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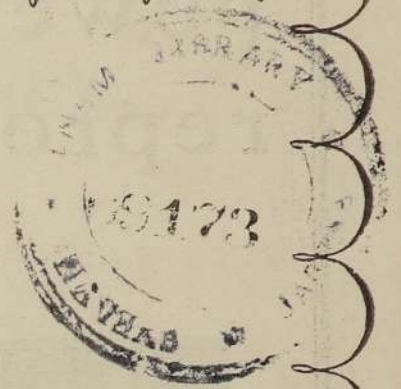
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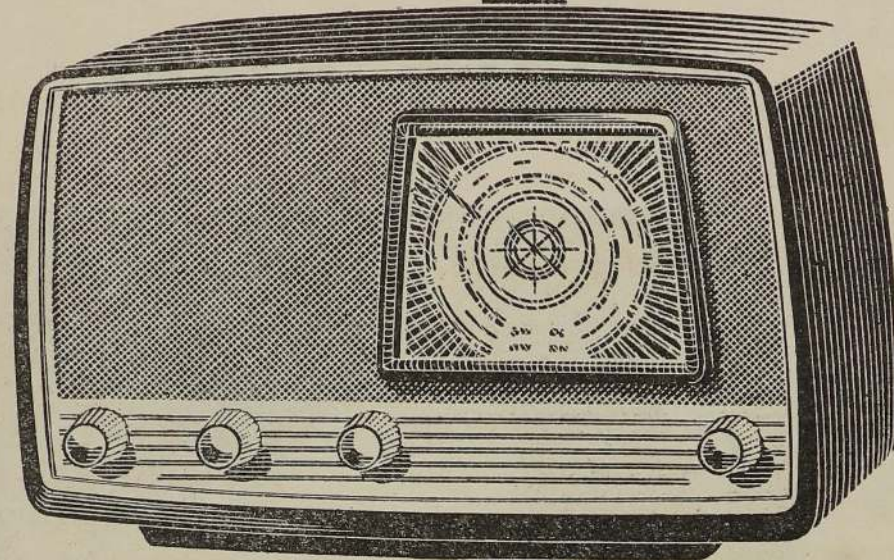


“HAPPY DAYS!”



The marriage was solemnised at Christ Church, Colombo, on February 28th, of Mr. R. D. Banks and Miss Elizabeth Tatham, daughter of Mr. H. W. Tatham, Managing Director of Messrs. Mackinnon, Mackenzie & Co. of Ceylon Ltd., and Mrs. Tatham.—(Photograph by B. P. Weerawardane, A.R.P.S.)

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LESSONS OF THE EMERGENCY

NOW that the controversial amendments to the Public Security Act have become law and the state of emergency has been lifted, what the country needs is a period of peace on the political front. It should be obvious to all parties that they must concentrate their attention on the economic scene if a degree of stability is to be attained and the hardships endured by the people assuaged.

* * * *

THE period of emergency rule from May 27, 1958, to March 13, 1959, has lessons for everybody. For the party in power it should bring the realisation that it is one thing to make promises before an election and quite another to try to fulfil them without regard for realities. Its *volte face* over the Public Security Law should drive this home.

* * * *

THE events that preceded the emergency—in fact led to it—were without doubt the outcome of hasty implementation of the language policy, which aroused emotions to a degree that made an explosion inevitable. There is no going back now, lest worse follow. How then is the dilemma of a divided nation to be resolved? The constitutional reforms evolved by the joint-parliamentary committee, on which rests a grave responsibility, will be awaited with interest.

* * * *

FOR the parlous economic situation that has developed in the country the L.S.S.P. in the Opposition also cannot escape blame. The frequent resort to strike action was clearly calculated to embarrass the Government, forcing it to make concessions which have imposed heavy burdens on industry without any increase in productivity.

* * * *

THE experience of the past three months will, it is to be hoped, have a cleansing effect on all sections of the community. Serious re-thinking is called for if the problems of the rising cost of living and growing unemployment are to be effectively dealt with. The national interest must receive priority over all other considerations in the months ahead.

THE EDITOR.

EVERYBODY KNOWS-

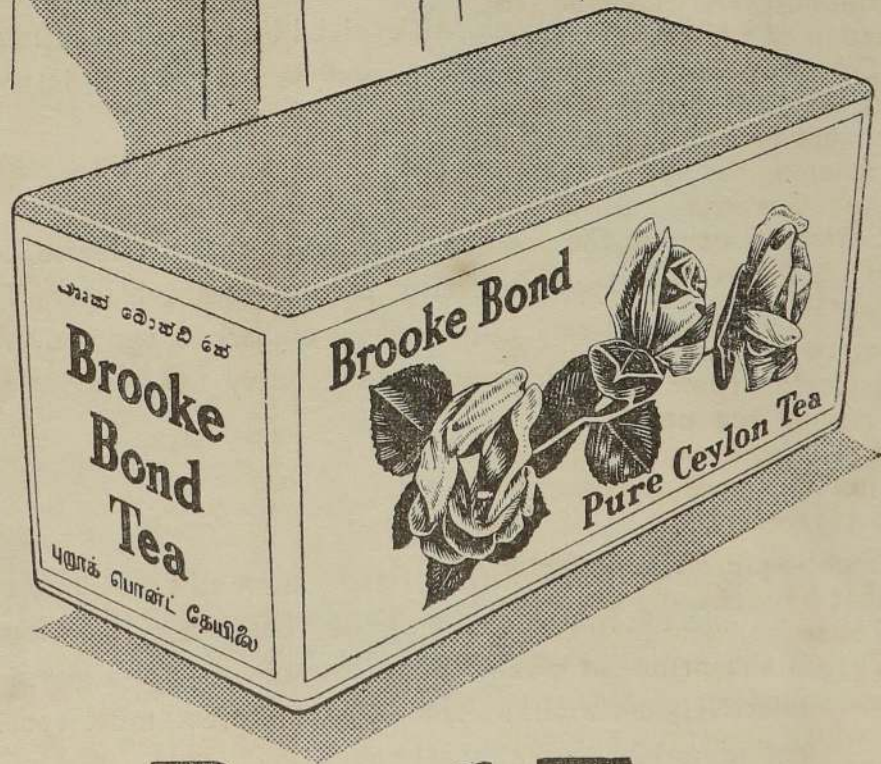
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MATTERS OF MOMENT

By BRUTUS

A FORTNIGHT short of ten months the state of emergency declared at the height of the communal riots last year was brought to an end by the Governor-General, Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, last week.

The proclamation came after the Public Security Amendment Bill had been passed by the Senate the previous day, March 12, and had received the Governor-General's assent. A dramatic development before the Senate disposed of the Bill was the resignation of Senator Thomas Amarasuriya from the United National Party on the grounds that he did not agree with the Party's directive that he should vote against the Bill and that he was dissatisfied with the manner in which the Party High Command had dealt with it. Mr. Amarasuriya's defection resulted in the second reading of the Bill being passed by a majority of one vote. The third reading was passed without a division.

* * *

IF his proposals go through, Ceylon would be far in advance of any country in the western world, Professor Nicholas Kaldor, the Cambridge economist, is reported to have claimed in an address to a meeting at the Ceylon Students' Centre in London last week. Professor Kaldor, on whose recommendation a new taxation scheme has been introduced by the Government, was recently in Ceylon to assist in the preparation of legislation to give effect to the proposals.

According to Professor Kaldor the best thing Ceylon could do is to put more money into plantations in the way of replanting and fertilisers. It would not be good business to nationalise tea estates.

At the meeting Professor Kaldor disclosed that besides India and Ceylon he had been consulted by Indonesia and Egypt on taxation. He described these countries as belonging to a group which presented a middle way between western capitalism and communism.

* * *

THE Parliamentary Elections Bill, which includes provision for reducing the voting age to 18, was passed by the House of Representatives last week with less opposition than at first appeared likely.

In order to ensure that elections may not be put off owing to delay in the preparation of voters lists, an amendment was adopted in the committee stage providing for the use of the lists existing at the time of the dissolution of Parliament.

On the voting age, the Prime Minister endorsed a point made by the Leader of the Opposition, Dr. N. M. Perera, that although a person was registered at 18 he would actually not exercise the vote until he was around 20. He also underscored Dr. Perera's statement that not more than a handful of students would be enfranchised, so that the question of chaos in schools was a fanciful idea, he said. Dr. Perera had pointed out that not even five per cent of the schools had the H.S.C. class from which the new category of voters would come.

Of the few critics of the reduced voting age Mr. R. Singleton-Salmon said that the argument that one

could marry or join the army at 18 was not good enough. He remarked that the Prime Minister, in agreeing to the idea, was making a tactical error and giving himself to the enemy, with the N and M in capitals.

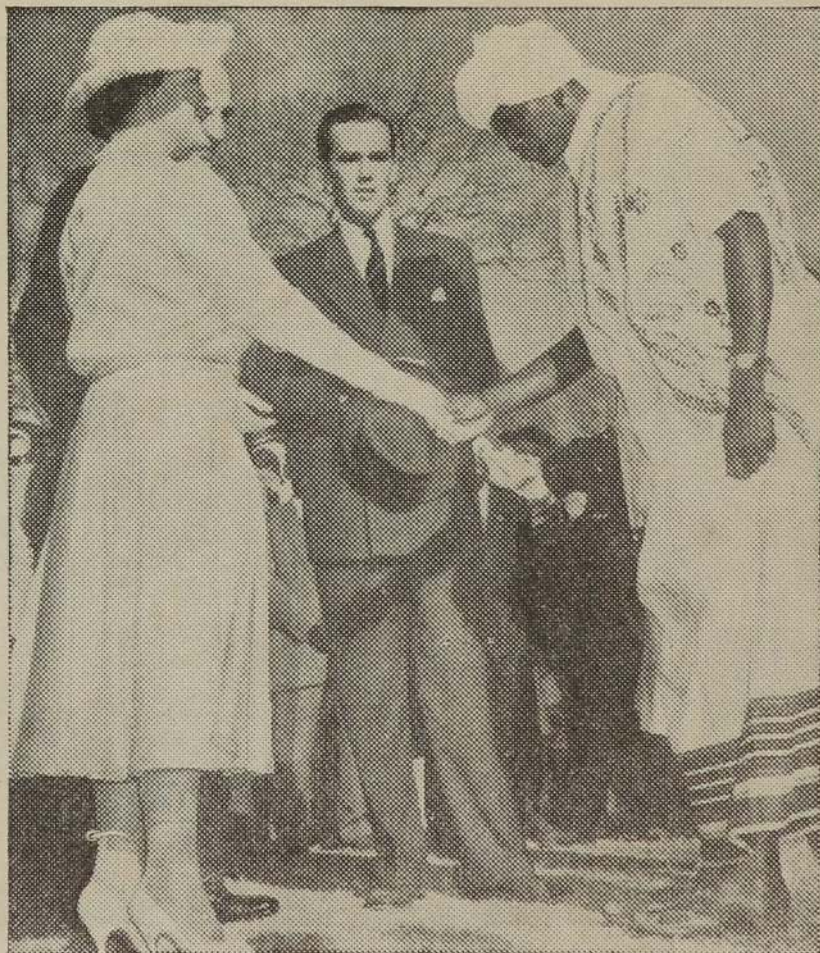
Another critic was Mr. M. D. Banda, (U.N.P.), who drew attention to the fact that the age for eligibility for election to the House of Representatives is, under the Constitution, the same as for the franchise. The joint parliamentary committee on the Constitution is believed to favour retention of 21 as the age for membership of the House.

* * *

ADMISSIONS to the University continue to increase and the excess of women is being maintained.

Of about 1,700 candidates for the arts faculties, 400 have gained admission this year and 230 of them are women. Last year the total was 390 and the previous year 352.

A significant development is that about 20 per cent of the admissions consists of students from Government Central Schools.



Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, who visited Kenya recently, is seen here greeting Chief Lachao, a Turkana who was presented to her at a Garden Party in the grounds of Government House, Nairobi. Earlier in the day the Queen Mother attended a rally of more than 18,000 school children of all races at Mitchell Park, near Nairobi.

MATTERS OF MOMENT

TWO major railway accidents early this month aroused public concern, but the General Manager of the Railway, Mr. B. D. Rampala, announced that there was no reason to suspect sabotage.

In the first, two coupled diesel engines changing tracks got out of control at the Ella station and crashed into a passenger train coming up the incline from Badulla. Of those who were injured the worst affected was the driver of the passenger train.

The other accident occurred on the Jaffna line, when a goods train was derailed near Mankulam owing to one of the wagons developing a defect and jumping the rails. As many as 27 wagons, most of which carried paddy, overturned or left the track, the sleepers of which were cut up into bits. There were no casualties in this instance.

* * *

A PARLIAMENTARY delegation from Ceylon will visit Britain early in May and spend three weeks in the country as guests of the U.K. branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

The members of the delegation will be Mr. H. S. Ismail, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Major C. A. Dharmapala (U.N.P.), Mr. J. D. Weerasekera (M.E.P.), Senator U. B. Wanninayake (U.N.P.), and Mr. R. St. L. P. Dereniyagala, Clerk to the House of Representatives.

* * *

THE talks between Ceylon and China on the trade contracts for this year under the economic agreement between the two countries opened in Colombo last week with the long overdue arrival of the Chinese delegation. The Vice-Chairman of the seven-member delegation, Mr. Tsao Chung-shu, explained that its departure was held up by the important conferences at home: the talks should normally have taken place last December.

The delegation was received at the Ratmalana airport by Mr. A. R. Ratnavale, Commissioner of Commodity Purchase, Mr. B. Mahadeva, Rubber Commissioner, Mr. K. Alva-pillai, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, and other officials of the Commerce

and Agricultural ministries and departments.

After the initial talks the conference split itself into two sections, one dealing with the purchase of rice from China and the other with the export of rubber and other commodities from Ceylon.

* * *

SOME 360,000 acres of paddy have been brought under the Paddy Lands Act in the first year of operation of the Act, according to a review made by the Department of Agrarian Services. Of the six districts to which it has been applied—Hambantota, Colombo, Kandy, Kurunegala, Kegalla and Ratnapura—the cultivation committees in the Hambantota district are held to have taken the lead in availing themselves of the facilities provided through co-operative organizations in the way of fertilisers at subsidized prices, implements, and loans, for the current cultivation season. The application of the Act is to be extended to the Galle, Matara, Kalutara and Batticaloa districts during the latter part of this year.

An incidental effect of the Act is that some 335 S.S.C. qualified youth and 1,065 others have found employment through cultivation committees.

* * *

THE map of Ceylon is to be redrawn for the first time in many years by the creation of a tenth province with its capital at Moneragala.

This part of the Island has seen considerable development in recent times and it is expected that extensive land would be opened in rubber and coconut in the near future in this region. The areas comprising the new province will be drawn from the Uva and Eastern provinces and would include the Moneragala, Wellassa and Bintenna districts and part of Wellawaya.

Since it lies on the route to the Gal-oja Valley, Moneragala has already grown into a sizeable township. Buildings for the kachcheri and other offices and quarters for officers will be up by the time the new province is proclaimed on June 1st.

* * *

THE health authorities have issued a warning that travellers coming into Ceylon without health certificates are liable to be quarantined



—Times

Lady de Soysa inaugurating the orchid planting campaign launched by the Orchid Circle of Ceylon by hoisting the first clump of indigenous orchids on a shade tree opposite Queen's Club, Bullers Road, on 11th March. The Orchid Circle, which celebrated its 25th anniversary the same day, hopes to plant orchids on all shade trees in Colombo.

MATTERS OF MOMENT

for the requisite period depending on whether the deficiency relates to small-pox, cholera or yellow fever. This follows the arrival of numerous persons who have failed to conform to the health regulations that are internationally recognised.

Certificates of small-pox vaccination are required from travellers to and from all countries and should be on the international form and bear the stamp of the health authority. Travellers from India, Pakistan, Burma, Thailand and the Far East must in addition produce certificates against cholera, while travellers from yellow fever countries such as Africa and South America are further expected to have this certificate as well.

* * *

CEYLON is making a further attempt to establish a commercial air link with China. The Minister of Transport and Works, Mr. Maitripala Senanayake, is leading a delegation to Peking with the object of negotiating air traffic rights on a reciprocal basis.

When negotiations were initiated China is reported to have pointed out that the fact that KLM held 49 per cent of the shares in Air Ceylon did not give Ceylon a controlling interest in the enterprise. Since then the Government has acquired 76 per cent. of the shares in the Corporation, which it is believed should overcome the objection that substantial traffic rights would accrue to the Dutch air line. A Constellation aircraft is lying moth-balled in Holland, awaiting the completion of the negotiations, for use on the China run.

Meanwhile Air Ceylon is also seeking traffic rights in Hong Kong.

The delegation to China consists of, besides the Minister, the Director of Civil Aviation, Mr. M. Wijenaik, the Managing Director of Air Ceylon, Mr. J. L. M. Fernando, and a representative of the Attorney-General's Department.

* * *

CANADA is to make a forest resources inventory of Ceylon under the Colombo Plan as part of a comprehensive Commonwealth survey. The survey will be carried out by aerial photography and in the process Ceylonese will be trained in forest mapping procedure.

The inventory will take two years to complete, and will be made by two officers of the Hunting Technical and Exploration Services, Ltd., of

Toronto, Mr. R. J. McCormick and Mr. J. R. T. Andrews.

* * *

ECONOMIC talks between Afro-Asian countries of the Bandung conference are, it is reported, likely to take place in Colombo towards the end of this year.

The Prime Minister, Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, who mooted the idea, is reported to have suggested to the heads of governments invited to the talks that a special committee be set up to draw up the agenda and deal with other matters relating to the conference. The committee will most probably consist of the diplomatic representatives of India, Pakistan and Indonesia in Colombo, with Mr. Bandaranaike as Chairman. The majority of the countries that have been invited are expected to take part in the conference.

* * *

TEA distributors in Britain are reported to have adopted the idea of the cigarette card, so popular before the war, as a means of pushing sales. Hornimans gave the lead by including a card in each quarter-pound of tea retailed by them. They have been followed by Lyons, who

are said to have printed a first issue of 60 million cards.

The Ceylon Tea Centre will participate in the International Kitchen exhibition to open at the Torquay gastronomic festival on April 22nd in a campaign to advertise tea in the West country.

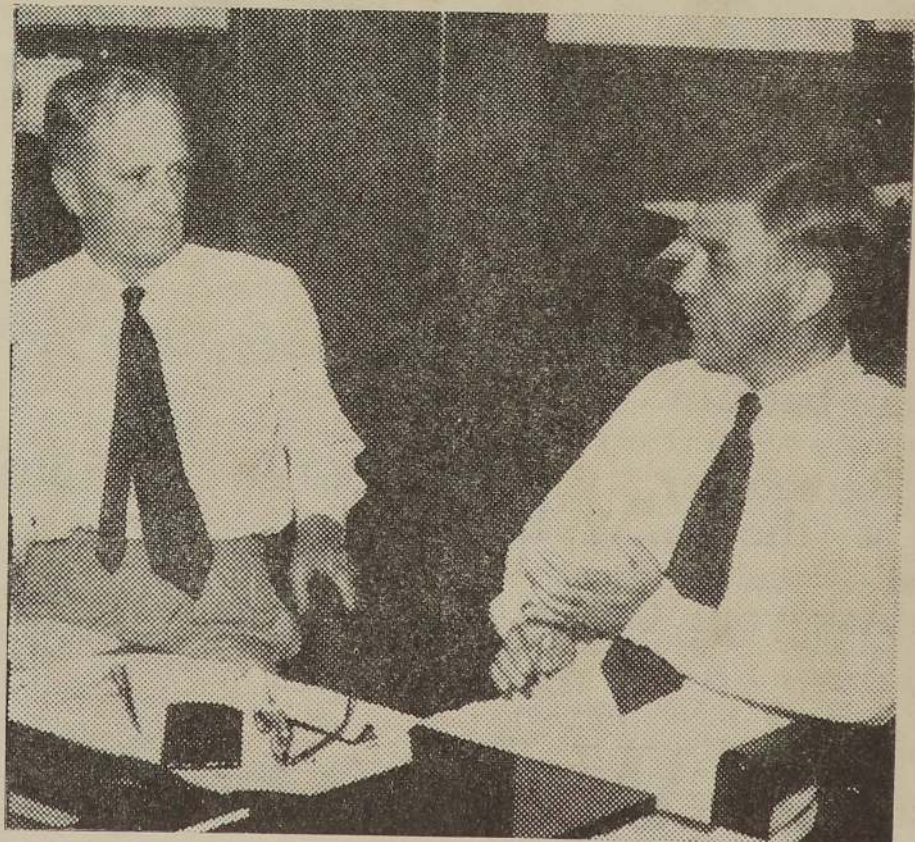
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THE Shell Co. of Ceylon has a prominent part in an ideal home and home-beautiful exhibition to be held in St. Bridget's Convent, Colombo, from July 25th to August 2nd. The chief organisers are Mrs. J. L. M. Fernando and Mrs. J. Herman Coorey.

The Shell Co.'s responsibility is the ideal home section and will take the form of a model middle class home built on the exhibition grounds. The home-beautiful section will deal with such domestic features as the ideal kitchen, sewing room, nursery and garden. Dress parades and floral displays are also on the programme.

Competitions to be held during the exhibition will involve the distribution of more than Rs. 10,000 in prizes.

(Continued on page 30)



—Times

Mr. S. B. Hainsworth (left), chairman and managing director, I. H. Fenner & Co., Ltd., of Hull, England, was in Colombo on Sunday. He is seen here discussing business plans with Mr. G. C. Gray, managing director of Messrs. Brown & Co., Ltd., agents for Fenner's in Ceylon.

Mr. Hainsworth, an ex-president of the Hull Chamber of Commerce and Shipping, is on a world tour of his company's interests.

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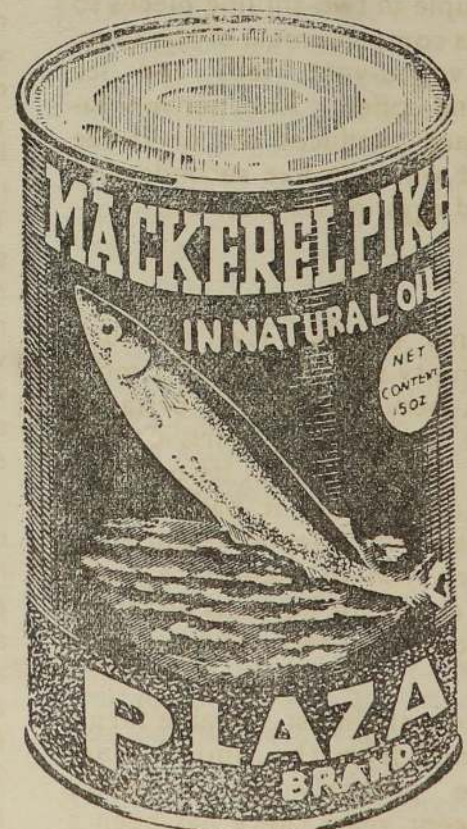
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MANY, MANY THANKS

—By ERNEST CHISHOLM THOMSON—

(Special to the Ceylon Fortnightly Review)

"THANK you. I hope you enjoy your smoke," said the automatic machine as I withdrew my packet of cigarettes. The soft feminine tones, recorded on a loop of magnetic tape, brought that touch of typical British courtesy which, so far, has been the one factor missing in this bright new world of automation.

I came across this appealing gadget at London's Catering Trades Fair. If its example is widely followed, no doubt we shall soon be living in a chorus of automatic thanks from ticket machines, elevators, swing doors, turnstiles, serve-yourself counters and even litter bins.

Yet the "thank you" machine is mechanically a mere trifle compared with some other devices Britain's hotel and catering industries are preparing for the coming holiday season.

Personal attendance on the guest is, as ever, the outstanding characteristic of hospitality all over the United Kingdom, but there does seem to be a mystic fascination about coin-in-the-slot apparatus, especially when carried to the lengths I saw at the exhibition. The Automatic Cafe, for instance, needed the insertion of only a couple of two-shilling pieces to disgorge a complete meal of hot soup, chicken vol-au-vent, jelly and ice cream, and coffee. Another mechanical wizard produced tea or coffee from cold water in five seconds and scrambled eggs in ten seconds.

* * *

THE only possible rival to such ingenuity was the world's most luxurious bed, on view at Britain's Furniture Exhibition at Earls Court, London. Together with its coverlet of mink and velvet, it had built-in radio, television, telephone and electric shaver, not to mention a tape-recorder either for business dictation or, presumably, recounting happy dreams.

Until now the most valuable furniture exports from the United Kingdom have probably been antiques, but in recent years there has been a growing market for choice wooden furniture. Last year overseas customers bought it to the tune of

£2,250,000—a 30 per cent. increase on 1957.

The flood of smart ideas is by no means limited to our caterers and furniture makers. A great wave of invention seems to be sweeping Britain, to judge from news that a record total of 42,000 applications for patents were lodged with the Patent Office last year. About 400 examiners will be probing these claims when they have caught up on arrears of 30,000 other inventions.

Who knows what brainwaves may even now be pulsating in the files—possibly something comparable with such epoch-making British inventions as radar or jet-propulsion?

* * *

IF the Patent Office examiners are busier than ever, so are the Income Tax Collectors. The year 1957-58 has been a bumper one for Britain's Inland Revenue, and its latest Report has an almost festive ring. Earnings under "Pay As You Earn" are provisionally estimated (for 1956-57) at the record total of £11,301,000,000 compared with £10,345,000,000 the previous year.

One needs financial sun-glasses to contemplate people with an income more than £100,000 a year. There were 45 of them in the United Kingdom in 1956-57, compared with 49 a year earlier, so presumably four unlucky ones now have to scrape along in the £75,000-£100,000 bracket. These astronomical figures represent, of course, income before payment of tax. Britain, one of the most heavily-taxed countries in the world, saw to it that, of the people with incomes of £20,000 or more, only 700 were left with more than £6,000 after payment of Tax.

How does the ordinary man come out of it? The figures are interesting. After payment of tax, 6,900,000 people had incomes of between £500 and £749; 2,700,000 between £750 and £999; 1,080,000 between £1,000 and £1,999; and 164,000 between £2,000 and £3,999.

Wives come into the picture, too. Nearly 3,000,000 married women went out to work and earned between them £677,000,000. Over 10,000 earned £1,000 or more a year.

STATISTICS of a vastly different kind come up with monotonous regularity at this time every year. I refer to the world record-breaking play, "The Mousetrap", the detective thriller by Agatha Christie, which has now been running continuously at London's Ambassadors Theatre for six years.

Seen by thousands of overseas guests, "The Mousetrap" scored its 2,500th performance this November, entered its seventh year, and now has its sixth leading lady, Heather Chasen.

The play has been produced in 17 different countries, including Poland, and ran for 1,000 nights in Madrid. During the London run 160 detective note-books have been filled up. On the stage a carpet, armchair and settee have been worn out and replaced, five hundredweights (254 kilograms) of salt pounded up to represent snow, and 2,450 cigars have been smoked.

SINHALESE GIRL TURNS SAILOR

WHEN Captain Fred Peterson, en route from Singapore to the U.S.A., put into Colombo and called for volunteers as replacements on his 65-foot yacht "Utopia," among the hundred or so who applied were several women. Eventually he signed on one of the women, Miss Damayanthi Dunuville. A pianist of repute and a music critic, Miss Dunuville is also a free-lance journalist. "This is a wonderful chance," she said. "I love travelling. My loves, four of them, are music, books, journalism and travelling."

Capt. Peterson, for his part, said: "She wants to go to America and I chose her because she could do a bit of secretarial work and the job of stewardess. She will also occasionally have to take her turn at standing watch."

Three others whom Capt. Peterson took on in Colombo were Daya Situnayake, H. G. Watson and a retired Canadian army doctor E. A. McCuska. Situnayake is a young man at a loose end but good with his hands. Watson had been an assistant in the tea department of Harrisons & Crosfield for four years and was due to go home by the "Orsova," but he cancelled his passage and forfeited the fare. A sailing enthusiast, he also is in search of new pastures in the U.S.A.

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A POLITICAL NOTEBOOK

By CROSS-BENCHER

IN an interview he gave a correspondent of the London "Observer" drawn to Colombo by the much publicised "token strike" of March 3rd, the Prime Minister, Mr. Bandaranaike, has expressed the view that the British system of democracy has failed in Ceylon. He is, it is disclosed, examining the advantages of adopting the Swiss pattern as an alternative, but it seems he really prefers—he has said this before—the executive committee system that was followed in Ceylon from 1931 to 1947.

When he refers to the British system, Mr. Bandaranaike evidently has particularly in mind the principle of the party with a majority in Parliament forming the government, as under the present Constitution. The principal argument used against the executive committee system under the previous Constitution was that it precluded the development of parties as would allow of parliamentary government on the British model.

The Constitution the Soulbury Commission recommended was based on a scheme formulated by ministers who had worked the previous Donoughmore Constitution. In the event parties did emerge where earlier the National Congress alone spoke for the country and had as its sole objective the wresting of independence from Britain. In other words, the relative success they had made of the Donoughmore Constitution brought the Ceylonese leaders fulfilment of their wish to emulate Britain.

* * *

THE predilection for the British system derived from the fact that Ceylon's intelligentsia of a generation ago, with their English educational background, were steeped in British history and were far more familiar with British institutions than of others. The mass of the people, however, being sunk in ignorance, were in no position to scrutinise the views of the leaders thrown up by the struggle against colonialism, and perforce relied on their judgment. But the leadership was wanting in one important respect. Ambitions and jealousies among themselves made them exploit racial and religious considerations in securing a following. The effect is the political climate prevailing today.

A landmark in the history of Ceylon was the appearance for the first time of a party with radical ideas which got nearer the people by developing trade unionism. The L.S. S.P. offered a challenge to the older conservative groups. Among the latter was Mr. Bandaranaike himself, but when he broke away from the Congress to form his own party, the Sinhala Maha Sabha, he failed to seize the opportunity of taking a liberal line.

As the name of the party signified, it was no national party; its only justification seemed to be as a counterweight to the communalist Tamil Congress. And when he subsequently parted from the coalition of the United National Party, his new party, for all its name being the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, by espousing Sinhalese as the national language, its main plank, adopted a policy which militated against national solidarity.

* * *

NOW that the S.L.F.P. has come into power, although in alliance with a Leftist group, what do we see? Mr. Bandaranaike heads a government the division within which is manifest at every turn. The conservative section grudgingly concedes the economic proposals put forward by the Progressives and the consent of the latter to the ideological movements of the former is given with like cynicism.

The coalition has survived for three years for no viable properties inherent in it but because the Opposition consists of a medley of interests which could never combine. If they could be said to be united on anything, it is in making it difficult for the government to govern, since by no political action is there any prospect of the party in power being dislodged before the statutory date of the next General Election.

In the country itself the semblance of national unity that prevailed at the attainment of independence has been dissipated and the biggest minority sulks in permanent opposition what time the chauvinist elements in the Government urge policies calculated to keep power in the hands of the majority.

The language policy of the Government and its ramifications in the educational and cultural fields, not to

speak of its impact on the administrative sphere, including employment, has created such resentment among the Tamils of the North and East that unless some drastic constitutional changes are made national progress is bound to be hampered and social relations between the two races to remain embittered.

* * *

THAT Mr. Bandaranaike should feel the position acutely is no surprise, especially considering the fact that as Prime Minister he has, save to certain parts during the floods of December, 1957, not set foot in the Jaffna or Batticaloa districts in the three years he has been head of the Government, evidently as he is uncertain of his reception. Few of the other ministers have paid more than a fleeting visit to the North, and that only when circumstances compelled their presence, or in an attempt to test the ground, as it were, as in the case of the suave Home Minister. That Mr. Bandaranaike personally wishes to bring this situation to an end is clear from his attempt to reach a compromise over the language issue by entering into the now abortive pact with the Federal Party, but the narrow nationalists among his followers appear resolved to be intransigent.

The joint parliamentary committee on the Constitution has been afforded an opportunity at least to consider possible ways of bringing the Tamils into the national fold. The Donoughmore system is definitely a device which would dispose of the disadvantages of the party system in a plural society such as ours. On the other hand the electorate, now more enlightened than ten years ago and influenced by the activities of the Leftist parties, might not be amenable to departing from a form of Government which they have begun to appreciate. As far as the Tamils are concerned, the best they could hope for under an executive committee system is a finger in the pie of government; in no foreseeable future could a Tamil become a Prime Minister.

* * *

SWITZERLAND is a country with features in its national structure in common with Ceylon, but Mr. Bandaranaike has protested that he has not in mind a government of a federal type. The word "federal" has acquired an objectionable flavour in Ceylon and many Sinhalese would

(Continued on page 30)

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THE PASSING SCENE

—By "SPHINX"—

A FURIOUS controversy has been ended. Since the Select Committee on constitutional reform reported in favour of lowering the voting age at parliamentary elections from 21 to 18, there had been an energetic debate on the wisdom of the move. Last week when the Parliamentary Elections Order in Council (Amendment) Bill was passed by the House of Representatives without a division, this provision was enacted.

There was a last-ditch stand by an Appointed Member, Mr. R. Singleton-Salmon, who ridiculed the arguments used by the Prime Minister, Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, and others, in support of it. Alluding to the claim that in many "democratic and socialist" countries the voting age was 18, Mr. Singleton-Salmon pointed differences. If in certain countries 18 was the voting age it was conditional on being married or literate and in others (he cited the Soviet example) a person was not eligible for election at 18 though free to vote. In any case, did it matter two hoots whether in the "socialist countries" one voted at 18 or 80 when one could only vote for a given list of candidates, or not vote at all?

* * *

SOME inkling that there was uneasiness even on the Government side was given in the speech of the Chief Government Whip, who hinted that the results may need watching, with particular references to its effect upon discipline in schools and on the studies of school-goers of this age.

At Government Party meetings earlier the Minister of Education himself had strenuously opposed the measure on the ground that it would undermine discipline but in the end he bowed to the will of the majority. Not so, many parents and heads of schools who continued to oppose it vigorously.

The Bill as a whole received the support of all political parties in the House, the Leader of the Opposition himself (Dr. N. M. Perera) declaring that it enshrined the experience of 25 years of adult franchise in Ceylon

and went a long way in eliminating impersonation and other malpractices at elections.

Milestones of progress he specifically referred to included: the provision of identity cards; elections in a single day; postal voting; new method of preparation of electoral lists; the restrictions on transport on the English model; the prevention of religious "sanctions" which precluded the freedom to vote, etc. The Bill was in a very real sense non-partisan.

* * *

THE loss of Middle East markets for Ceylon tea was briefly explained at a meeting of the Southern Province Planters' Association last week by the Director of Trade and Commerce, Mr. V. I. Wirasinha.

He said that the drop in tea exports to the Middle East was explained by the desire of these countries to balance their trade. He cited as an example Egypt, Ceylon's best customer in the area in 1954 and 1955. The Egyptian market was completely lost to Ceylon because this country could not buy anything in return from Egypt to balance trade. Sterling difficulties had intensified the position.

To overcome this difficulty Ceylon had hit upon the idea of a tripartite pact which she entered into in 1957 under which Ceylon sold Egyptian cotton to Japan. But the scheme broke down because Japanese traders lost a discount of about 20 per cent which they had received by buying cotton direct from Egypt. Since August last year Ceylon had met half this commission but Egypt demanded the same discount from Ceylon on the tea she bought and the entire scheme broke down in consequence of this "unreasonable demand."

The difficulty of reciprocal trade existed with regard to Iraq also. Ceylon now proposed to import four times its normal annual imports of dates from Iraq through the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment, in order to sell Ceylon tea to Iraq. Mr. Wirasinha asked planters to help to dispose of the dates on estates as this was the only way to sell more tea to

Trade with Sudan had completely "broken down" and the prospects of the tea market in Sudan were "very gloomy." But more Ceylon tea was being sold to Iran, where India had lost ground.

* * *

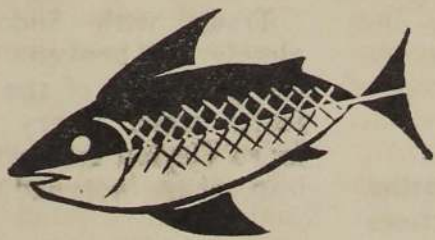
THE "millionaires' ship" as it is popularly called locally, the giant Cunarder "Caronia" put into Colombo port last week for the sixth successive year in its annual world cruise. That is a time of bustle in Colombo when trade is brisk, though there have been occasions when the flow of dollars did not quite measure up to the expectations of the local trade. Hard-headed business men on vacation or on retirement do not apparently fall easily to glib sales talk and fake gems cannot be palmed off easily (as happens not infrequently to unsuspecting tourists).

Within an hour of its reaching Colombo on Friday last for its 48-hour stay, launches from the "Green Goddess" (another popular name for the luxury liner) disgorged loads of excited passengers agog for the sights and sounds of Colombo.

Shore excursions had been mapped out for the travellers three months ahead by Cook's (who maintain a special cruise staff on board) and a fleet of luxury cars whisked them off wherever their fancy led them. Some went in search of the cooler climate of Nuwara Eliya or the beauty spots of historic Kandy, some went to the "Ruined Cities"—Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa—and some lazed on the beaches of Hikkaduwa, an increasingly popular sea-side resort, or the famed Mount Lavinia.

It was calculated by one newspaper that the average age of those on board was 62 (there were only four passengers under twenty years of age) and it also exploded the popular myth that they were all millionaires and millionairesses on board. The majority, the report said, had saved hard over a lifetime to make the cruise which cost them an average 275 dollars a day on its 108-day voyage.

One ship's officer was quoted as saying that, old as they were, they were the liveliest crowd to come together and there was one sprightly young woman aboard of mere 55 years of age who never thought it was too late to learn to dance—even the cha-cha-cha!



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SCIENCE SURVEY

—By A. W. HASLETT—

(Fortnightly Review Special)

[Motorcars and octopuses wouldn't seem to have much in common. And you would hardly expect the octopus to be popular with anyone—except as a dish. Yet there is a link, and there is one type of person at least who has reason to like the octopus. The explanation is given by Arthur Haslett.]

THE biggest car firm that we have in England makes about half a million vehicles a year. There's plenty of science in making cars, especially in methods of production. But it's not for that reason that I mentioned the firm. It's got another—and not so obvious connection with science. And it's this. It provides the main source of income for a foundation that spends a million pounds a year—mostly on research and education. And the work that it pays for has got nothing at all to do with motor vehicles.

The explanation lies in the personality of one man, Lord Nuffield. He began by making bicycles—built up a car firm from nothing—and then in 1943 set up the Nuffield Foundation. To start it on its way, he gave the Foundation ten million pounds worth of shares in his own firm—which is now part of a bigger one, the British Motor Corporation. So that's where the money, or most of it comes from. And now let me turn to the report of the Nuffield Foundation for last year which has just lately been published.

* * *

SOME of you may have heard already about a machine to study learning that is being backed by the Foundation. It's being built at University College in London to try out some ideas that have been developed by Professor J. Z. Young. He's a zoologist who became interested some years ago in the way that an octopus learns to distinguish one shape from another. And he found

the octopus an usually good animal to work with in an attempt to find out how things are learnt and remembered. It's a good animal because it's a creature of quick and clear-cut reactions. It's usual reaction to any thing moving is to make a sharp dash and eat it! So if it can learn to distinguish one shape from another—and sometimes not dash—you know at once that it has done so from its behaviour.

Professor Young went on to look at the brain of the octopus, and to try to imagine what happens. His ideas were followed up by an engineer, Dr. W. K. Taylor. He built an electronic machine that imitated on a small scale the sort of way that connections might be built up in the brain of the animal. The new machine—that's the one now being built—will be a lot bigger. It will be able to learn—or be trained—to recognise quite complicated shapes. So it will provide a test of these theories—and then, when that job has been done, it can be used on various other forms of research.

* * *

IT'S a new idea, unusual, and one that it's worth while to try. But it's not the sort of project that anyone could guarantee—here and now—was going to work. So if anyone were to go to an official body and ask for money, it might be awkward. It's not exactly medicine—which would be one ground of support. And it's not for industry. And even if a case could be put, on practical grounds, there'd be other and probably more direct claims for funds. So in its way it's a good, as well as an interesting, example of the sort of research that an independent body can sponsor. Because it's worth while to try—and, if it doesn't come off, well it was a good idea, backed by good people.

This particular project also happens to fit, in other ways, with some rough rules that have become part of the general policy of the Foundation. It's a borderline project—half way between one branch of science and another. That is something that the Foundation likes to back. Then learning is to do with education—which I mentioned earlier as another interest that they've got. And finally, loss of ability to learn—and an increase in forgetting—are two of the things that happen to all of us as we grow older. And research on ageing—on what happens to us when

we get old—and what can be done for old people—is another special interest of the Foundation.

* * *

THEN there's a more general point that's important. Governments and industry tend always to think first of the physical sciences. For the last twelve years—from 1946 onwards—the Foundation has been putting biology first. With all our material advances and promise of advances, it had become an *unfashionable* branch of science—attracting fewer recruits than others. They had a conference this last year, to look at the way things were going. The answer they were given was that biology should remain a major interest—because the advances it had to offer were only beginning to be touched.

In the sense that science is international, the Foundation works for all countries. And in a more direct way, it does a lot for Commonwealth countries as well as Britain. Here are some examples from the report. It has given grants to university colleges in three parts of Africa and the West Indies. It has been training Africans in agriculture in England. It awards travelling fellowships and scholarships from any Commonwealth country to any other. It has established a centre of preventive medicine in Fiji, that serves many of the South Pacific islands. It has set up a centre in London to advise on new methods of teaching that could be used in overseas countries.

It is all a long way, as I said, from cars. And the Foundation is an independent body, with plenty of good advice to help it. But for all the advice and the thinking out, the Foundation is something more than I've yet said. It's one man's idea of how a fortune made in industry could be used for purposes that he would like—and that would help all of us.

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PEOPLE

MR. E. F. N. Gratiaen, Q.C., former Puisne Judge, Attorney-General and appointed Member of Parliament and one time skipper of the Ceylonese Rugby Football Club, left the Island for good early this month to practise his profession in England. Educated at the Government Training College and St. Thomas' College, Mr. Noel Gratiaen later went to Oxford.

Returning to Ceylon after the death of his father, Mr. W. E. Gratiaen, Broker of Messrs. E. John & Co., as the firm was then known, he was in journalism for a time, acting as lobby correspondent to the "Ceylon Independent", for which he wrote brilliantly. That journal was on the decline at the time, despite the efforts of the late Sir Marcus Fernando, who had become its owner. It was at a time when elected members of the legislature had gained control of the Finance Committee of that body to the despair of Sir Hugh Clifford and the Executive Council, of which Sir Marcus Fernando was the dominant member.

* * *

NOEL Gratiaen was not at the Bar for many months before he was marked out as a rising star by one of the most experienced proctors then practising, the late Mr. J. A. Perera. Soon he was the most sought-after junior, especially in commercial causes, the most lucrative business at the Bar. The crowning point of his legal career was probably his appearance for Mr. P. N. Banks, the Inspector-General of Police, in the Bracegirdle inquiry.

Long before he took "silk" he was one of the leading advocates in Ceylon.

We cordially wish Mr. Gratiaen every success in his legal work in England.

* * *

MR. W. W. Berry, who retired last year after nearly forty years connection with the firm of Messrs. Bosanquet & Skrine Ltd., sailed for England early this month. He told



—Times

Mr. E. F. N. Gratiaen, Q.C.

me some time ago that he joined Bosanquets on the invitation of Mr. D. W. Watson, who was head of the firm for many years before the amalgamation with Skrine & Co. took place about twenty-five years ago.

Mr. Berry took a keen interest in the Ceylon National Association for

the prevention of Tuberculosis and he was a popular club man and a good mixer. We wish him all the best in his retirement in the old country.

* * *

MR. F. G. C. Busby, who spent over forty years in Ceylon, planting in Kalutara for over thirty years and finally on Trafford Hill Group, Galagedara, and left Ceylon on retirement three years ago, writes to us from his home in Upton-on-Severn, Worcestershire. He says: "My wife and I always look back to those happy years we spent in Kalutara and the wonderful games we had at Tebuwana—cricket, rigger and soccer. Now we look forward eagerly to your *Fortnightly Review* to have news of our old friends: it is our main source of news from Lanka. There are not many of our old friends left in Ceylon.

"The M.C.C. team fared most disappointingly in Australia, but the Aussies had a very good side and they will be hard to beat when they are next on tour here. We must follow their example and build up a youthful team.

"Some of the happenings in Ceylon do not make very happy reading, but democracy can only emerge from experience. Thank goodness we can rely on the *Fortnightly Review* to denounce undemocratic action. Plain speaking is often necessary if the Island's welfare is to be safeguarded.

"If we have a fine Summer we hope to see some cricket at Worcester which is quite near to us."

* * *

MR. D. H. C. Lewes, Manager of Duckwari Group, Rangala, and Mrs. Lewes, leave Ceylon for good in the "Strathnaver", sailing on April 25. Mr. Lewes arrived in the Island thirty-three years ago and was an S.D. on Maliboda Estate for a few years, acting for some time as Superintendent. He has been on Duckwari for nearly 21 years, for 14 of them in charge. There was a break between 1942 and 1945 when he was in the R.N.V.R. at Trincomalee. Mrs. Lewes has been in the Island for seventeen years.

During his early years in Ceylon Mr. Lewes played cricket for the K.V. He is keenly interested in the game, but has had few opportunities of indulging in his favourite pastime since taking up work in Rangala.

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A HUNDRED YEARS OF THE CEYLON RAILWAYS

By J. D. BORGER

II.

THE Ceylon Committee did not include any representatives of the indigenous population; and the few shares allotted to the Island had to be bought and paid for through agents in London. This involved the purchase of bills in England at a premium and the appointment and payment of Agents by each applicant for shares.

The *Ceylon Herald* once again jumped to it. On December 5, 1845, pointing out this defect it said:

"We are sorry to see the Natives entirely overlooked in nominating the committee. As a mere matter of compliment, to say nothing of the right, we think it an oversight . . . There can be no doubt that, if the benefit of Ceylon has anything to do with the question, the more shares are held by the residents and Natives the better. The cost of the railway in Ceylon will be to it a natural debt, and unless a fair proportion of the profits remain here, it will be a drain and a burden on the Island and individuals who have no real interest in the Island will get rich at its expense".

* * *

FOLLOWING this agitation the local committee recommended that a small number of shares be "reserved for allotment principally among the Native and Burgher community". It is said that the number of shares applied for locally greatly exceeded the allocation for the Island and when actual allotment took place early in 1846 those who had applied for 100 shares had to be content with forty.

The company having been formed, an Engineer by the name of Drane came out in May, 1846, to collect information in order to obtain a charter. He finished a survey and produced three traces within four months.

* * *

THE provisional committee had as its Chairman Philip Anstruther, former Colonial Secretary and John Stewart of Bombay, as Deputy Chair-

man. The others on the committee were George Ackland, John Armitage, W. S. Binny, A. Crowe, Robert Christian, J. G. Firth, W. C. Gibson, Colonel Sir F. Hankey, G.C.M.G., Director of the Bank of Ceylon, Sir George Larpent, Bart., Colonel Montresor, Captain Alexander Nairne, Laurence Philips, William Scott, W. H. Thomas, William Tindall, Stephen Vertue, J. P. Wilson and S. B. Worms, with power to add to their number.

The following committee was appointed to look after the company's affairs in Ceylon:—Major G. T. Parke, Chairman, E. J. Darley, Deputy Chairman, G. Crabbe, W. C. Wilson, P. P. Gallway, F. Saunders, H. L. Layard, G. B. Worms and D. Wilson, Hony. Secretary.

* * *

Opposition

THE first opposition then came. People in Ceylon were aware that Britain at that time was in the throes of speculation in railway projects and that much capital was being thrown away upon "crude and even grotesque" schemes. The *Ceylon Herald* of September 16, 1845, taking up the cause against the railway had this to say:—

"British enterprise and British gold are changing the face of the earth. But great projectors often turn—and we are afraid Great Britain is a little touched. Never before was John Bull in such a state of excitement. In fact he is railway mad. Even members of Parliament are forgetting themselves in the struggle for wealth. The spirit of Mammon is overpowering all other spirits. Distance is no more for these railway speculators. No country is beyond their reach . . ."

Despite discouragements a company was formed in October, 1845, and was provisionally registered in England under the name and title of "The Ceylon Railway Company". It provided for a capital of £1,000,000 in 20,000 shares of £50 each "to build, in the first instance, a line of railway from Colombo to Kandy at

the estimated expenditure of £6,000 per mile".

"The result of the survey (Alagalla route) which augured so favourably at first sight as appearing to offer far easier access to Kandy than either the Hingool Valley or Gadadessa route exhibited, has, we hear, much disappointed the expectations produced by its favourable appearance at first sight; for, although every facility appeared for an easy gradient during the first part of the survey, yet on reaching the upper saddle of the spur of the South-West end of the mountain, several obstacles appear which, although easily surmountable, would have made the line far more objectionable than even the Gadadessa trace. Of the three lines which have been observed on that of the Hingool Valley trace is found to be the most practicable both as regards directness of route to Kandy, facility of construction and practicability of access—59 miles of line which appear to show almost a level, not one important difficulty being apparent for the whole length, and altogether this line is one which would be considered easy even at Home".

* * *

Three Traces

THE three surveys may be called (1) The Galagedera Trace (2) The Hingula Valley Trace and (3) The Alagalla Trace. The battle of the traces was now on and no appreciable progress had been made when information reached the Island that the Home Government had sanctioned the grant to the shareholders of the East India Railway Company of a guarantee of four per cent on a certain amount of proposed capital. The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce took the matter up at once. A memorial from the Chamber dated February 8, 1847, and the Ceylon Railway Company dated February 13, 1847, was submitted to the Governor, requesting a guarantee similar to that given to the East India Railway Company.

Sir James Emerson Tennant received the Deputation on behalf of the Governor and assured them of warm support by the government. The London Board had throughout acted on the conviction that the success of a Colonial railway depended upon government patronage.

(To be continued)

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A CHINESE BANQUET

By KENNETH J. SOMANADER

(Fortnightly Review Special)

I HAVE no doubt that the Chinese did invent the art of cooking, especially after partaking of a 12-course Chinese banquet given not long ago by Mr. Tan Lark Sye, Chairman of the Council of Nanyang University, in honour of the delegates attending a youth conference in Singapore.

I wish you can visualise the scene. Mr. Tan is widely known as a multi-millionaire and, amid the tumultuous beat of drums and cymbals and the din of crackers outside where Chinese dragon and lion dances are being enacted, one can hear the discussion at the adjoining table, how Mr. Tan amassed all his wealth through rubber and how he gifted five million Malayan dollars to the Nanyang University.

* * *

TO come back to the dinner. Here we are, some 400-odd delegates, and some 2,500 specially-invited guests, all of various sizes and shapes and racial complexions, seated around 300 neatly-laid tables within a brilliantly-lit banquet hall on the Singapore esplanade. Three thousand pairs of chop-sticks are poised expectantly while we await the first course—swallows' nest stuffed in chicken.

The course does taste nice but I am disappointed that I cannot spot the swallows' nest. Never mind! It must be mixed up somewhere with the chicken, and the chicken does taste good.

Here comes a pretty Chinese maid. Brandy or whisky? she asks. My answer is a secret but my glass is full anyway. The two North-Indian girls at my table prefer an orange squash but they do not reckon that they are sitting with three impish Ceylon lads: their orange squash soon gets discoloured and they are unknowingly sipping a cocktail instead. Good for them!

* * *

WE have finished the *hors d'oeuvre* and the shark fins with sliced chicken (pass marks, again) and now we smell the shape of things to come—a roasted suckling pig is staring us in the face. It looks very much alive, with its face intact. The meat appeals to my palate.—I later vote it the best of the 12 courses!

We are now being served with the fifth course—mushroom consommé. It looks like mushroom, smells like mushroom, and (away with it) tastes like mushroom: I seek refuge in my glass.

There must be some 20,000 people having a long-distance view of us eating on the esplanade. The area has been cordoned off by the police, and traffic is being diverted for the duration of this mammoth meal, but still the people come. One is tempted to say that curiosity is a trait in every country. It is anybody's guess how many will be around by the time the 36,000th helping is served.

* * *

THAT reminds me: 18 caterers had been working on this dinner. They were told that they must produce the best possible food for the delegates representing 52 countries, and I should think that they took the challenge a little too seriously. Why, the first fires were lit at 3 o'clock that afternoon, and kitchens were specially built on the esplanade so that the food could be served piping hot. And indeed it was.

One thousand waiters and waitresses are now round the corner. They are making their way to the

300 tables with Course No. 6: fried bean cured in crab gravy. We eat it with gusto while our glasses are filled to the brim for the third (or is it the fourth?) time. There is nothing wanting in this 30,000-Straits-dollar feast, in which every move had been planned days back by adepts at the culinary art.

* * *

FRIED spring rolls roll in now, and they are followed by trays laden with minced meat melon cup. That's Course No. 8, and we still have a third of the way to go in the entire dinner. But by now we have almost mastered the art of using chop-sticks, and one hears only the sound of the mastication of minced meat.

It's time now for vegetable and assorted meat, and time also for an assorted display of Chinese folk dances and music. These are still going on outside on the lawn.

Course No. 10 is fried pomfret in West Lake dressing. My glass, which I emptied only a while ago, is, I see, full again. You will understand why I cannot remember the last two items on the menu. I am told they were sweetened almond broth and Malayan fruits.

We can hardly walk after a feast of this kind, nor can we wait to be taken home. In threes, we hail the nearest taxi to take us to our beds. Only one thing has been proved to us tonight, and that is the marvellous variety and *panache* of Chinese cooking.



PLANT LORE

By TRIMON

THE arrangement of flowers for the making up of bouquets and sprays on the one hand, and wreaths and crosses on the other, is an art which is known to a comparatively few. There are some people who do not appreciate the skilful blending of colours. It is related of a Governor's lady that she loved clashing colours and was disappointed if the bouquets presented to her were not characterised by a mix-up of all the colours of the rainbow, with their added derivatives. Her taste was for the bizarre. I was told by a Nuwara Eliya resident that, for some reason or other, certain florists are given to removing the stamens and pistils of the beautiful St. John's lily, before making use of it for their floral work. This is emasculation with a vengeance, which is a horrible idea to the true lover of flowers.

A flower maimed in this fashion is only a freak, which no self-respecting person should tolerate. The man who tries to paint the lily is reckoned a fool; but he who thinks he can improve it by the removal of some of its natural decorations, is surely a vandal of the most pronounced type.

* * *

THE oak tree of European countries is *Quercus robur*: the "Ceylon Oak" is the kon tree (*Schleichera trijuga*). Ormsby-Gore is reported to have spoken of the "oak forests of Ceylon". What could he have been thinking about? There are a few oak trees to be seen in Nuwara Eliya, and there is an oak plantation in Hakgala. Possibly he was thinking of the Forestry Department's plantations of conifers as prospective forests. The Ceylon oak is a magnificent tree when full grown. The oil obtained from its fruits (Macassar nuts) is the foundation of Macassar and other fine hair-oils,

owing to its being so liquid and bland. The acid aril of the fruit is edible.

* * *

TALKING about forests, one cannot cease regretting (looking at the matter entirely from the aesthetic point of view and not from the economical view-point), the elimination of the forest that met the eye of the traveller in days gone by; due mainly to the extension of rubber cultivation. I do not here refer to the low forests of Ceylon, but the high—the grand old virgin forests, made up of the giants of the Vegetable Kingdom. I often think of the tract of jungle that existed between Pelmadulla and Balangoda, especially that in the vicinity of Madola, where there used to be a delightfully situated resthouse in which one felt wholly removed from the world. Here were to be found peace and rest: and silence reigned supreme, except for the eerie sounds of the forest, and the gurgling running water. Alas! those forests are no more. I expect there must be some who, reading these notes, will join with me in deploring their disappearance.

* * *

ONE of the most strikingly beautiful wild flowers of the Tropics is *Gloriosa Superba*, which is supposed to have derived its name from the fact that, when its discoverer first beheld it, he exclaimed, "Glorious! Superb!"—a somewhat far-fetched explanation. The tuber of the plant contains a poison believed to be as that of snake-venom. Sometimes it is consumed in mistake for an edible yam; but, more often, is employed for criminal purposes. The flower is peculiarly shaped. The petals are crinkled, and the corolla inverted. The plant is a true lily, and is frequently found growing wild near the sea-shore. It climbs up by means of hooked structures found at the ends of the leaves.

* * *

THERE is a tendency to confuse the lotus and the water-lily. The Egyptian lotus is *Nelumbium Speciosum* called in Sinhalese "Nelum". This is the "Padma" of the Hindus who hold it sacred. The leaves are round and large, sometimes one or two feet in diameter; the flowers, which are also large, carry an indefinite number of petals and stamens, and are either white or pink in colour. The leaf and flower stalks stand well out of the water unlike those of the water-lilies. The rhizome and seeds are edible.



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RECOLLECTIONS - 3

By "OLD 'UN"

(Fortnightly Review Special)

THE Sansonis were settled in Negombo from the early seventies, Miliani Sansoni arriving there with his young wife about 1874. He soon established himself as a proctor—"of credit and renown" shall we say—with a large and growing family in an age of large families. No wonder that with ten sons to bear his name he soon filled as big a space in local activities as he did at the Bar.

The Leembruggens came much later, as did the Hepponstalls and the Arndts—the last named arriving in Negombo in the early years of the twentieth century, when the Rev. George Arndt, Senior, was appointed incumbent of St. Stephen's, Negombo, upon his retirement as Sub-Warden of St. Thomas' College. The Arndts were soon found to be a decided acquisition to local cricket, especially after the young priest, the eldest of the sons, returned from England after his ordination there. St. Thomas', Royal, and St. Joseph's all gave Negombo of their best in the field of cricket, then as ever afterwards.

* * *

BEFORE the Arndts came to reinforce our cricket strength, we had several Josephians playing for us. First of all came the "Rose Bank" Fernandos, J.S., J.M. and J.J., all three excellent batsmen and the first (Santiago) also a tricky bowler with a break both ways. Later on came Peter Fernando and Victor Mendis who both captained St. Joseph's eleven in turn. Where are they today?

Locally we discovered a Dalpathado and a Goonesekera, who were useful bowlers. Miliani, Jr., (H. M.) was for years the Negombo captain, uncontested: he always opened bowling, invariably taking the first wicket or two with his deadly off-break and fast yorker making the ball bump and kick as often as he liked with his high action. Bertie de Zylva was first taken for his smart fielding in almost any position, but afterwards turned out to be a useful all-rounder and the mainstay of succeeding Negombo teams. Happily he still liveth in the Sacred City!

BECAUSE there was no state of Emergency in those days, let it not be supposed there was no Police in Negombo; let it be placed on record that there was a Police Station, but not where it now is. There was also an Inspector, A Sergeant, and a handful of constables who were not much in evidence. The station was then located in those buildings that stood right behind the District Court, with the tennis courts and the remand gaol alongside. Old Richard Keegel was the Inspector then in charge; he was a fine horseman and rode a stylish grey charger, but what he will always be remembered for his stentorian voice. He sometimes rode his other horse, an elephantine beast nearly 17 hands high, a real freak of a horse; and whenever old Dick Keegel rode into town you could hear him long before you saw him. They lived in that old house along the Chilaw road which was known as "Star Cottage" and had two road frontages.

I can still remember his gold-

striped Sergeant, a fine figure of a man of ruddy complexion and sporting a heavy black moustache. Sergeant Hingert was his name, but whether he was a progenitor of the lovely young lady who carried off the Beauty Contest a few years ago, I cannot undertake to say with certainty: but I shouldn't be at all surprised to learn that he was, for he certainly was a handsome specimen.

* * *

OUR earliest music-teacher was Mrs. Daviot, a stout old dame of French extraction obviously, not only from her name, but also because she could converse in French. She was an ardent Roman Catholic and lived in a small house in town within easy reach of her church. She was a well-known and much-respected character, living with two young nieces who looked after her: not that she wanted much looking after, because she was able to walk round to her pupils' homes, giving them lessons at their own pianos every morning. Perhaps she was happy to know that a daughter of one of her pupils excelled as a pianist as well as a music-teacher, long years after she was called to her rest.

(To be continued)

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THE MYSTERY OF TIBERIUS CAESAR

By Dr. LUCIAN De ZILWA

(Communicated)

WHAT is the truth about the Emperor Tiberius? Did he retire to the Island of Capri to spend the last eleven years of his life as an abandoned voluptuary, or as an embittered and heart-broken old man, the weary ruler of an ungrateful world?

Dr. Lucian de Zilwa, Ceylon's eighty-five years old savant, entered the lists as a champion of this dead and gone Emperor of two thousand years ago, when he read a paper on "The Mystery of Tiberius Caesar" to the Classical Association of Ceylon at its first meeting held in Kandy last month.

* * *

FOR nearly two thousand years, Dr. Lucian De Zilwa said, Capri had been notorious as the scene of the abominable vicious practices of Tiberius during the last eleven years of his life. In the "Annals of Tacitus" which appeared 80 years after the Emperor's death, the scandalous tales were related in full: how painted boys and girls often kidnaped from noble families were maltreated in the Blue Grotto before they were strangled and cast into the sea. Suetonius, the private Secretary of Hadrian, wrote his chronicle scandaleuse of the twelve Caesars towards the end of the second Century and was thought to have got his material from traditional gossip and memoirs of Agrippina, the mother of Nero.

"When Tiberius retired to Capri," said Dr. de Zilwa, "he was sixty-seven years old"—"an age at which a man does not begin to sow his wild oats!" Tiberius was a veteran campaigner of many wars and a hardworking civil administrator. He wished to get away from the hurly burly of the city and enjoy the peace of the countryside, with leisure for Greek Literature, and philosophy and astrology. He took with him Coccaeus Nerva, a scholar and philosopher to be his companion and with him professors of Greek, many scrolls of Manuscripts and Thrasyllus the astrologer—not exactly the outfit of a man meditating a career of unbridled vice.

"EVERYBODY knows," Dr. de Zilwa said, "that in the seventh decade of life the hot blood of youth is cooled and a man is on the downward slope physically, having reached the zenith at about the age of 40. In Cicero's De Senectute, of which I made an English version two years ago, he answers the four charges brought against old age; unfitness to take an active part in politics or business; decline of physical strength; diminution of sensual pleasures; and the approach of death."



—Times
Dr. Lucian De Zilwa

When Tiberius succeeded Augustus at the age of 56, what struck his contemporaries most was his absolute impenetrability. All his feelings, desires, passions and ambitions were locked behind an impassable barrier. The key to much of his character lay in the observation he had in early life set before himself a certain ideal of what a Roman in high position ought to be. To this ideal he rigidly adhered. He practised sternness, silence, simplicity of life and frugality, as he deemed they had been practised by the Fabii, the Fabricii and the Curii. That Tiberius' character was stained by vice before he became Emperor, no one who fairly weighed the records could believe.

COMMENTING on the historical novel of Robert Graves, "I Claudius", he said it was interesting but it was marred by a perpetuation of the calumnies against Tiberius. A better appreciation of the Emperor was to be found in the articles in the "Encyclopaedia Britannica" by Professor J. S. Reid, Professor of Ancient History at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge.

Dr. de Zilwa quoted Axel Munthe, the author of "San Michele", as saying to Lord Dufferin, the British Ambassador, that he had investigated at the peril of his life the mysterious tunnel which, according to the filthy gossip of Suetonius, the Emperor had used to come down to the grotto for his nightly orgies, and found that it led nowhere.

* * *

ABOUT the sinister tradition of Tiberius handed down to posterity in the Annals of Tacitus, Munthe said that history had never committed a worse blunder than when condemning the great Emperor to infamy on the testimony of his principal accuser. Before the publication of the Annals of Tacitus there was no public man in Roman history with a cleaner record of a noble and unblemished life. Even the scandal loving Juvenal spoke of the Emperor's "tranquil old age" in his island home surrounded by his learned friends and astronomers.

Mr. D. G. L. Misso, President of the Association, Professor Cuthbert Amerasinghe, Dean of the Faculty of Western Arts, Messrs. L. W. de Silva, G. Wickremanayake and E. C. S. Perera, Hon. Secretary of the Association, participated in a discussion that followed the paper.

OUR NEXT ISSUE

WILL BE ON

FRIDAY, 10th APRIL,

1959.

A SPORTS CAUSERIE

By "ITINERANT"

Ceylon Regain Gopalan Trophy

CEYLON regained the Gopalan Trophy by virtue of a first innings lead of 149 runs in a drawn game played at the Colombo Oval. And Ceylon richly deserved it, for Madras only just avoided following on—by one run.

Winning the toss on the first day Ceylon made capital of a perfect Oval wicket, Lafir (46), and Prins (41) giving the side a sound start after C. H. Gunasekera had retired hurt, the victim of a bouncer.

Then C. I. Gunasekera and L. Rodrigo hammered the Madras bowlers, who were poorly supported in the field. Gunasekera ended the day 176 not out—an innings of power, full of characteristic drives, square cuts and pulls to leg. Rodrigo, who made 89 in his first big match, scored mainly on the drive.

Ceylon scored 411 for 7 on the first day and only Test player, Kripal Singh (off-spin), and to a lesser extent, V. V. Kumar (leg spin) commanded any respect.

* * *

ON the second day Ceylon went on to total 481, Gunasekera taking his score to 212—the highest in the series so far. He was caught and bowled by Kripal off a hard drive.

The Madras openers survived a hostile spell by Stanley de Alwis who worked up real pace on the fast Oval turf. This was quite the fastest spell by a Ceylon opening bowler in years.

But it was Nawaz who broke through. First he had Mani caught neatly by Tissera, who, incidentally, fielded superbly throughout the day, and then had Cambridge Blue, Suranjit Singh, caught off a mishit pull.

The best batting of the day came from the brothers Kripal and Milkha Singh, with the less illustrious 18-year-old left-hander outshining his elder brother. Kripal made 44 fluent runs before he trod on his wicket but he was often in trouble against de Alwis's pace.

Milkha, despite being hit painfully on his forearm and thigh by de Alwis, batted resolutely and correctly and made 71 not out in a Madras score of 275 for 6. He drove nicely into the covers and hit the short ball hard along the ground to leg.

MILKHA put on over 100 runs for the 5th wicket with his captain, Gopinath, who made 70 runs in almost even time including as many as 14 fours. Gopinath was served with an abundance of full tosses and long hops and took full toll of them. He hit powerfully to leg and drew back occasionally to cut daintily.

Milkha took his score to 90 on the third morning and Madras avoided the follow-on with their last pair together. Prins, who bowled medium pace most of the time, had 5 for 83 and de Alwis got among the tail-enders to finish with 3 for 78.



C. I. Gunasekera

—Times

The rest of the day's play was of little account. Ceylon declared at 133 for 2, Lafir hitting up a quick 57 and C. H. Gunasekera making a sedate 50 not out. Madras, set to make 283 to win in about 150 minutes, made no effort to force the pace and coasted along to 149 for 5.

* * *

6th Successive Draw

THE biggest crowd ever to gather at a Royal-Thomian match—estimated at over 15,000 on the second day—packed the Oval only to witness another drawn game.

But the cricketers could hardly be blamed for that. One look at the wicket on the first day and a draw seemed to be the inevitable conclusion. The match was not, however, devoid of all interest.

St. Thomas's, winning the toss, surprised everybody by running up

the respectable total of 257 for 6 dec. and then grabbing two wickets for no runs on the first day against a side which had by far the better record. They would have been in a far better position had their opening pair got off to a quicker start.

Only 40 runs were scored in the first 105 minutes. Then Gurusinghe (69) and Sproule (57 run out) added 102 runs for the third wicket with some good stroke-play and intelligent running between the wickets which put the Royal fielding side completely out of gear. Sproule in particular played some pleasing cover and straight drives.

Kumara then hit 41 not out in as many minutes and put on over 50 runs with Idroos (38) for the fifth wicket which enabled St. Thomas's to declare with 25 minutes left for play. A. E. de Silva bowled his left-arm inswingers accurately to take the wickets of two tail-enders sent in to play out time.

* * *

A FINE spell of fast bowling by the Thomian Captain, Ferdinands, and a glorious innings by E. L. Pereira when all seemed lost for Royal, enlivened the second day's play.

After Perairaver and N. Senanayake had put on 49 runs for the third wicket Ferdinands, using a shortened run, bowled fast and accurately in his second spell—to take 3 wickets including that of his *vis-a-vis*, Samarasinghe, bowled for 0. Then, surprisingly, he took himself off.

Dias (24) and N. Senanayake, who defended stubbornly for 38 runs, added 33 runs for the sixth wicket before Ferdinands struck again bowling Dias. Senanayake fell l.b.w. to de Silva and, with 7 wickets down for 83, Royal were in very real danger of following on.

E. L. Pereira then played a most courageous innings. Unlike most of the other batsmen he went for his shots, hooking and driving beautifully. Right-hander Kodituwakku defended stubbornly at the other end and together this pair put on 55 runs.

Twenty runs were needed to avoid the follow-on when Sahabandu came in. He survived a couple of tense overs, while Pereira made the runs at the other end including 3 fours in one over off Ferdinands. One run was still needed when Sahabandu got out; Samarajeewa survived a few balls and then Pereira

A SPORTS CAUSERIE

settled the issue with a four off Chanmugan and celebrated with a six to long on.

Pereira was 65 not out when Royal declared at 169 for 9, surely one of the best innings played against odds in the whole long series of Royal-Thomian matches. Ferdinands had the figures of 27 O. 15 M. 55 R. 5 W. and de Silva 20.30. 10 M. 20 R. 4 W.—good bowling on a wicket very much in favour of the batsmen.

There was little interest in the match after that, although the Thomians might have made an effort to force the pace and declare earlier. As it was they left Royal 55 minutes in which to score 165 runs to win and Royal, batting with more freedom, made 82 for 3, S. C. Samarasinghe, the Captain, hooking and cutting nicely in an unbeaten half-century.

* * *

A Fantastic Swimming Feat

SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD Sydney schoolboy John Konrads beat world record-holder John Devitt in the 110 yards freestyle sprint on the final day of the Australian swimming championships at Hobart on February 21. Konrads' time of 55.9 sec. was only four-fifths of a second outside Devitt's world record time of 55.1 secs. Later in the afternoon the youngster had a runaway win in the 1,650 yards event. He now holds every senior freestyle title in Australia. Apart from this, he also holds the world records for 200 metres, 220 yards, 400 metres, 440 yards, 800 metres, 880 yards, 1,500 metres and 1,650 yards.

In the sprint Konrads beat Devitt by a yard. Devitt clocked 56.7 secs. Geoff Shipton of Sydney was third in 57.2 secs. Devitt was leading at the turn, but Konrads caught him 25 yards from the finish.

* * *

AUSTRALIAN CRICKET STAR

TWENTY-ONE-YEAR-OLD Australian cricket star Norman O'Neill will soon visit the United States for a four-week work-out with the famous American baseball team, the New York Yankees. But he says

emphatically that he has no intention of giving up cricket for baseball.

O'Neill shows promise of becoming Australia's greatest cricket batsman since Don Bradman. He is also a brilliant fieldsman in the covers, with a powerful throw that lands the ball on the full straight into the wicketkeeper's hands over the bails. In the Australian winter O'Neill is a star baseball player with Sydney's St. George club. The first suggestion that he should work-out with the Yankees came from former American tennis star Bill Talbert, who visited Australia in the big tennis season from November to January. Talbert made a special trip to Melbourne to see O'Neill play in the second cricket test against England.



E. L. Pereira

—Times

His firm will release him for a period of four weeks' training on the understanding that there was to be no playing contract entered into, so there would be no doubt about his availability for Australian cricket.

* * *

A FORMER CEYLON TEST CRICKETER

ONE of Ceylon's outstanding cricketers during the period between the two World Wars was the old Trinitian, Mr. Robin Gibson, retired Assistant Superintendent of Police, who leaves the Island for good with his wife, bound for Australia, by the "Orcades", on April 7th. They have two sons in Melbourne, Maurice and Robin, who are both doing well there.

Mr. Gibson, who had thirty years service to his credit at the time of his

retirement a few months ago, was recently feted by members of the Police Department, and it spoke volumes for his popularity that his fellow-officers assembled from all parts of the Island to do him honour.

* * *

ROBIN Gibson attended Wesley College for some time before he went to Trinity on a scholarship he received in recognition of his elder brother's gallantry in World War I. A member of the Ceylon Contingent composed for the most part of senior students of Ceylon schools, the elder Gibson made the supreme sacrifice in the fighting in France and was highly commended for his courage on the battlefield. For his bravery the Ceylon Disabled Men's Fund awarded free education to his brother.

* * *

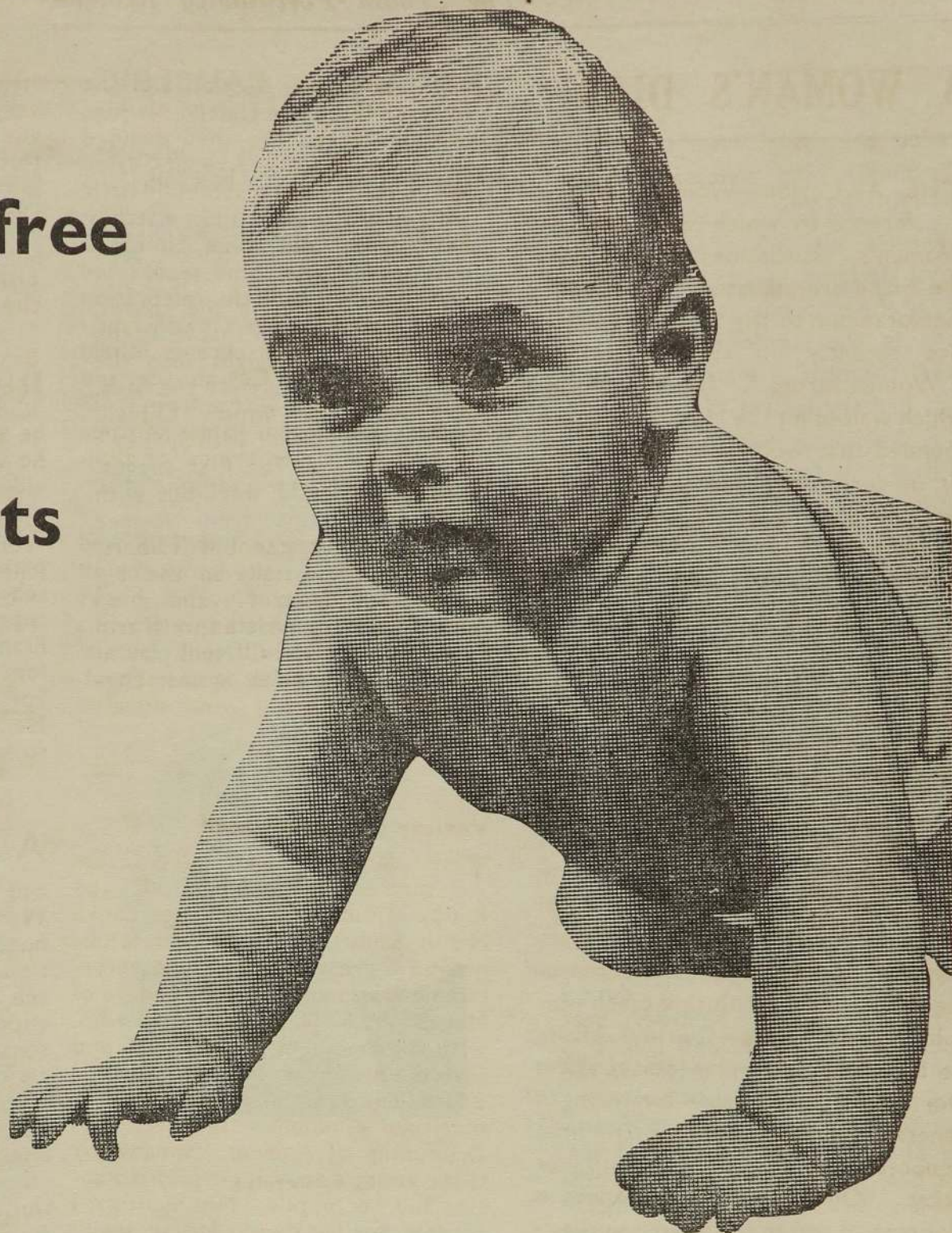
AT the age of fifteen, Robin joined Trinity in the last term of 1919 and in his first school match against Wesley in 1920 scored a faultless hundred at Campbell Park. He continued to score with consistency in the four years that followed and ended up with one of the fastest centuries against St. Joseph's College on the old Tamil Union ground at Campbell Park in 1924. He obtained his century—106—in one hour and twenty minutes. Trinity dominated school cricket during Gibson's time, three of his contemporaries being A. P. Maralande, who led the side, Johnny Murray and V. C. Schokman, all of whom represented the Ceylonese in Test cricket against the Europeans in the years that followed.

* * *

IN a recent issue of the *Fortnightly* Robin Gibson's achievements in First Class cricket in Ceylon were fully recorded, stress being laid on his innings of 98 in the Test match of 1929, on the C.C.C. ground. Though he had compiled many a century for the Police and the B.R.C., this innings of 98 was his masterpiece in local cricket. Apart from his prowess as a batsman, Gibson was a brilliant fieldsman in the covers and he was also a more than useful change bowler.

His numerous friends and admirers will join us in wishing Mr. and Mrs. Gibson *bon voyage* and all the best "Down Under".

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A WOMAN'S DIARY

THE All-Ceylon Women's Conference to which over twenty Women's associations throughout the Island are affiliated, presented a memorandum to the Minister of Justice recently on the subject of "Women Jurors". The deputation which waited on the Minister recommended that women be allowed to sit on juries, pointing out that this was the practice in most countries, particularly those in which women shared equal status with men, and were given their rightful place in society. The Minister assured the deputation that he would bring the matter up at a meeting of the Cabinet and that the recommendation would have his support. It is reported that this long-delayed decision, for this matter has been brought up several times before over a period of many years, was discussed at an informal dinner party at which four Ministers met. Two of the Ministers represented sections in which women usually have a voice—Cultural Affairs and Finance. We may look to them for support—perhaps—for one of these Ministers is reported to have quoted the comforting assurance that "One may always expect a woman to arrive at the correct decision—even for the wrong reason!"

* * *

Model Centres

MRS. Francis Godwin, Hony. Secretary of the UNESCO Gift Coupon sub-committee which deals with the donations for equipping the L.M.S. Model Centres, has received the following letter sent through Lady Coomaraswamy, now in Canada. The letter comes from a group of school-children in Denmark:

"A school class in Denmark has the pleasure to send you a UNESCO gift coupon hoping it must be useful to some little children in Ceylon. We must tell you a little about how we got the money. We started in November. Our teacher told us about the United Nations and especially about the

little children in Ceylon and the work done by the United Nations to help them. We then decided to make an exhibition about Ceylon and started to draw and build little villages from clay and matches. Besides we sold some UNESCO coupons. After some weeks we finished with a little celebration which we called the Ceylon Festival. Some of our parents joined and we served Ceylon tea and busquites. Best wishes from . . ." and here follow the names of some 20 children—names typical of Denmark, . . . Karen and Lone, Marten and Otto."

The money they sent will be used to buy Sinhalese story-books for all the Model Centres; the books chosen are those written by Sumana Saparamadu, who will send translations of these stories to the school-children in Norway who donated them.

* * *

Variety Entertainment

THE Variety Entertainment organised by members of the Kandy Committee of the Lanka Mahila Samiti in aid of their funds, proved a great success. The entertainment was under the patronage of Mrs. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike who, with the President of the L.M.S. and several members of the Central Board, enjoyed the programme. A particularly popular item was the Drumming of Ancient Vannama by three young Kandyan girls, Miss Ransina and her pupils. Miss Ransina, I am told, has her own school in one of the Kandyan villages in which she teaches dancing and drumming to a number of keenly interested pupils. Those who took part that evening certainly gave a very creditable performance. A Ballet "Patachara", presented by the pupils of the Government Senior School, Peradeniya, whose natural ability for acting has been carefully developed, was the second part of the programme.

This Ballet, together with other items in the programme had been staged the previous day as an entertainment for the schools, and met with a very good reception. It was held under the patronage of Mr. Ekanaike, Education Officer for the area, who expressed himself very pleased with the performance. The Secretary of the Kandy Committee, Mrs. Amy Gnanasekeram, and the other members who gave her their whole-hearted support and co-oper-

ation are to be congratulated on their very successful efforts in organising and producing an entertainment of this type, particularly as the Committee has been functioning for less than a year.

I understand that the 7th March proved a particularly busy day for the President of the L.M.S., Mrs. T. L. C. Rajapakse, and for Mrs. Bandaranaike, the Vice-President, for they took the opportunity while in Kandy of visiting some of the villages in the outlying districts where they received a delighted welcome from members who had never had the opportunity of meeting them before. Very few of the people who live in these areas venture into towns, for most of the Samiti are established in the remoter areas of the Island.

EVELYN

"LASS WITH THE DELICATE AIR"

IT is not the fashion nowadays to devote much space to wedding descriptions, but comment must be made on one of the prettiest bridal ensembles seen in a long while—that worn by Anne, daughter of novelist Christine Wilson (and granddaughter of Dr. R. L. Spittel) on the occasion of her marriage to Mr. Henning Andersen, at St. Andrew's Scots Kirk on March 14th. The delicate lily-of-the-valley design on the white satin brocade of the gown was in keeping with the bride's "petiteness," if one may coin the word; and the head-dress, which was a hand-made model from London, also carried the lily-of-the-valley motif in delicate sprays of tiny pearls.

The dress itself, with its fitting bodice, corselet waist and enormous crinoline, flaring out into yards and yards of tulle which swept back into a short train, created an ethereal effect which was accentuated by the 6-yard scalloped tulle veil. Even the bouquet of white roses and durnthus cleverly achieved the same effect of lightness and delicacy which was reflected in the costumes of the three flower-girls in attendance, with chenille dotted organza dresses, chaplets of tiny flowers and flower-filled baskets; also in the blue organza chosen for the costume of the matron of honour.

B. H.

MATTERS OF MOMENT

(Continued from page 9)

LORD Home's recent announcement in the House of Lords that Queen Elizabeth had offered Marlborough House as a permanent centre for Commonwealth nations' meetings in London was warmly welcomed by the Opposition leaders. Viscount Alexander of Hillsborough, after declaring that it was "a very generous gesture on the part of the Queen," added: "The opportunity which such a permanent meeting place will give for the convenience of those representatives of the Commonwealth who come here for conferences and the like is an exceedingly great opportunity for a collective step forward in the development of those Commonwealth relations that all parties in this State so heartily desire."

Viscount Templewood, expressing his pleasure, said that he felt certain that Queen Mary, who had spent so many years of her life in Marlborough House and who did so much in her early voyaging throughout the Empire to bring the Commonwealth together, would "have fully approved of her grand-daughter's gracious intention."

Replying to the Opposition Leaders' welcome, Lord Home said: "The Queen has, in a most striking way, given one more demonstration that the well-being of the Commonwealth of nations is always uppermost in Her Majesty's mind and in the minds of members of the Royal Family . . ."

* * *

ADVANCEMENT of Ceylon's rural economy is being effectively carried out by combining technological advances of the West with the country's traditional concepts of social organisation and economy, Ceylon's High Commissioner in the United Kingdom, Mr. P. R. Gunasekera, said in London recently, when addressing the Royal Commonwealth Society on the subject of the Ceylon peasant. Among the large audience which gathered to hear him were Sir Cecil Syers, former United Kingdom High Commissioner in Ceylon; Sir Harry Platt, past President of the Royal College of Surgeons, who has just returned from a lecture tour of Ceylon and India; and Mr. Alan Green, M.P., who was recently in Ceylon with a

delegation from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

Efforts were being made, said Mr. Gunasekera, to improve the social and cultural conditions under which people of the rural areas worked. Rural Development Societies started a few years ago were engaged in community projects, improvements of hygiene, sanitation and promotion of self-help through community organisations.

Great assistance was being received from friendly countries overseas and through organisations such as W.H.O. and C.A.R.E. Since independence Ceylon had concentrated on improving the health of the people and the sharp rise in life expectancy was proof of the vast strides made in this direction.

* * *

AUSTRALIA'S new High Commissioner to Ceylon, Mr. J. C. G. Kevin, disembarked in Colombo from the "Orsova," last Monday. He succeeds Mr. A. J. Eastman, who returned to Australia on completion of his assignment here in September, 1958.

Mr. Kevin has had a distinguished career, which began as a barrister of the Supreme Court of New South Wales. Prior to World War II he was attached to the Australian High Commission in London. Then from 1940-44 he was in the Australian Navy.

Mr. Kevin is not a stranger to Asia. He was Acting High Commissioner for Australia in New Delhi between the years 1947 to 1950 and was Australian representative in Indonesia between 1953 and 1955. He now comes to Ceylon direct from the Department of External Affairs in Canberra, where he has been Assistant Secretary.

Mr. Kevin is very pleased with his new assignment here. He likes service in Asia and is looking forward to his stay among the people of Ceylon.

PEOPLE

(Continued from page 17)

MR. Shirley Corea of Chilaw represents Ceylon at the centenary celebrations of the Law Institute of Victoria, Australia, which began this week.

A proctor with a flourishing practice, Mr. Corea was Minister of Com-

merce and Trade in the last government and led a trade mission to European and West Asian countries. He is also the Chairman of the Negombo-Chilaw Planters' Association.

Sir Cyril de Zoysa, President of the Senate and of the Law Society, was earlier deputed to attend the event.

* * *

THE member for Kalawewa, Mr. M. S. Dissanayake, who has been absent from the House of Representatives except for a few sittings after his election, made a brief appearance on Wednesday, last week, but returned to Madras the next day to continue medical treatment.

* * *

MR. Fred Foenander, of the Department of Agriculture, and till recently acting as Farm Manager of the Bopatalawa Livestock Farm, left for Australia last month, accompanied by his wife and little son, Roddy. He joined the Agricultural Department fourteen years ago and was in Australia for a short time studying farm work there when he decided to return and rejoin the Department of Agriculture. He has done good work at Bopatalawa and by his departure the Department loses a most efficient officer.

* * *

MR. J. F. Samaranyake, the Ceylonese journalist who was editor of the Rangoon daily, *The Burman*, has joined the staff of the Vietnam Press at Saigon.

Mr. Samaranyake spent ten years in India, where he was also associated with a student movement within the Indian National Congress. Going over to Burma in 1946, he edited the first post-war English daily, *The Advance*, before joining *The Burman*.

A POLITICAL NOTEBOOK

(Continued from page 11)

probably be inclined to resist any move which suggests coming to terms with the Tamils. With some Kandyans also thinking in terms of an autonomous region, a Constitution which will be representative of a confederation of autonomous provinces does present a better solution of the problem before the country of fostering a united nation than the executive committee system.



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