly given and on her own she landed a red mullet about 8 inches long. This first fish was most carefully packed in grease paper in an empty biscuit tin, and grew to such proportions in the retelling of the story, that Lakdasa de Mel, then Vicar at Kandy, unwittingly called it a shark! He was promptly reminded that Daddy knew better and that he called it a red mullet.

Eighteen years have passed and I was landing fish with that very outfit! Except that silk line had been replaced by nylon.

\* \* \*

THERE is a wilderness of jungle on the land side of the road to Kuchaveli, overlooked by what we call Pinnacle Rock, a hill with a rock on its summit, which from a distance can look like a hooded monk. At its base is jungle, in which you come across deer, peafowl, jungle fowl, hares aplenty, sambhur, and further in, leopard and bear, and of course, after rains, numbers of elephant. There are several hills there, and to clear and colonize that area would be a crime against all mankind, because the area is the *only* rain bearing jungle for miles. The average annual rainfall would become negligible, the colonists could not live, and the entire place for miles around will

suffer. As a matter of fact even now, water bowsers run there daily taking water to some colonists who have been set up some miles away, in what is dry zone, and which the authorities so often forget is dry zone! It must be costing Government more than a penny to keep these colonists alive and partially happy. Their plantations are difficult to find! What they live on only the gods must know. I saw fields as hard as the Galle Road in which the Cassia Tera was doing excellently!

Yes, we did go around in the jeep, looking at the country. It was not far from Pinnacle Rock that I found the first nest of the White-bellied Sea Eagle I had ever seen, set astride a tall stout tree on the top of one of these hills, made out of a sufficiency of twigs to fill a lorry. The parents were obviously feeding young. The usual clutch is 2 eggs. Here too we saw many curlew, stone plover, green shanks and about 600 flamingoes in the karachi, a sight worth going a long way to see.

\* \* \*

IT was close to the foot of “the hooded monk” that a large polonga very nearly got me. We had just had tea at a suitable spot. I picked up a gun, loaded it and walked along a path. I hadn’t gone far when I saw on my right a snake of some description disappear into the scrub by a fallen tree. Out of the corner of my eye I saw some movement on the other side, and looked in that direction just in time to see the polonga leap at me. He landed not six inches from my foot, or where it had been, because I had leapt back too and at the same time fired, killing the polonga. For a few moments I was cold with sweat at my nearest shave with a deadly poisonous snake.

Examination of the spot revealed to me that two polongas had just mated there, and the female was the one that attacked me. I took it back and showed it to the others, and we decided to leave the place for more open country. As one member of the party observed, she now knew why I often say that you can meet with sudden death in the most harmless looking jungle. As a side note was the

most experienced jungle person present, it was lucky that polonga tried his antics with me. He may have succeeded with someone less experienced. But don’t let this put you off going into our jungles. If you are discerning enough to love the places I love, you will be discerning enough also to develop a sixth sense and to use it to guard yourself against sudden surprise leading to disaster. And in any case this was only about the sixth time I had met a deadly snake in thirty six years of jungle experience. I have killed over sixty poisonous snakes in bungalows or bungalow gardens. And wasn’t someone fatally bitten by a cobra in the premises of the Prince’s Club?

\* \* \*

IF you ever travel along the road to Kuchaveli, about three miles north of Trincomalie, you will cross a bridge under which flows water which widens out on both sides of the bridge. To the right it goes out to sea behind a line of coconut palms. Years ago a P.W.D. friend of mine, Hubert K., than whom I never met a keener angler, told me you sometimes got shark by that bridge. It was some yers later again that I happened to be passing that way and as the time appeared favourable, I got out my rod and tackle, and with a stout 4 inch spoon thought I’d try for 15 minutes. My time was almost up when with a rush my lure was taken. I fought a four foot shark and then had a break, and lost him. My 34 lb. American linen line was not strong enough! Or in spite of all my care it had frayed somewhere and I had not noticed the slight fray which gave on a hard pull. My rod was a Manton two piece 9 foot, built for big mahsir, and the reel a 5” Hardy Fortuna bought from a retiring angler of vast experience, Dr. Harry S. The trace—or “leader” as the Yank will call it—was of 27 lb. Elasticum, one yard long. I am not aware of where you can get elasticum steel now, as I had got my own trace wire out from the makers. One yard of elasticum has to stretch to 40 inches before it snaps. And if it has kinked during use you can straighten it out with a tug which stretches it 1/8 of an inch. So it is good for a long time and never rusts. Anglers please note! It comes in varying breaking strains, and I never used “Punjab” steel traces after I used Elasticum.

(To be continued)



## PEOPLE

MR. and Mrs. A. R. Aitken, who since their departure from Nuwara Eliya last year after spending nearly fifty years in this Island, have been visiting South Africa, where they had been looking forward to meeting some of their former Ceylon friends, are now back in England. They are staying at the Junior Carlton Club, in London, until they buy a house at Cooden Beach.

\* \* \*

IN a very interesting letter we received from Mr. Aitken last week, he tells us of the enjoyable time both he and his wife had while visiting South Africa. He says:

"I am writing to tell you how glad we are to keep in touch with Ceylon through your *Fortnightly Review*. We had a great time in Africa and saw lots of Ceylon people—at Umkomaas—Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Thornton, parents of Mike Thornton; the Campbells (Mr. and Mrs. A. H. G.) "Poochie", who used to umpire in the old days, the Alstons (Mr and Mrs. G. D. H.), formerly of Castle-reagh, Dickoya, Palmer of Uva, and others. We were there three weeks. Then we flew to Pretoria and stayed with the Hurleys (he is Canadian High Commissioner). Then on to Salisbury, S. Rhodesia, where Graeme Nicholl was working. He is now in England.

"We then went to Cape Town on the Blue Train and saw a lot of the country. We once again met the Hurleys, who had moved down to attend Parliament. There we saw Sir Henry and Lady Moore.

Sir Henry is very lame and Lady Moore had had a bad operation on her eye. Both were asking about Ceylon.

\* \* \*

"OTHER former Ceylon people we met were George Knox, and the Donalds (late of Gow, Somerville) and Mrs. Smallwood (Jungle's widow). Our last week we spent at Hermanns, which is a lovely place. The Norman McClellans live there. He used to look after the



—Times

Mr. A. R. Aitken

Grand Hotel, Nuwara Eliya, and then the G. O. H. Other Ceylon friends turned up, including John Vidler, the old Oxford "Triple Blue", who used to plant in Dickoya before the first World War. John Vidler had come out after an operation.

"I had a lot of golf everywhere, in fact probably too much and have been laid up ever since. I am now on the mend and hope to play again soon. My wife sends her greetings and joins me with best wishes to you and yours and the *Fortnightly*. Had my seventy-ninth birthday last week."

\* \* \*

THE death of Mr. Ernest G. (Punna) Jonklaas, the well-known Gampola lawyer, in his early eighties, will be widely regretted. He had been a landmark in Gampola for over fifty years and enjoyed much popularity among all communities.

Educated at Kingswood College, Kandy, E. G. used to turn out for the Kandy Sports Club at cricket in his younger days. He married May, the eldest daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. A. Y. Daniel. The funeral which took place at the General Cemetery, Colombo, was largely attended.

\* \* \*

MR. R. B. W. Carter has been appointed to succeed the late Mr. C. E. Thorogood as Trade Commissioner for the United Kingdom in Ceylon. Mr. Carter, who has been U. K. Trade Commissioner in Ghana, is 45 years old and married. He was educated in Cumberland and at Trinity College, Oxford, and since he joined the Board of Trade in 1949 has served in Calcutta, Delhi and Accra.

He is expected to take up his appointment in Colombo next month.

\* \* \*

MR. John Edmund Reeves and Mr. Roland Victor Hinton have been appointed Directors of Aitken, Spence & Co., Ltd., with effect from July 1.

Mr. Louis Bernard Samarawickrema, A.C.I.L., has been authorised to sign for the Company "per procuracionem".

\* \* \*

MR. Livy Wijemanne, Assistant Director of the Commercial service of Radio Ceylon, has left for the United States to take part with Indian officers in a four-month programme designed to acquaint them with the operations of American radio and television.

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PEOPLE



—Times  
Very Rev. Fr. Peter Pillai

THE Very Rev. Fr. Peter Pillai, Rector of St. Joseph's College for nearly twenty years, celebrated the silver jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood on Wednesday, 8th July. Father Peter Pillai was the first Ceylonese to be appointed to the arduous post of Rector of St. Joseph's College, and it is to his credit that despite all the difficulties the College has been through during recent years, the reputation of the leading Roman Catholic College in the Island has never stood higher than it does today.

Peter Pillai disclosed his versatility and power of mind at a very early age. In the Cambridge Senior examination he obtained distinction in every one of the subjects he offered: Religious Knowledge, English Language and Literature, English History, French, Pure Mathematics, Chemistry and Physics. After that the academic triumphs he achieved at Cambridge, in London, Belgium and Rome were child's play.

\* \* \*

HAVING found his vocation early he prepared for it in the most thoroughgoing fashion, spending twelve years in the Universities of Europe, acquiring several languages and studying philosophy and religion and being ordained a priest before returning to Ceylon to undertake his life's work. Tutored in the tradition of Greece and Rome, he did not cease to be a Ceylonese; his patriotism was sharpened by the erudition of Europe. It is unprofitable to speculate on what Father Pillai might have done had he chosen a career in a more secular field. But it is fortunate that his ultimate decision was the Church and the direction

of the largest and one of the best public schools in Ceylon.

A fighter by instinct, he has been in the forefront of the campaign which opposed attempts to stifle the denominational schools. Grave illness nearly deprived Ceylon of the great educationist a year ago. Thanks to the devoted attention of friends and the skill of modern surgery the country can yet draw on his experience and judgment.

\* \* \*

MR. Derek Edmondson, Far East Manager of the Crittall Manufacturing Co. Ltd., of Braintree, England (Agents: Walker, Sons & Co. Ltd.) arrived in Colombo yesterday on a two-week business tour of Ceylon.

His Company specialises in the manufacture and export of steel windows and doors, for which there is a big demand in tropical countries like Ceylon due to their weather-

resisting and non-warping characteristics. It is not generally known, too, that steel windows, once considered an expensive luxury, are now roughly half the price of the equivalent well seasoned wood-framed ones. This is due, on the one hand, to modern manufacturing techniques which keep prices well down, and on the other, to a serious shortage of good timber in Ceylon, where afforestation has not caught up with the swift consumption of natural forest resources.

Mr. Edmondson, who will tour the island calling on architects and building contractors, leaves on July 24 by B.O.A.C. for Crittall's Far East headquarters at Singapore.

\* \* \*

THE marriage was solemnised in Holy Trinity Church, Nuwara Eliya, on June 27, of Trevor Graham Gordon and Penelope Ann Beadon. (Continued on page 32)

Air Ceylon's Summer Schedule



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AIR  CEYLON



## IN PEACEFUL FIJI

—By C. H. DEMPSTER—

THE Fiji-bound airliner glide 17,000 ft. down in space and hundreds of years down in time to a land where ancient customs have survived the disturbing impact of the jet age.

Beyond Nandi airport, where the big planes touch down from great, faraway cities and from romantic islands of the south seas, Fijians live in peaceful villages outwardly unchanged during centuries of change in the outside world.

The old ceremonies are still observed.

One recent night at Nandi, the ancient kava ritual was the initiation for visitors on the inaugural flight of the Melbourne-Auckland-Fiji service.

There, by the light of red-glowing torches, gaily garlanded Fijians, seated around the great wooden kava bowl, went through the ritual of hand-clapping as the drinking cup was passed from one newcomer to another in a gesture of welcome, and a white-robed choir sang haunting old songs of this happy island people.

\* \* \*

A PART from the fearsome war dances which have persisted only as a brilliant spectacle since the Queen's peace ended tribal battles 84 years ago, music and old customs are not dead things revived for the entertainment of visitors.

These are part of a living tradition with its roots deep in the picturesque villages of thatched cottages which flank the palm-shaded highways skirting the coral-fringed coast of Viti Levu.

Western influences have left deep marks in the Fijian way of life—in

dress, education, religion and the employment of many people in offices and factories.

Through Western contacts, the Fijians have taken over, too, Hawaiian and calypso songs which almost monopolise the tra-la-las (song and dance nights) in their villages.

\* \* \*

BUT the West also has borrowed from the Indian and Fijian peoples, especially in food habits and the serving of kava both as a symbol of hospitality and as a refreshing drink with medicinal value.

At police headquarters, the dignified English superintendent takes it as a matter of course when he calls an Indian constable to serve kava to him and his Australian visitor.

Nor is there any sense of incongruity when the Speaker, sweltering in the full-bottomed wig, and gold-braided robes of his Westminster counterpart, strides from the Legislative Council, followed by the Sergeant-at-Arms bearing King Takombau's war club as a mace, and by a Fijian with the inevitable coconut cup of kava.

\* \*

THE mingling races have learned to unbend a little and to understand each other's ways. There are Christmas festivities in many Hindu homes, and some Moslem menfolk waive religious tabus by entertaining friends with liquor.

Among both Indians and Fijians, Western-style boy-girl friendships have replaced the traditional arranging of betrothals by parents.

As one village headman explained: "Now it is just love," adding with twinkling eyes, "And love is all right."

But for all this mingling, Fiji is a melting pot in which the elements do not fuse.

Intermarriage is rare, but apart from this, racial barriers are not blatantly apparent. All races mix in hotel bars, in shops and offices, and theatres and in some of the newer schools.

Fiji is free from racial clashes and, so far, has kept out of the tide-rip of change which has carried almost every other British Crown colony into full self-government and "democracy."

(To be continued)



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# COMMONWEALTH RENDEZVOUS

By ERNEST CHISHOLM THOMSON

(Fortnightly Review Special)

MARLBOROUGH House, the Royal residence which Queen Elizabeth II has made available as a Commonwealth centre in London, has about it a massive dignity which is neither overshadowed by the still older St. James' Palace adjoining it, nor outshone by the splendid and comparatively modern facade of Buckingham Palace, the Queen's own residence, peering at it from across the famous Mall.

As the traditional home of the heir to the throne or the widows of former Sovereigns, Marlborough House has not normally been open to the public. The only time I passed through its pillared portico, to climb the magnificent staircase leading to the State Drawing Room, was three years ago to view an exhibition of the Royal School of Needlework. The School had been an enterprise dear to the heart of the late Queen Mary, our present Queen's grandmother, who spent her 17 years of widowhood at Marlborough House until her death in 1953.

\* \* \*

## Walking into History

LESS than an hour in the mansion was enough to fill me with a sense of walking into history. The master-architect, Sir Christopher Wren, built it 250 years ago for the first Duke of Marlborough, victor of Blenheim and ancestor of Sir Winston Churchill. Much of its splendour remains today, reflected especially in the State Dining Room and the main staircase of solid black marble.

It is difficult to imagine a more fitting venue for Commonwealth Prime Ministers when they meet in London. Many other Commonwealth conferences will also be held there—for example, the fortnightly meetings of the Commonwealth Economic Committee—and it is hoped to provide a reference library for Commonwealth students.

When giving the news to the House of Commons, Mr. Macmillan, the United Kingdom Prime Minister, reminded members of the welcome at the Montreal Conference last September to a British suggestion that

the Government provide a Commonwealth centre in London. The loan of Marlborough House was Queen Elizabeth's own suggestion.

With its 200 rooms, the Royal mansion will give Commonwealth statesmen and their secretariats the elbow room which has been missing at the Prime Minister's official residence at 10, Downing Street. Incidentally, Marlborough House is almost within hailing distance of the Houses of Parliament. No. 10, Downing Street could be reached in two minutes by car, and conference members wishing to walk through the glades of St. James' Park could cover the ground in five or six minutes.

## For Garden Parties, Too

CONFERENCES at Marlborough House would, I imagine, be held in the great pillared drawing room, about 60 feet (18 metres) long, with tall windows looking across the private garden, with its old mulberry trees, to the Mall and St. James' Park. No doubt the grounds would be used for Commonwealth garden parties.

News of this Commonwealth pied-a-terre in London has set people remarking what a lot of place names in the present Royal tour of Canada give the Mother Country a footing, so to speak, on the other side of the Atlantic.

\* \* \*

## Echoes of Shakespeare

TO begin with, Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh arrived in Newfoundland on June 18 at Torbay Airport, recalling memor-

(Continued on page 32)

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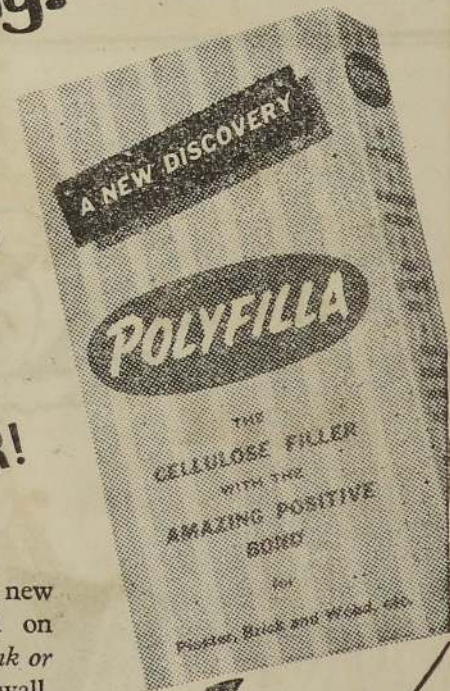
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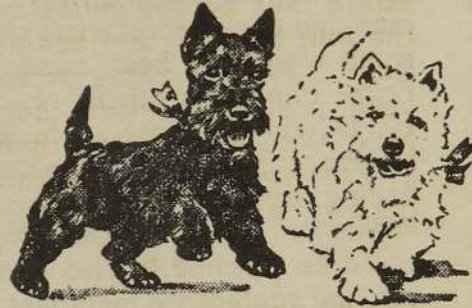
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# REMINISCENCES OF A BUFFALO KRAAL

— By H. K. —  
(Fortnightly Review Special)

IT was in 1897 that I was privileged to see a Buffalo Kraal, and I think I am right in saying that this was the one and only occasion that an attempt was made to catch buffalo by this means, so it may be of interest to record my recollections of what was to me a very interesting and somewhat exhilarating experience. The scene of the Kraal was on the Elk Plains, situated below Ragalla Rock in Udapussellawa, close to Harasbedde, where the then A.G.A., Mr. (afterwards Sir Montagu) Burrows had instituted the commencement of what he fondly hoped would be a successful dairy farm. The buffaloes lived in the Maturata jungles, opposite Bramley Estate, and at night they wandered over the patanas in search of food.

\* \* \*

THERE were a good few of them—over a hundred anyhow—and on more than one occasion a benighted cooly was held up by an angry bull, who at that hour claimed for buffaloes a prior right of way over the patanas. I have myself been held up when returning from the club at Liddesdale. Once I had a rifle and so was able to argue the point, but on the other occasion my only means of defence was a tennis racquet!

On both occasions, however, I was lucky in finding a good healthy sized rock nearby which though scaleable by me, was buffalo-proof, so the tennis racquet suffered no damage—neither did I; and the nett result of both encounters was a trophy on my dining-room wall. I mention these incidents to show that the Kraal was justified, for the buff were a dangerous nuisance too at times.

\* \* \*

I CANNOT quite recollect the actual size of the enclosure which formed the outer Kraal, but from memory I would say it measured fully 300 yards each way. It was square in shape and in the centre of one side was the entrance or gate through which the buff were to be driven—this entrance was 25 yards wide. At the opposite end of the Kraal was a small piece of jungle and within it water, around which was built a small Kraal of some 40 yards each

way. It was here that the buff were to be finally cornered and noosed. Ragalla Rock and the steep slopes of patana on either side of it towered above on the right and the beaters commenced their drive from Bramley Estate four or five miles away over the hills beyond and behind Ragalla Rock. Two or three attempts had been previously made, but all had been unsuccessful, the buff invariably shying at the entrance and breaking away across the patanas.

\* \* \*

IT was decided to rest them for a while and try again, which was lucky for me as I was transferred from Maskeliya to an S.D's billet on Maha Uva Estate, close by the Kraal, on July 1st, and it was less than a week later when what proved to be the last attempt to kraal buff at Harasbedde was made. Then P. D. C. W. Maclean, a hard bitten old sportsman, rose high in my estimation when he suggested that I should take a day off to go and see the fun and I jumped at the chance he so kindly gave me.

It was blowing a gale—it can blow there when it tries—and I found an isolated rock on the patanas a useful shelter and a splendid viewpoint from which I could see everything that happened, and as I carried a rifle there was just a chance of a bit of sport all on my own too! I was the only European present, which struck me as curious for such an uncommon event. However, this did not worry me, rather the reverse in fact, for I had selfish dreams . . . well let that pass. It was a long time ago and I was young and ignorant.

\* \* \*

ONE could literally hear nothing but the rushing, tearing wind, but all of a sudden I saw the herd of buff—fully fifty I should say—appear on the sky line, atop of the ridge, about 5 to 6 hundred feet above me and down they came straight for where I was sitting. A truly wonderful sight it was. The patanas were dry as a cork, as they always are in July over there, and that herd of buff raised a cloud of dust like a young storm. They were charging

headlong and full split down a hill which many a man would climb down slowly and carefully, for it was very steep. They never faltered or put afoot wrong and I sat there and marvelled. Straight down they came, over the road, making a bee line for my rock, which began to appear ridiculously small and inadequate.

Over my right shoulder was the Kraal and the gate they were to be headed through. Behind that and across their path was a line of "stops", who began to fire off guns and make a noise which I could hear even through the tearing gale.

\* \* \*

ON came the herd of buff and I squeezed well into the side of my rock as they swept by not twenty yards from me, and, I am glad to say, unconscious of my existence! On past the Kraal gate and straight for the "stops," whose human feelings overcame them and away they scattered to right and left leaving a broad gap through which this herd galloped madly to the valley below, aptly termed "Hell", and disappeared from sight! From the moment they topped the sky line to their disappearance into "Hell" could not have taken more than a couple of minutes—at least it seemed about that to me—and the show was over. No captures, but for all that a wonderful sight which thrilled me through and through.

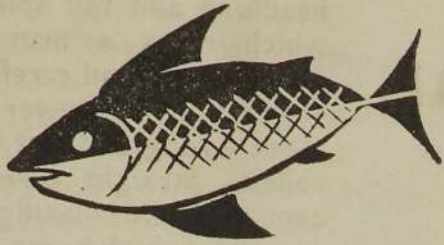
Followed a pow-pow, beaters appeared, so did the betel, and everyone talked at once. The outcome was an ultimatum by the Rate Mahatmaya to have one more try, but in a new place, a bit later on.

\* \* \*

THEN it was that in a piece of jungle in the valley of "Hell" a small Kraal was built, and about a fortnight later I was once again ensconced behind the same old rock peering at the sky line for the approach of the herd which were being driven for the last time. Over they came—down the hill as before, taking exactly the same line as on the previous occasion, but guided this time by a long line of thin coir rope—a single strand fixed to their sticks and running more or less parallel to the course they were taking. This was to turn them from attempting to break out to the left and make away towards Nildandahena, where there are some jungles that would shelter them temporarily.

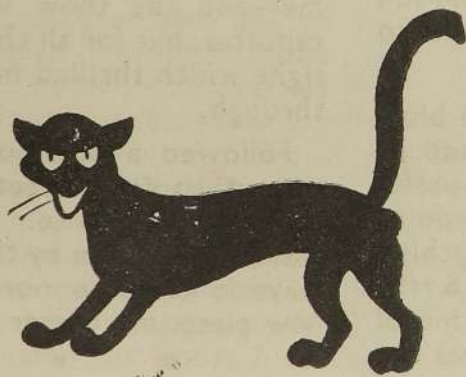
(To be continued)





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# THE PASSING SCENE

By "SPHINX"

SIR John Kotelawala, former Prime Minister, returning to the Island from the U.K. on 7th July, when the Bandaranaike Government was faced with a crisis in Parliament over the Address of Thanks for the Throne Speech, made us see Ceylon briefly as others saw it—from the outside.

He said in an interview that in the outside world the belief was that Ceylon was heading for a state of things from which there could be no "reprieve". Financially, it was considered to be on the road to bankruptcy and visitors feared to come to Ceylon because they imagined that it was unsafe to walk on the streets in the Island. There was also a popular belief that no service could be obtained from a government department without bribery. The cost of living and unemployment were rising so rapidly that a bloody revolution appeared to be imminent, in the eyes of the outside world.

Sir John was also quoted as saying that the Prime Minister was being bullied not only by the Marxist-dominated trade unions but also by pressure groups within the Government Parliamentary Party. He saw no salvation for the country with the present set of elected M.Ps.—both in the Government and the Opposition!

If he were Prime Minister, he said, he would recommend the dissolution of Parliament. It was constitutionally possible to appoint a Caretaker Government for the period between the dissolution and the completion of the next general elections. It should be strong and efficient in order to restore law and order.

Striking a personal note, this controversial figure in local politics said, in reply to a question whether he was giving up politics, said that he was advancing in years and the rough-and-tumble of the hustings was for younger men. But he was not too old yet to oppose forces which seek to disrupt peace, stability and harmony which were the essentials of democracy.

\* \* \*

THE power of red tape! Believe it or not, as Ripley would have said, red tape is so strong that it could kill a full grown elephant. It actually did in Ceylon recently.

A cow elephant fell into a mud hole at a place called Arabokka near

Hambantota on the night of June 25. It appeared that the cow had fallen into it in trying to save her calf. The villagers sought the help of the officials of the area to rescue the mother and calf but, so the story went, the latter said they could do nothing till the Zoo people came down from Colombo.

Meanwhile the calf died in the mud hole and its mother made frantic attempts to get out of it. It was considered that there was a chance of pulling her out with the help of a tractor winch—but red tape would not allow the officials on the spot to



—Times

Sir John Kotelawala

raise a finger till the "proper authority" came.

Finally on June 29, the Zoo representatives made their appearance on the fateful scene, and the first steps of Operation Rescue began. Sand bags, it was decided, should be piled into the mud hole to provide a firm base, so to say. But even that operation did not prove to be simple. An official went to the Salt Department at Bandula to obtain a lorry to transport the sandbags but no lorry was available. At Hambantota at last he managed to obtain a lorry and a winch.

A series of similar mishaps held up the operation till at noon on June 29 the animal was finally pulled out.

But it was too late. Several days of exposure, hunger and frantic endeavour on the part of the animal took its toll, and she died one and a half hours later—from exhaustion.

As I said, the strength of red tape. Two valuable animals died in consequence of the respect paid to proper procedure. This at a time when the elephant population is rapidly dwindling to a level at which extinction of this magnificent animal is considered a certainty.

\* \* \*

THE story of a silent revolution in Ceylon homes was bared by a housewife's comment upon the tax proposals outlined in the Budget Speech last Thursday. The reduction on electrical kitchen equipment was thankfully received by the President of the Ceylonese Housewives' Association, Mrs. C. J. Eliezer, wife of Professor C. J. Eliezer who is now with the University of Malaya.

Mrs. Eliezer said housewives were thankful to the Finance Minister for this relief. Her association had in fact been proposing to see the Minister to request him to make all kitchen items tax free.

Servants would become more and more difficult to find as the days go by, she continued, and in such a situation, they would have to completely electrify the kitchens. Therefore relief in the duty on cookers and other kitchen appliances as on general electrical household goods was most welcome.

Said another housewife: "With servants becoming fewer and fewer in this socialist era, any assistance by the State in our efforts to electrify the kitchen and save labour will be a boon to us."

The days when domestic help was cheap (and efficient!) are gone, never to return and more and more middle-class women are turning to doing the domestic chores by themselves. No bad thing, perhaps, but I expect that they will soon begin to press the dish cloth into their husbands' hands. I know of one at least who washes the home linen, irons them and is otherwise pressed into helping his wife around the house!

This budget was actually described as "fair" by hard-headed and businessmen, according to a poll conducted by a newspaper last week! The President of the Ceylonese Income Tax Payers' Association, Mr. J. L. M. Fernando who is also Manag-

(Continued on page 31)



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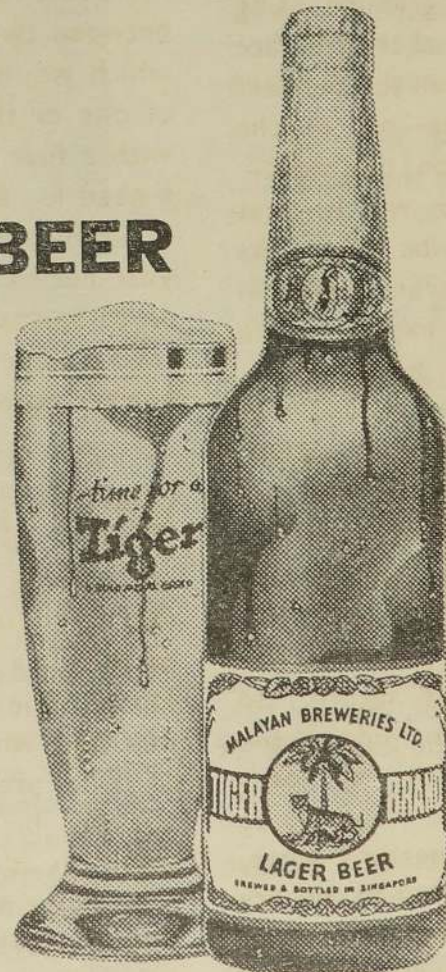
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## SCIENCE SURVEY

—By A. W. HASLETT—

(Fortnightly Review Special)

The British atomic energy industry is working full out not only for the United Kingdom but for overseas. In the following despatch from London Arthur Haslett gives the background to this new and very important form of export.

IT isn't every week that Britain or any country lands an order from abroad for a nuclear power station. We have just had one from Japan—and we're naturally pleased. To see it in proportion, you have to remind yourself—at least I do—that for all that we hear about atomic energy, there is not yet a single nuclear station working in any country that's been built in its own right as a power station. Those that are working have either been built for experience or demonstration. Or are *part* military and *part* civil.

\* \* \*

WE in Britain were the first country in the world to embark on a civil power programme using atomic energy. And there's a race at this moment between the builders of two of our stations—one on the east coast and one on the west—to see which of them will be first in action. That will be about the end of this year. It's true, of course, that we've plenty of experience to go on. Calder Hall, for example, has been working two and a half years. And we've two more stations building, again as part of the civil power programme. As well as three more—all of them big ones—that are already being planned. Plus three experimental types of station that are still for the future. So we're backing our own judgment—and backing it heavily. As near as I can reckon it up, we must be committed now to spending somewhere between fifteen and twenty pounds a head for every man, woman and child in the country. And all on the *civil* development—the peace-time development—of atomic energy.

WE knew when we began that we were a special case—because we depend more on energy than probably any other country. And we could see future trouble unless we developed this extra source quickly. So we went ahead—going for a type of station that would be justified in our own case. But also planning for the future. We cannot claim—and don't—that atomic energy, as we now have it, is suited to all countries. What we *do* claim is that ours is a well tried method—and that it's suited to countries, like our own, that have an early need of energy, on a big scale.

That's the way things have shaped. I said just now that there was a race between two of our stations, to see which would be first. The builders of one of them have an agreement with a firm in Italy—which has also a need for energy—for co-operation in atomic energy. It covers a seven-year period. And as the first stage of co-operation, there's a letter of intent covering the building of a nuclear power station in Italy.

\* \* \*

OUR third nuclear power station will be in Scotland—about a year behind the others. The group that's building it is the one that will be building the power station for Japan. The first in Asia. And the first also whose designers have had to take precautions against earthquakes. It will be the same in essentials as one of the two reactors that are being built now in Scotland. But the problem of earthquakes has led to changes in both the structure of the reactor and the arrangements for control. It will take about

four years to build, and will be on a site that's about two hours by road from Tokyo.

\* \* \*

EACH of our first four nuclear power stations in Britain is being built by a separate group of companies. But atomic energy isn't only, or even mainly, a question of the design and building of the stations. It involves materials and methods and instruments, many of which are new for the job. Not only are many of the materials new to industry; they have to be made to a standard of purity that has not before been considered practical. And many of the instruments are of new kinds, or of kinds that have not before been used in industry. I don't know—and I doubt if anyone does—just how many British firms, small ones as well as big, are contributing in one way or another to atomic energy. It must be a significant proportion of our total industry—and certainly of our more up-and-coming firms. In electronics, metals, chemistry and engineering. Which suggests another point. You can be pretty certain that a firm that's been given a job in atomic energy—even a small job—will be a good one of its kind. Although it will often have needed an effort to meet the standards that are required. That's something that's good in the long run for any firm. So I think one can say that any country that goes in seriously for atomic energy, as we here have been doing, can count on a bonus in efficiency.

\* \* \*

THEN there's a side to it that you will know well enough, but which I nevertheless ought to mention. The uses of radio-isotopes in research, medicine and industry. They're made in research reactors in Britain, mostly at Harwell. And their making—in the form that's wanted—and distribution is quite a sizeable business. Apart from what we use here ourselves, we send roughly half a million pounds' worth a year to other countries. Every working day, we send out an average of eight hundred consignments—and they go regularly to fifty-seven countries. And then the research reactors that make them. They are a big and specialized job—and here we are sending duplicates of our own to three countries. So, you see, atomic energy exports don't mean only power stations.



# A SPORTS CAUSERIE

By "ITINERANT"

## Rugby Football

THE C.R. and F.C., leaders in the Low-Country Section of the Clifford Cup competition and their Up-Country rivals, Dimbula, consolidated their positions when they beat the C.H. and F.C. and Dickoya respectively, in their return fixtures played last Saturday.

The winners however did not have things their own way, for at Longden Place, the C.H. had more of the game though going under by 16 pts. (2 goals, 2 tries) to 6 (2 tries). Two snap tries by Ivan Diaz putting the C.R. on top, after they led 8-6 at half time.

\* \* \*

AT Darrawella, Dickoya put up a spirited performance against the Up-country champions to go under by only 8 pts. (1 goal, 1 try) to nil.

In the third game for the weekend, the Havelocks kept up their run of success when they beat Kandy by 17 pts. (1 goal, 2 tries, 2 penalties) to 3 (1 penalty) at Nittawella. This was the Colombo team's sixth successive victory.

\* \* \*

DIMBULA, leaders of the Up-country section of the Clifford Cup table, maintained their unbeaten record in the tournament, when beating Kandy by 22 pts. (2 goals, 3 tries, 1 penalty) to nil, at Radella.

Play in the first half was colourless and Dimbula held a slender six points lead, but with Barry Cameron inspiring the home forwards on to greater things in the second half, play livened up and Dimbula added 16 pts. to their tally.

\* \* \*

CAMERON played a great game and had a hand in every try scored. He was ably assisted by the rest of the forward line, with Pilapitiya outstanding.

Kandy were expected to give the leaders a close game but failed to impress.

Tissera opened scoring for Dimbula and Thacker put over a penalty in the first half. On resumption Bean, Cameron and Gauder (twice) added to the score, Thacker adding the major points on two occasions.

\* \* \*

DIMBULA have two more game, to complete their programmes their last fixture being against the

C.R. & F.C. on July 18th, at Radella. They will then meet the C.R. & F.C. again in the final, which is to be played in Colombo on July 25.

\* \* \*

IN Colombo, the C.R. & F.C. and Havelocks earned points, when they beat Dickoya and the K.V. respectively.

After being held to three-all at half time, the "C.R." came to life in the second half—their three excelling—to eventually run out winners by 20 pts. (1 goal, 5 tries) to 3 (a try).



—Times

Alejandro Olmedo

Attwell (4), Almeida and Cader scored for the winners.

\* \* \*

ON the Police Park, the Havelocks though not at full strength, rattled up 19 pts. (2 goals, 3 tries) to beat the K.V. "Bhoys" (6 pts.—a try, penalty).

Hard tackling by both teams was a feature of the game.

\* \* \*

## Athletics

AFTER a very successful trial meet held on the Police Park, in which three Ceylon records were lowered, ten athletes were chosen to represent Ceylon against Malaya.

The team includes two women, Nobel Kiel and Nilmini de Alwis and V. G. Vambeer, A. S. M. Khan,

O. Rajapakse, V. Wijesekera, L. C. Diaz, T. D. S. A. Dissanayake, P. Don Victor and R. Wijesekera.

\* \* \*

## Olmedo's Brilliant Wimbledon Debut

THAT Peruvian Alejandro Olmedo would succeed in winning the much-coveted Wimbledon Singles Title was never in doubt since his brilliant showing in the last Davis Cup contest in Australia, where he helped the U.S.A. to regain the famous International Trophy they had lost some years ago. In capturing the highest individual honour in Lawn Tennis, Olmedo at the age of 23 has set the seal on a meteoric rise to tennis stardom which began last December when, following his successes in the Davis Cup, he won the Australian title.

In the final at Wimbledon Olmedo after disposing of his most serious rival, the Indian star, Krishnan, who had previously defeated him on the eve of the big meet at Wimbledon, came up against Rod Laver, the young Australian, who fought gamely, but in the face of Olmedo's tremendous pressure was never able to control his ground strokes to the same degree as he showed in winning his 87-game marathon semi-final against the American, Barry Mackay.

Though Olmedo always remained on top, Laver, who is a left-hander, never gave up fighting and twice saved match points in the final game. Olmedo is said to have covered the court with the speed of a panther and his anticipation was uncanny. He won in straight sets 6/4, 6/3, 6/4.

\* \* \*

THE Women's Singles title was won by Maria Esther Bueno, 19-year-old Brazilian champion who triumphed over Californian Darlene Hard by 6-4, 6-3 in 43 minutes and thus broke the U.S. monopoly of this title which had lasted 21 years. Ironically it occurred on American Independence Day.

Roy Emerson and Neale Fraser won the Men's Doubles title by beating Bob Mark and Rod Laver 8-6, 6-3, 14-16, 9-7 in the All-Australian final.

\* \* \*

L AVER, beaten in two finals, was fittingly rewarded when he and Miss Hard won the Mixed Doubles event which brought the Wimbledon fortnight to a close.

In the final they beat Fraser and Miss Bueno 6-4, 6-3.



## A SPORTS CAUSERIE

## The Passing of F. A. Waldock

THE passing of Frederick Alexander Waldock in his home town Taunton, Somersetshire, on Saturday, 4th July, very suddenly will be widely regretted in Ceylon, where he spent over thirty years and worked in the well-known firm of Brokers, Messrs. Keell & Waldock, founded by his uncle the late Mr. H. M. Waldock and the late Mr. W. E. Keell, a partnership which was first formed on the Ceylon rugby field, where they excelled as a pair of half-backs.

Fred Waldock, the eldest of four sons, whose father was the late Mr. F. W. Waldock, a partner of the firm of Keell & Waldock, was educated at Uppingham along with his brothers, all of whom won distinction in more than one branch of sport and the youngest of them was C. H. M., the distinguished lawyer. Fred Waldock, who retired as head of the firm of Keell & Waldock five years ago, was one of the finest all-round sportsmen that Ceylon ever had. He won his "Blue" for cricket and rugby at Oxford and for many years was one of Ceylon's leading cricketers, playing in all the representative matches against English and Australian teams prior to World War II. He captained Ceylon against G. O. Allen's team in 1936.

\* \* \*

WHEN the three brothers F. A., H. F. and L. H. C. Waldock arrived in Ceylon round about 1924, they came to carry on the family tradition for sport, F. W., father of this distinguished trio, and A. P., H. M. and E. R. Waldock, their uncles, having played a very prominent part in cricket and rugby football in Ceylon in the eighties, nineties and early years of this century. Both F. A. and H. F. had won their "Blues" for rugby football at Oxford, and it was a tragedy that the latter should have met with his death not very long after his arrival in the Island, following an accident on the rugby field.

After doing exceptionally well as a cricketer at Uppingham, F. A. Waldock more than realised expectations when he went up to Oxford in 1919. His best batting performances were 69 and 72 against a strong side led by the old Oxford captain, P. F. Warner, and 85 against the M.C.C. In all he played 17 innings with an aggregate of 521 runs and an average of 32.

## R.C.G.C. Championship

THE Annual Royal Colombo Golf Club Championship, due to commence shortly on the Ridgeway Course, should produce keen golf, and most likely another Fernando-Moss final, as these two players on present form are easily the best in Ceylon today. Since the institution of the R.C.G.C. Championship some thirty years ago, many famous Ceylon golfers have won the honour, but none better than "Pin" Fernando, George Carter, one of the best we ever had in Ceylon, and J. O. Moss. There have been other fine players who have won the title like M. P. Davis, T. K. Anderson, C. A. S. Booth, B. J. Lallyett to mention a few of them.



—Times

F. A. Waldock

It is more than likely that the present championship will attract all the best players now in Colombo, including M. G. Thornton and N. W. G. Brown, who were prevented from competing in the recent H. G. C. Championship.

\* \* \*

## India's Poor Showing in The Tests

THE failure of the Indian cricket team in the first three Tests against England has caused no surprise but it must be said that they have had extremely bad luck so far in having so many of their best performers "crooked", including their skipper, who was an absentee in the match at Lord's. Compared with previous Indian sides this 1959 combination has been the weakest yet seen in England, lacking batsmen of

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## NEW CAR NEWS

— By J. P. O. —

WE have information that three new models will shortly be available. Brief particulars are as follows:—

**The B.M.W. "700."**—This is an improved version of the existing "600" model, and is a small economy run-about, a type of conveyance that is very popular in Europe. There is room for four, the horizontally opposed twin cylinder engine being at the rear—now enlarged to 696 c.c. and giving off a power output of 30 horsepower at 5,000 revs. per minute (as against 20 horsepower of the older model). A maximum speed of 72 miles per hour is claimed. There is independent suspension to all four wheels.

**The New Lloyd**—yet without a distinguishing name—differs from the existing models in that it will be larger (full four-seater, two-door saloon) and have a water-cooled four cylinder (flat) engine of 892 c.c. located at the front of the car, with drive to the front wheels through an all-synchromesh four-speed gearbox. 42 horsepower is developed at an engine speed of 4,200 revolutions per minute, using 7.5 to 1 compression ratio. The backbone type chassis has independent suspension (coil springs and wishbones) all round, with anti-roll bar at the rear. A top speed of 72 miles per hour and an acceleration figure of 0-60 miles per hour in approximately 27 seconds is the manufacturer's claim. This large model, it appears, is being marketed as a rival to the immensely popular Volkswagen.

**Austin Healey** fans will be interested to know that the 100-6 sports car will soon be coming through in revised form. It will be called the **Austin Healey "3000."** Chief modifications are to the power unit, where the B.M.C. "C" type engine has been given a new block, increasing the cubic capacity to 2,912 c.c. (83 mm. bore 89 mm. stroke), generating 124 horsepower at 4,600 revolutions per minute on the fairly high compression ratio of 9.03 to 1. Girling disc brakes are fitted to the front wheels. According to the makers, it will accelerate to 100 miles per hour, from a standstill, in 31 seconds.



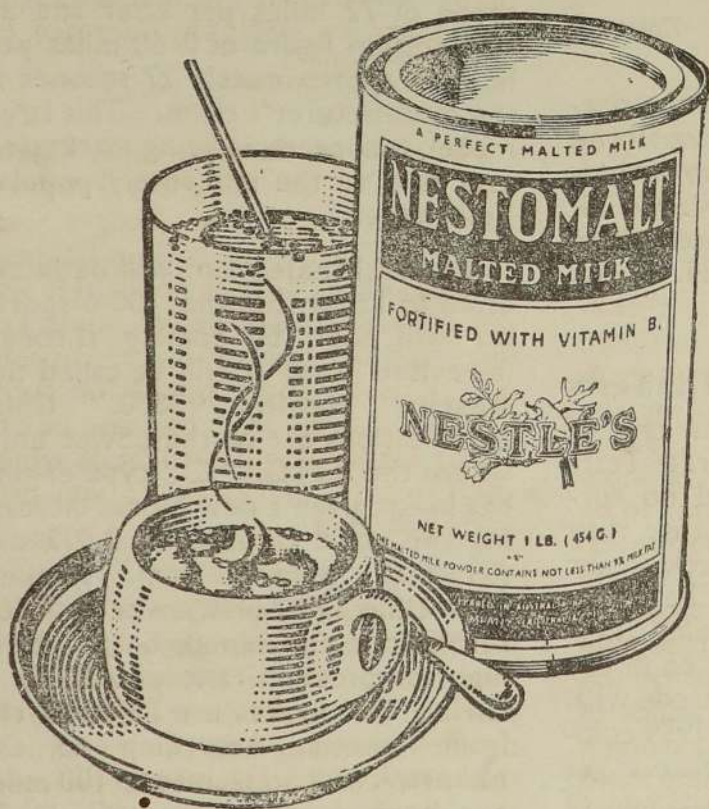
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# A WOMAN'S DIARY

## THE BEST OF BEING A WOMAN

—By ANNE—

It amazes me to recall that there was a time—in my distant, callow youth—when I wished I were a boy! This was largely due, I believe, to the constant maternal admonition that rang in my ears in those days: “Remember you’re a girl”! And remembering I was a girl meant that there were all kinds of jolly pastimes open to my brother but barred to me, because of my sex. And so I had the erroneous idea that all the best things in life were reserved for the male of the species. It was much later that I began to realize how much better off I was as a woman, and the older I grow the greater my conviction that we women are darned lucky people.

At this very moment, for example, I have reason to be thankful I am a woman—a very elementary reason, but a good one. We were up till 4 a.m. last night and while my poor husband, as breadwinner, had to wash his weary eyes and go to work as usual, I, lucky woman, was able to go back to bed and catch up on some lost sleep after I saw the children off to school. I’ve given myself a leisurely day, skipping many chores and performing only essential tasks. I feel pity for the man of the house who has to stick out his eight hours at the office as efficiently as usual.

\* \* \*

“AHA!” you say, “But what about all the disturbed nights women spend nursing babies and changing nappies?” True enough, but we can always make up for it during the day, and the joy and satisfaction we derive from our babies—a height of happiness no mere man may ever scale—more than makes up for these little inconveniences. Then, too, it is we mothers who have the best share in our children’s infancy and toddlerhood because we are the ones at home with them, thrilling to

the spectacle of their daily growth and development. Husbands, for the greater part, don’t have a ring-side seat at all their little triumphs and achievements like the first real smile, turning over for the first time, sitting up, trying to crawl, the first uncertain steps, etc.

\* \* \*

SIMILARLY, we women are free to enjoy our homes to the fullest extent. We really live in them, while the poor men have to spend the best part of the day cooped up in an office. There is no denying that even a not-very-efficient housewife like myself gets a kick out of turning a room inside-out and trying out a new arrangement of the furniture, changing the position of pictures, experimenting with flowers and pot-plants and generally pottering about house and garden.

Of an afternoon, while husband concentrates grimly on his work, I can recline on the sofa in the cosiest corner of our cool verandah; I may sit under the mango tree and read poetry on one of those heavenly mornings when the skies are blue and soft breezes blow, but he, oblivious of it all, must rush off to cope with correspondence or accounts or prescriptions or whatever it is. He hardly ever returns home in time to sit peacefully on the lawn and drink his tea. Poor dear, he provides the home but spends precious little time in it, of necessity.

\* \* \*

HOW tiresome it must be to have to deal with income tax returns, bank statements, insurance policies and the bulk of the household bills. Whenever I see my husband poring over such documents, I am so thankful I don’t have to bother about them. It’s wonderful to have all these unpleasant affairs taken care of by the man. And how comforting it is that a woman is not called upon to show a stiff upper lip at all times, nor to be brave under any circumstances. Thank goodness I can indulge in the relief of tears without having to be ashamed about it, and that it is only natural for me to be scared of the dark, or of mice, or of burglars, or of the sight of blood. We lucky women are not subject to the tensions and the high pressures of the masculine life.

Of course, we do work hard in the home, but we are our own bosses. It is up to us to decide whether we have a ten-hour day or a five-hour one, whether we make the beds first thing in the morning or hurriedly in the afternoon, whether we have a coffee-break at ten o’clock or a chat with the neighbour next door. We housewives are about the only people in the world who can juggle with the petty cash and get away with it. Incompetence may bring us dirty looks or sarcastic words, but not the sack.

What if we do spend the best years of our lives sweeping and dusting, mending and darning, sewing, washing, ironing, cleaning, polishing, cooking? It is the life we have chosen above all others, and we work happily for the people we love best on earth.

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## THE PASSING SCENE

(Continued from page 25)

ing Director of Air Ceylon, was glad there were no more direct taxes (they were now at their peak). The increase in the price of cars, petrol and liquor affected only a small section. The increase in the price of arrack, however, was a “little hard” on the small man and was out of proportion with the increase on foreign liquor.

Mr. Selwyn Samaraweera, Chairman of the Low-Country Products Association said the budget was fair—considering the parlous financial position of the government. He was not enthusiastic, however, about the increased duty on copra and coconut oil. Present boom prices for coconut products would in any case be offset by higher wages for labour which the Coconut Wages Board was preparing to give.

Sir Chittampalam Gardiner found it difficult to forecast the effect of the new taxes. While living costs were soaring, the expenditure tax sought to curb spending and the increase in the price of liquor would promote the illicit manufacture and sale of poisonous brews.



## PEOPLE

(Continued from page 19)

THE death occurred in the General Hospital, Colombo, on June 4th, after an operation, of Mr. Donovan Andree, leader of show business in Ceylon. He was 57.

Though he gained international renown in the past twenty years as an impresario, Mr. Andree started life as a journalist. He was a cub reporter on the "Independent" when the well-known Charlie Staples was Editor. He later joined the "Ceylon Morning Leader", by which time he was a versatile reporter, being a proficient shorthand writer and sports commentator. His journalistic career ended on "The Times of Ceylon", for which he was the chief racing critic under the pseudonym "Trespasser," which stood for the forthright expression of independent views.



—Times

The late Donovan Andree

Mr. Andree's organizing ability first showed itself when he formed the St. Michael's Sports Club and built up a team which carried all before it in competitive soccer. Its success gave a fillip to the game in the Island. His introduction to show business was through his band of nigger minstrels, "the Red Tails", composed chiefly of his friends. The amateur company earned such popularity that he was persuaded by the demands made on it during the war to turn into it a professional troupe. Many young men and women, dancers, singers and musicians, blossomed to fame by the opportunity he gave them to develop their talents.

THE process was repeated when Mr. Andree was called upon to organise innumerable carnivals for various clubs and societies which had not survived today but for his service to them. As he grew in stature as an impresario it followed as a matter of course that he should give his assistance to cultural organizations and himself bring out to Ceylon entertainments of every description from abroad. Holiday on Ice, the Symphony of the Air orchestra, and the Westminster Choir are examples, not to mention individual artistes, like Marian Anderson and Tony Brent.

Mr. Andree's success in show business brought him great wealth, of which he gave away lavishly. He himself was a model of humility. Ever mindful of his own early struggles, he was quick to come to the aid of friend or stranger who was in difficulty. Indeed a legend grew around him of a sort of twentieth century knight errant which his death cannot efface. Few of the thousands who attended his funeral could claim not to have been in his debt. The measure of the esteem he enjoyed was reflected in the fact that the Governor-General was a pall-bearer at his funeral and Bishop Lakdasa de Mel conducted the service.

\* \* \*

SIR Hilary Blood, formerly of the Ceylon Civil Service (he joined it in 1920), who was Governor of Mauritius from 1949 to 1954, has been appointed Commissioner to review the constitution of the British Honduras and recommended changes, the U.K. Colonial Office announced last week. Sir Hilary (66) retired in 1954. Before going to Mauritius, he was Governor of Gambia and Barbados.

## COMMONWEALTH RENDEZVOUS

(Continued from page 21)

les of the famous Torbay yachting stretch off the English county of Devon, soon after, they were to leave Ottawa by train for Hamilton, namesake of a busy Scottish town, en route for Stratford, with its echoes of Shakespeare's English birthplace.

## FIFTY YEARS IN CEYLON

(Continued from page 13)

lop the Island's resources. The Mitchells, the Mackwoods, the Bois family, the Leefes, Leechman, father and son, the Figgs, Drury's and Waldocks are among those who have carried on an honourable tradition in business. Their names will, in due course, disappear except on the brass-plates and letterheads, but their contributions to the Island's development will remain.

Col. and Mrs. Forbes leave Ceylon for good at the end of the year. The *Ceylon Fortnightly Review*, of which Col. Forbes is a founder subscriber, wishes them every happiness in their retirement.

## A SPORTS CAUSERIE

(Continued from page 29)

the calibre of V. M. Merchant, C. K. Nayudu, Mustaq Ali, Hazare and Mankad, not to mention several other famous Indian batsmen of past years. They have also been handicapped without bowlers of the class of Amar Singh, Nissar, Nayudu, Mankad and Phadkar.

Of the present team Umrigar and Manjrekar have scored consistently against the Counties, but their Test records have been most disappointing. The greatest weakness of the Indians is their fielding which for the most part has been very poor. The catching in particular let the bowlers down badly.

While the form of the Indians has been a great deal below Test standard, the failure in the Tests of the best form batsmen in England this season has caused the selectors much anxiety, especially with regard to finding successors as openers to Peter Richardson and Milton, who let England down so badly in Australia. The pair entrusted with opening England's first innings in the recent Test at Leeds—W. Parkhouse and G. Pullar—did more than the selectors could have expected, but it must be borne in mind that India have no fast bowlers of the calibre of the pacemen they will be opposed to when they tour the West Indies next Winter. One definite "find" among the English batsmen up to now has been Barrington, the Surrey man, who has shown remarkable consistency in the first three Tests against India.



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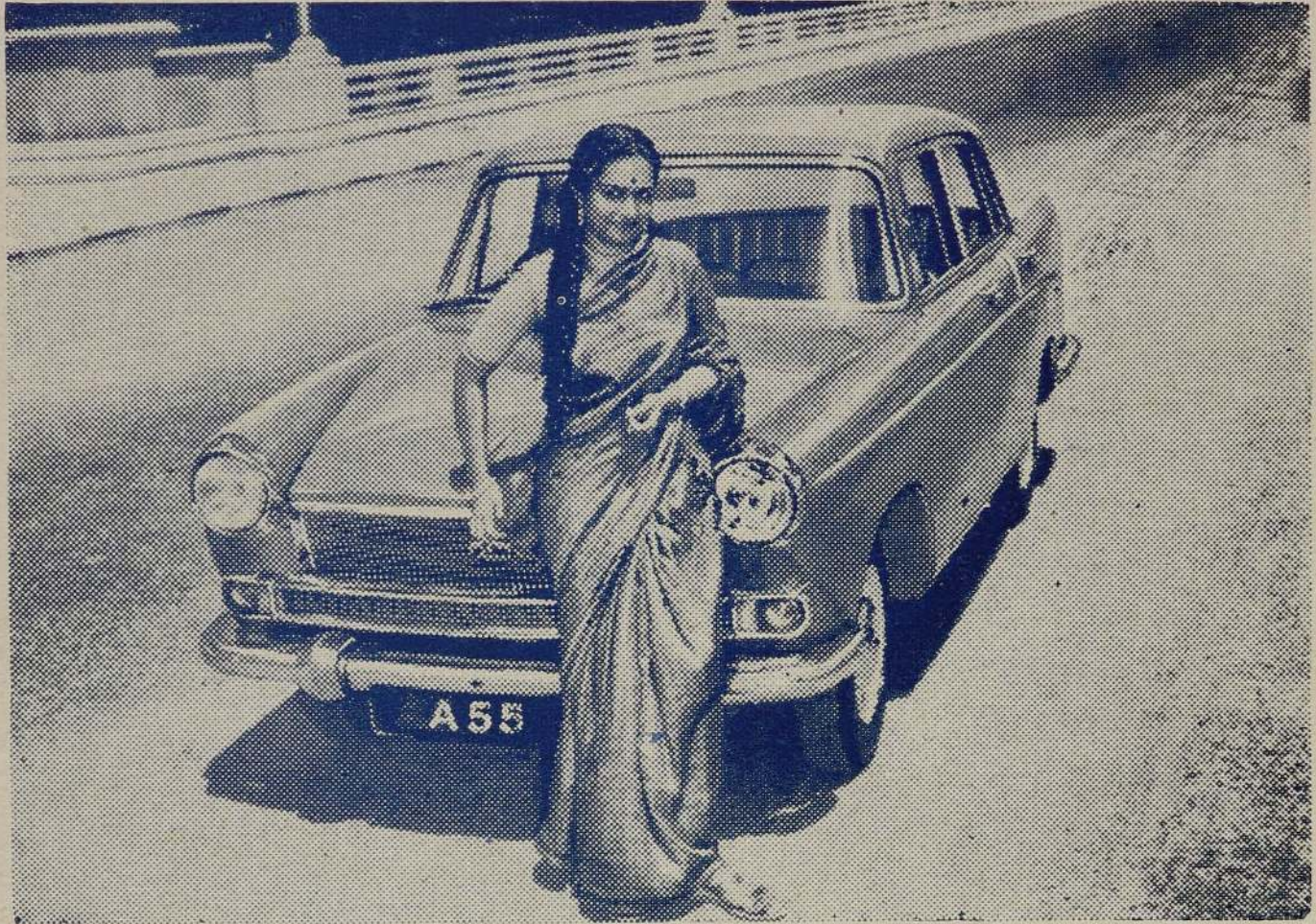


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