

The Ceylon *Just Nightly* Review

Vol. XI

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No. 23

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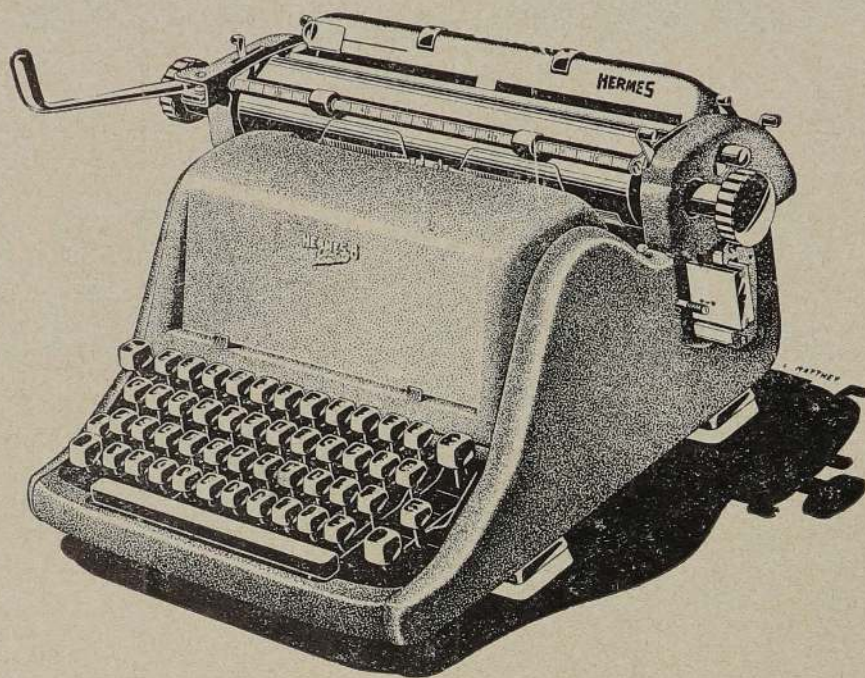
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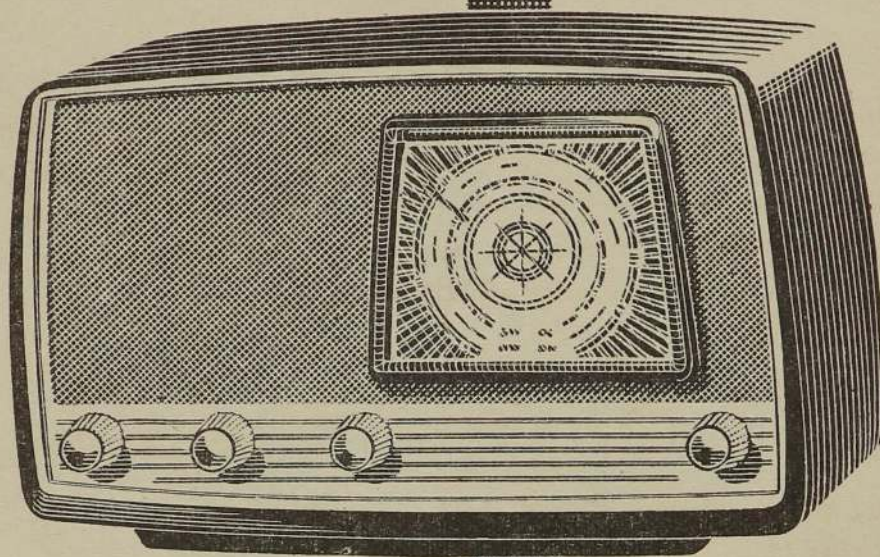


—Times

The departure for good last week of Mr. C. R. Brocklehurst, who has spent thirty-three years in the Island with Mackwoods Limited, is a real loss to Ceylon sport.

As a polo player he made his mark from the time of his arrival in Colombo when Polo was in a flourishing condition. He did much to popularise the game in Ceylon.

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THE CASE OF THE I.G.P.

MR. Bandaranaike's capacity for compromise has told again and a serious crisis in the Police service has been averted. Nevertheless by making a concession to a certain point of view he has created, if not actually a dangerous precedent, a situation which could be very embarrassing to him where appointments of significance in the public service and the armed services, and preferment generally, are concerned.

* * * *

THE issue originally was a simple one. Mr. Bandaranaike having made up his mind that Mr. Osmund de Silva was not deserving of an extension of his term as Inspector-General of Police, the only matter for decision was which of the DIG's should be promoted to the post. But the moment he allowed himself to be diverted from this course by the clamour from a section of opinion that the IGP should be a Buddhist, a new problem arose by reason of the fact that all the DIG's are Christians.

* * * *

IF, as is suggested, the campaign for the retention of Mr. de Silva's services on the grounds that he is a Buddhist was to any extent inspired by him himself, it is difficult to understand why the DIG's should be penalised. The Prime Minister's position appears to be that while he is devoted to accepted principles, the opinion that has developed has to be appeased before the claims of the DIG's are considered. It is fervently to be hoped that a similar situation will not arise when other high appointments have to be made.

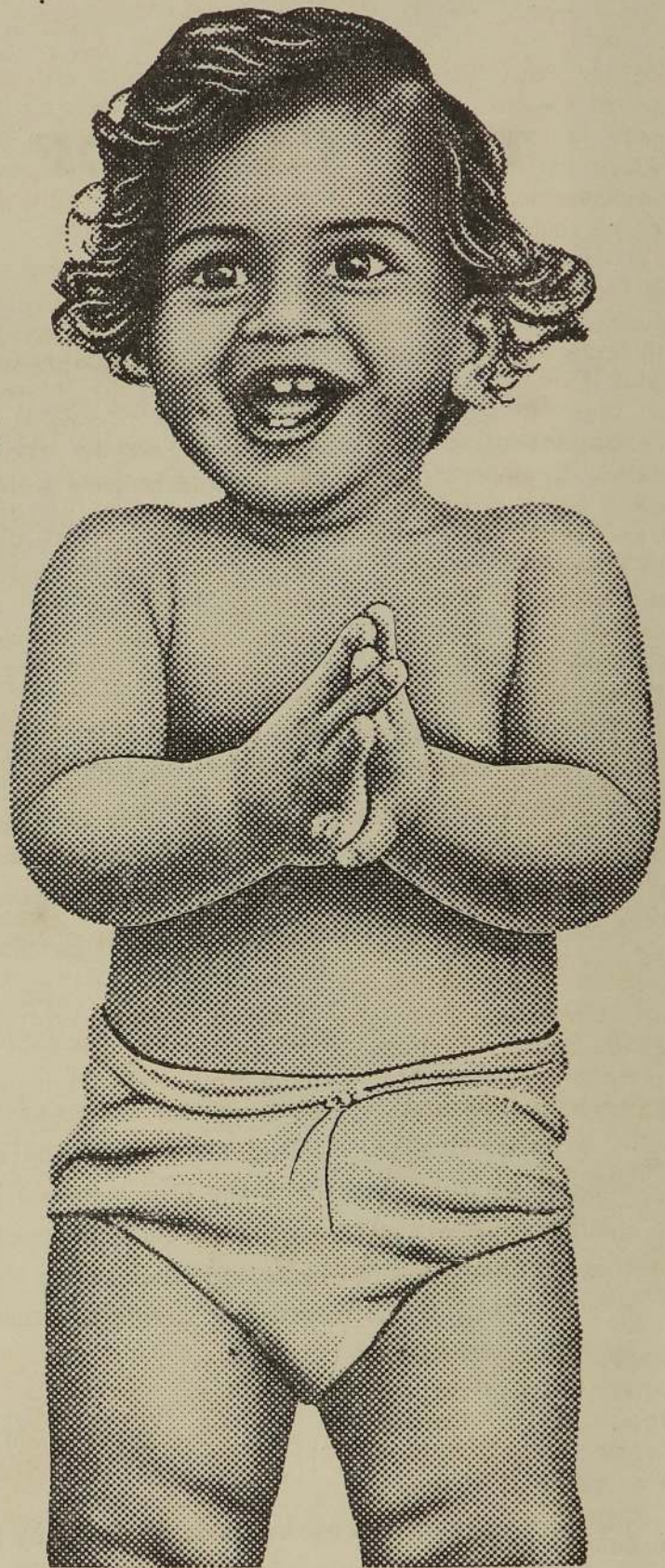
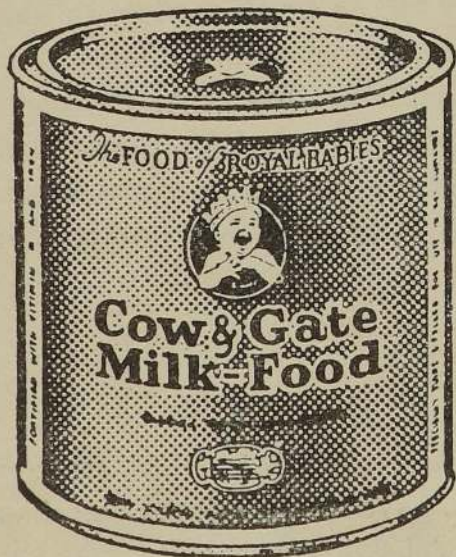
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IN all the circumstances the spirit displayed by the DIG's after their initial sense of resentment and dismay is entirely to their credit. We have no doubt that, like them, the rank and file of the Police, as befits a disciplined service, will accept the position that the secondment of Mr. M. W. F. Abeyakoon as IGP for a limited period is in the national interest and give him their loyal co-operation in a difficult assignment.

THE EDITOR.

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MATTERS OF MOMENT

— By BRUTUS —

THE Chairman of the Planters' Association of Ceylon, Mr. H. Creighton, made a telling point when he stressed, at the annual meeting of the Association, that it did not seem to be realised that the tea, rubber and coconut industries cannot pass on increases in costs of production, caused by increases of wages forced on them by trade union pressure on the Government, to the buyers of their products, on whom they are dependent for the prices they obtain. By contrast, he pointed out, when certain commercial enterprises are compelled by the Government to increase wages or allowances, it is possible for them to pass on some, if not the whole, of the extra cost to their customers, "who, generally speaking, are estates".

Alluding to the agreement between Ceylon and Iraq whereby the quantity of dates imported to Ceylon would be increased in order to enable Iraq to buy tea, Mr. Creighton gave an assurance to the Government that members would make every endeavour to popularise the consumption of dates, in collaboration with the Tea Propaganda Board. At the same time he observed that the agricultural industries of the Island are the "tree of life" for Ceylon's development, and most of the traders, brokers, engineering firms, shops and public services, "even the Government and the Ministers in its Cabinet," are parasitic growths on that tree, deriving sustenance from it. The burden on the life tree was becoming more intolerable, he said, and the incentive to improve or expand the agricultural activities of the Island was being destroyed; unless it was revived there was danger that the tree might start to wither.

* * *

MR. Creighton advocated a reduced flat rate of duty for tea, in view of the loopholes for abuses that could occur in any *ad valorem* scheme. But Mr. R. G. Senanayake, Minister of Commerce and Trade, who was the chief guest at the meeting, said that while both he and the Minister of Finance were not unaware of the difficulties surrounding the system, they expected to evolve a scheme which would counter possible abuses. He an-

nounced that it was proposed that all teas would have to be sold at the Colombo or London auctions, but he would have the power to make exceptions and would do so only on compelling grounds.

The administrative organization required to make tea for local consumption also go through the Colombo auctions would be stupendous, he said. It was therefore intended to permit such sales outside the auctions and review the position after some time.

Mr. Senanayake indicated that the terms of the sale of rubber to China this year would be changed when he said that Ceylon had suffered considerable loss in supplying rubber to China last year on the basis of the monthly average of prices obtaining from day to day in the Singapore market. He complimented producers on having sent the best quality to China; there had not been a single complaint last year, he said.

Mr. Creighton was re-elected Chairman for the current year.

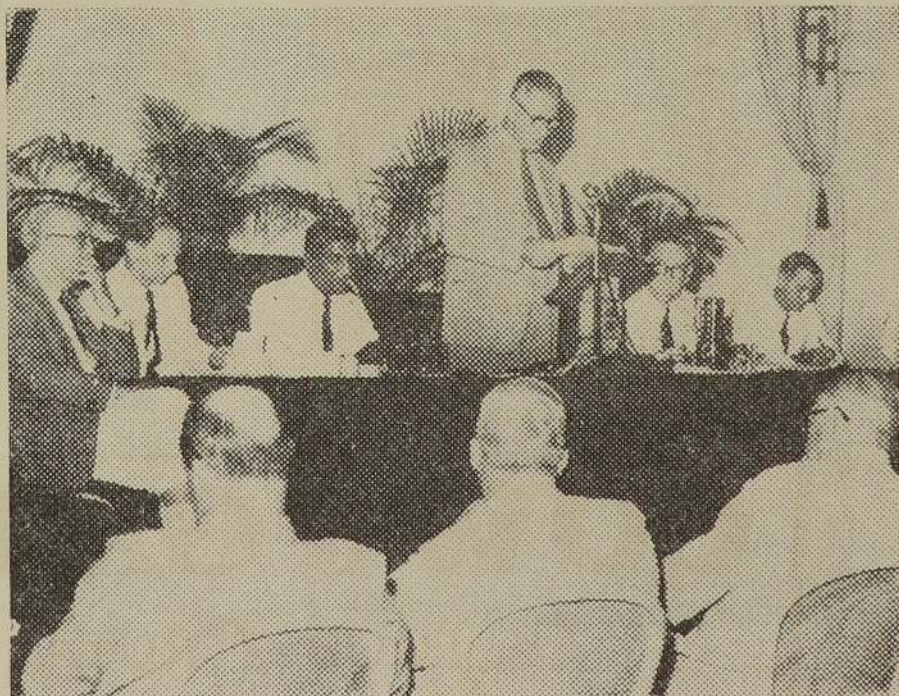
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A CLEAR declaration of policy on private enterprise was invited from the Government by the Chair-

man, Mr. S. T. L. de Soysa, at the annual general meeting of the Chamber of Commerce. Without such a policy, which should be followed without deviation, they could not be blamed, he said, if they were not prepared to risk what little capital they had left in expanding their businesses or to invite their friends abroad to help them start fresh industrial ventures.

"We are not ashamed to admit," Mr. de Soysa said, "our weaknesses or to call on foreign aid, and we are prepared to do so once we are assured that we shall be left to develop these enterprises as we think they should be developed, without undue political influence or pressure being brought to bear on us."

Mr. de Soysa said that the need for foreign capital and know-how had never been as urgent as it was at present, with the rapidly increasing population and lack of employment opportunities. "Is it any disgrace for us to admit," he asked, "that we lack capital and know-how? We cannot honestly state that we have an excess of either. Let us face the fact that we are an undeveloped country. Let us admit that we are a comparatively poor country. Once we admit these facts, are we right in sitting back and stating that we want Ceylon only for the Ceylonese:



—Times

Mr. H. Creighton speaking at the 105th annual general meeting of the Planters' Association. At extreme left is Mr. G. K. Newton, who was Chairman pro tem when Mr. Creighton was re-elected.

MATTERS OF MOMENT

should we not rather go out and find the means to make Ceylon a better place for Ceylonese?"

The Governor-General, Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, was among the distinguished guests at the meeting. Mr. de Soysa was re-elected Chairman and Mr. K. Witt was elected vice-Chairman and Mr. P. D. Finn deputy-Chairman.

* * *

THE average price for all teas in 1958, Rs. 1.73, was the lowest since 1948, pointed out Mr. Selwyn Samaraweera, Chairman of the Low-country Products Association, in urging, at the annual general meeting of the Association, that the Government reduce the export duty on tea if the industry is to survive. The high export duty is surely but steadily killing the tea industry, which was already faced with shrinking markets, he said. "Government must be content with lesser revenue from tea; otherwise we perish." With China looming large as a competitor, and East Africa carrying out a fast-growing production programme, the outlook he described as grim.

Mr. Samaraweera was re-elected Chairman.

THE theory that foreign domination is the cause of the present ills of the country was debunked by the Principal of Ananda College, Mr. S. A. Wijayatilaka, at the annual school prizegiving. The scapegoat is a venerable institution, he said, being even mentioned in biblical literature, but it is only in Ceylon that within the last two or three years the search for a scapegoat had been exalted to the status of a national cult.

It was a distortion of history to fix on the Portuguese, the Dutch and the British the entire responsibility for all our present ills, he said. It was repeated *ad nauseam* that the sole aim of the educational system introduced by the British was the production of clerks to lubricate the government machine, but even if this was true it had to be remembered that the system produced an intellectual elite of which any country could be justly proud.

Commenting on the meagre facilities available for practical training, Mr. Wijayatilaka acknowledged the part played by British engineering firms and the local factories of foreign manufacturers in providing hundreds of young men with the opportunity of acquiring technological training

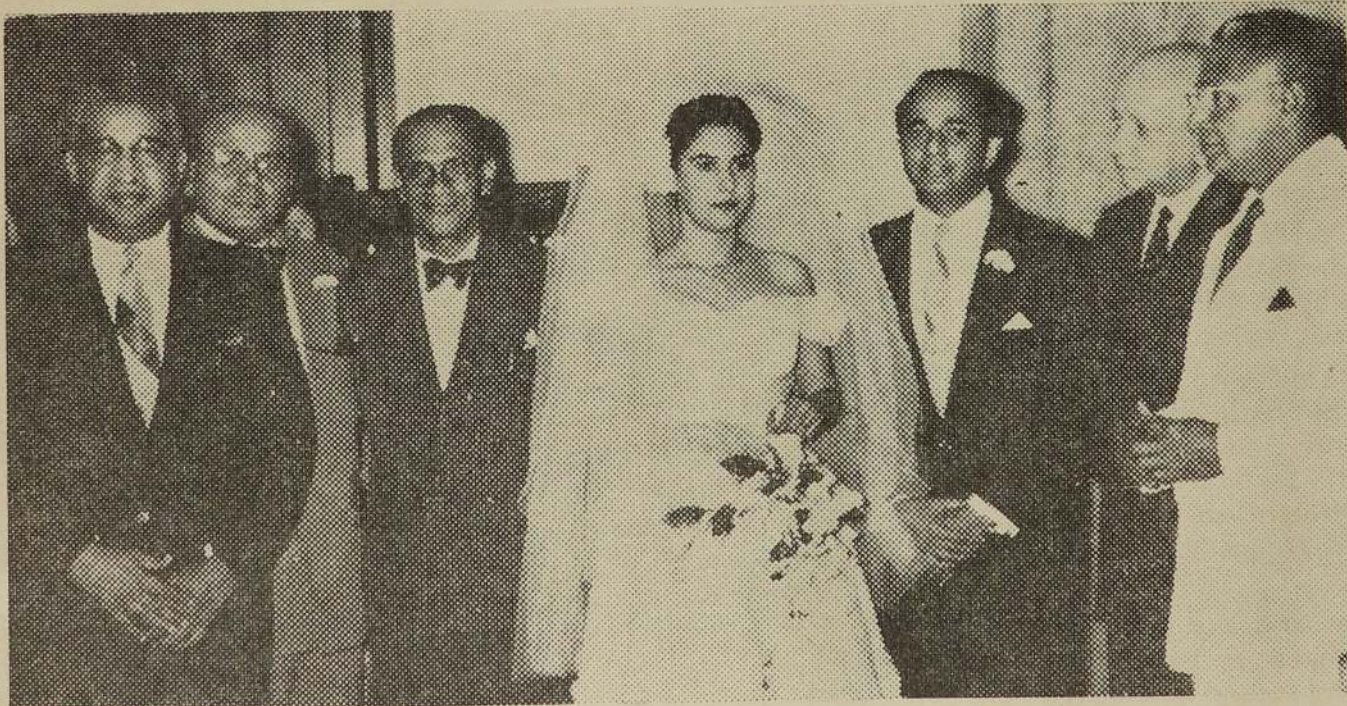
and experience. He advocated the enlargement of the faculties of science and engineering at the University to allow of a much larger intake of science students from schools.

* * *

THE Ceylon Institute of World Affairs, which was inaugurated on March 31st, began auspiciously with an undertaking being given by the Prime Minister, on behalf of the Government, to provide it with suitable offices in a suitable place.

Addressing the inaugural meeting, Mr. Bandaranaike recalled that the idea of the Institute had been mooted from time to time and commended the resuscitation of the idea by university lecturers in the character of a non-partisan body, like Chatham House in London or the Council of World Affairs in Delhi. Those bodies had imposing buildings and very full libraries, he pointed out, in making the offer to assist the Institute.

Commenting on the necessity of such an organization, Mr. Bandaranaike observed that world affairs concerned everybody very closely, since what happened in Berlin or Suez was as important to Ceylon as it might be to Europe, America or



—Times

A distinguished gathering, including the Governor-General, the Prime Minister and two former Prime Ministers were present at the wedding of Mr. Cyril Gardiner, Managing Director of Tuckers, and Miss Mavis Henry, on Easter Monday, at All Saints' Church, Borella.

Left to right are Mr. Dudley Senanayake, Sir Chittampalam Gardiner, Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, the bridal couple, Sir Oliver Goonetilleke and Sir John Kotelawala. Sir Oliver Goonetilleke proposed the health of the newly married couple.

MATTERS OF MOMENT

Russia in the sense that the results of those happenings had repercussions in this part of the world too. Events in Asia affected us more closely, he added, and it was most desirable that fuller information about Asian problems of international significance, such as the crisis in Tibet, should be available. He visualised the Institute being in a position to impart reasonably accurate information on international problems.

The President of the Society is Mr. Wilmot A. Perera, former Ambassador to China, and the Joint Secretaries Dr. A. J. Wilson and Mr. S. U. Kodikara.

* * *

A SEVERE drought that has hit the Island has after many years also reduced production of tea in the mid-country. It is reported that estates in the Gampola and Kandy districts can scarcely give two days work a week to pluckers. Production on most estates in the area is estimated to have fallen by between 30 and 40 per cent. Factories operated solely by water power have virtually ceased manufacture.

Unlike in previous years, the drought has caused wells even in the suburbs of Colombo to run dry, and water is being distributed for essential domestic purposes by Army bowsers. In the dry zone, agricultural activity has come to a standstill and relief measures are in progress.

* * *

AN air service between Ceylon and People's China will probably be in operation by 1960, if not earlier, following the agreement "on the basis of equality and mutual benefit" signed in Peking on March 26.

The Ceylon delegation was led by the Minister of Transport and Works, Mr. Maitripala Senanayake, and included Mr. J. L. M. Fernando, Managing Director of Air Ceylon, and Mr. E. M. Wijenaik, Director of Civil Aviation.

When the service is inaugurated Ceylon will become the first Commonwealth and second Asian country to have a regular air link with a Communist country. Hitherto the only Asian country with which any Communist country has had traffic arrangements has been Burma, Rangoon being the terminal for one of China's international services.

A 16 to 20-year loan of Rs. 20 million at 3½ per cent. has been floated by the Government. It is raised under the Development Loans Act of 1954 and is repayable at par on April 1st, 1979, with the option of repayment at par on a date after March 31st, 1975, on three months notice. The issue price is Rs. 100 per cent., the minimum holding being Rs. 100. The loan is secured by the consolidated fund.

The information is released that the present gross funded public debt of Ceylon is Rs. 1,296,385,910, exclusive of Rs. 9,608,400 war loans issued on behalf of the UK Government. The approximate market value of the accumulated sinking funds amounts to Rs. 307,588,122, so that the net funded public debt is Rs. 988,797,122.

* * *

THE Government has accepted a million dollar participation in a special fund amounting to 13.5 mil-

lion Canadian dollars for use by Commonwealth countries of South-East Asia. Ceylon will, in the very near future, use its part of the grant for the importation of Canadian flour amounting in value to 1 million Canadian dollars (roughly Rs. 5 million), which sum will be over and above the annual Canadian Colombo Plan grant.

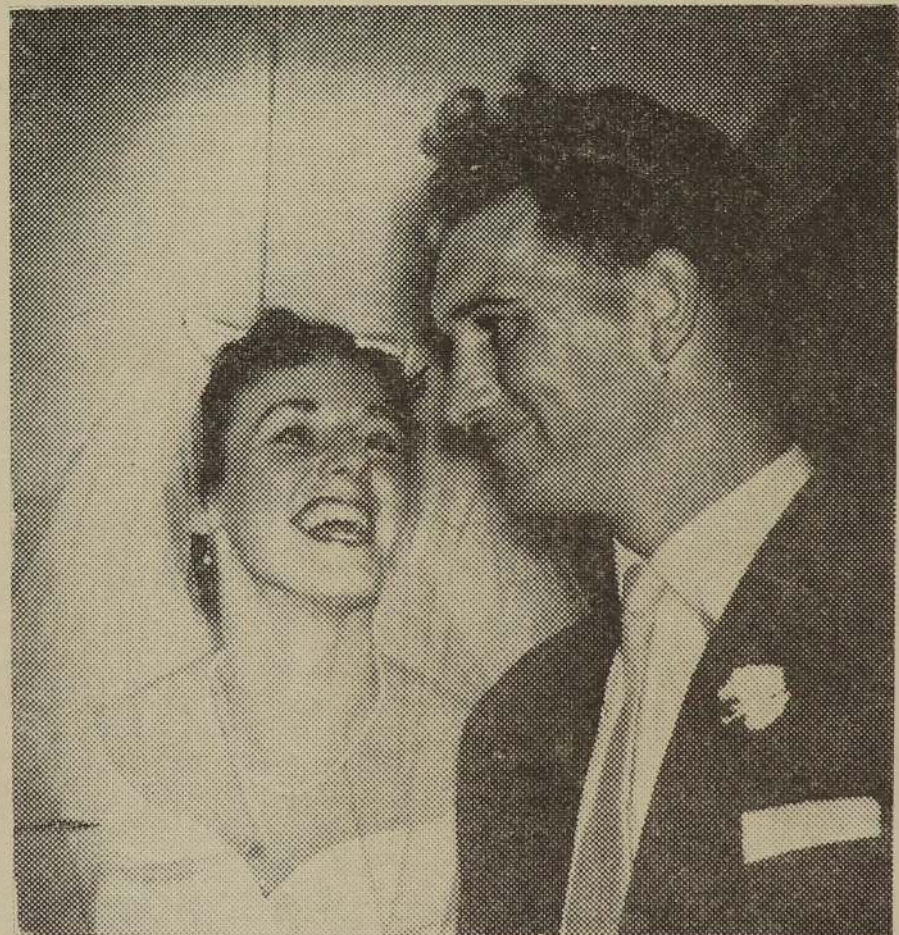
The counterpart rupee fund which will arise from the sale of this flour in Ceylon will be used for some worthwhile development project to be decided upon later.

* * *

A FAVOURABLE turn in the country's economy is recorded in the report of the Monetary Board of the Central Bank for 1958.

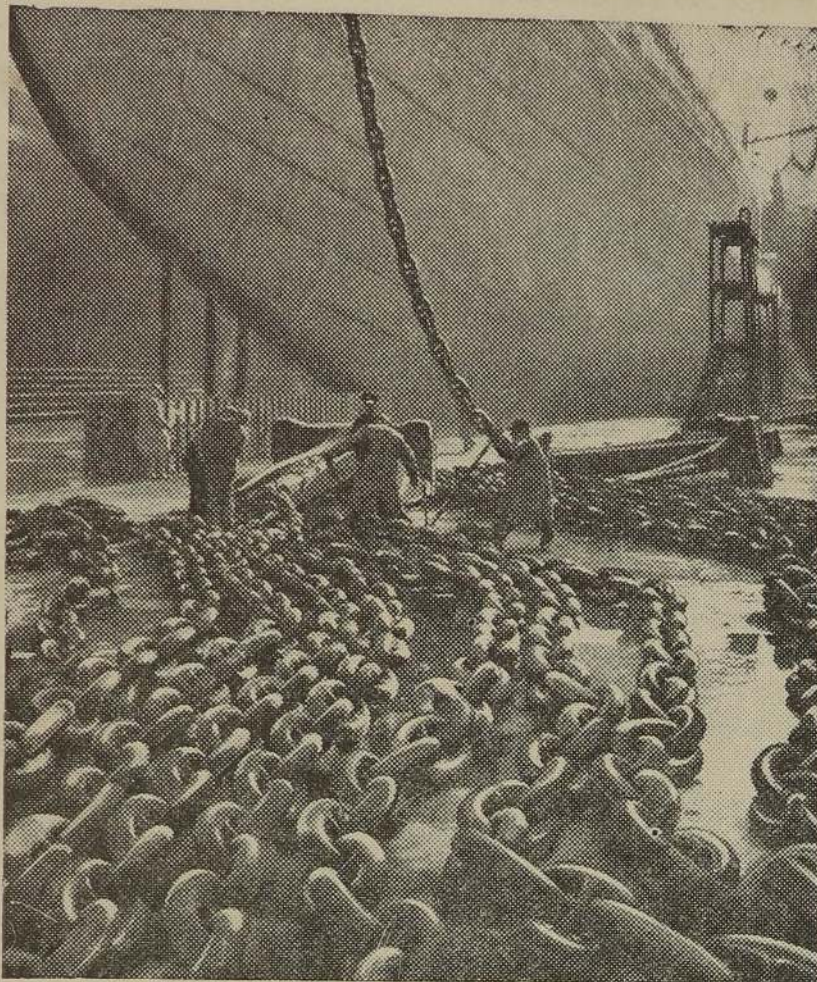
The report states that on the whole the downward trend which began with the break of the 1955 boom and continued through 1956

(Continued on page 32)



—Times

Mr. Philip Spark, the well-known C.H. and F.C. three-quarter, and Miss Fearn Ewart, who represented Britain in the last Olympic Swimming Championships in Melbourne, and only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Ewart, of Colombo, shortly after their wedding at Christ Church, Galle Face, on Easter Monday.



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FACT-FINDERS AT LARGE

By ERNEST CHISHOLM THOMSON

(Fortnightly Review Special)

AT a time when the workers of Britain have so much done for their welfare it is heart-warming to find kind thoughts directed towards the comfort and welfare of the "Boss."

What sort of chair does the senior executive spend his time in all day? Does he risk fatigue, aching back and bad circulation? Is leg cramp a vocational hazard of management, and does promotion to the executive suite invite swollen ankles and slipped disc?

According to Dr. H. B. Wright, head of the Institute of Directors' medical research unit, the middle-aged director is the neglected factor in Britain's working population. That is why he and Dr. W. F. Floyd, physiological expert of Middlesex Hospital, are ranging London offices these days with an experimental executive chair from which may evolve the scientifically perfect specimen. High executives are being asked to sit in it while the strains on leg and back muscles are noted. The chair has built-in gauges to measure the height and girth of its occupants.

* * *

The Envy of the Amateur

THE two doctors will be the envy of that vast amateur army of fact-finders who haunt the public libraries from morning to night and make up so much of our population. At one time it was thought that radio and television, with their pre-digested entertainment, would quell the spirit of inquiry. But a sensational new Government White Paper on the nation's library services shows the thirst for facts to be virtually unslakable.

There are now just under 13,000,000 registered book-borrowers at public libraries, compared with only 2,683,000 in 1924, when radio had only just begun.

And this takes no account of the multitudes who daily browse around the reference shelves in obscure

village libraries or busy town establishments, sucking up facts like ant-eaters, with the same assiduity as those two doctors with their executive "guinea-pigs."

"Beauty unadorned, adorned the more," sang the undemanding poet, and it seems to be the same with Britain's knowledge-seekers. Unembroidered facts and figures are beating fiction, except perhaps the crime variety. So widespread is the hue and cry for general knowledge that one is tempted to ascribe it to the fanatical appeal of the television quiz. Everyone would like £1,000, but even with the friendliest of quiz-masters, such sums are not won without a basic knowledge of the world and affairs.

Lucky the quiz contender who, with science and technology as his theme, should come into possession of the 44-page dossier of facts that reached me this week-end. Prepared for the help of inquirers at United Kingdom Information offices overseas, it crystallises Britain's contributions to science, industry and technology over the past 200 years.

* * *

Fascinating Juxtaposition

WHAT I found so fascinating was the juxtaposition of the newest development in each field alongside the first discovery or invention that made it possible.

Let me give a few examples. In nuclear energy Britain has been the first country to generate nuclear power on a commercial scale. The Calder Hall station, feeding electricity into the national grid since 1956, could be said to have had its genesis back in 1911, when Lord Rutherford (a New Zealander working in England) proved the atom must have a nucleus. In 1932 came the momentous achievement of the British physicists Sir John Cockcroft and Dr. E. T. S. Walton in first splitting the atom.

Or take electric power. Between 1954 and 1957, the British electrical industry exported £1,000,000,000 worth of equipment. The word "electric" was coined 400 years ago by William Gilbert, physician to Queen Elizabeth I of England.

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First Pre-Fabricated House—1830

IN electronics the United Kingdom is the world's greatest exporter. The thermionic valve or tube, from which the science of electronics has largely sprung, was invented by the Englishman Sir Ambrose Fleming in 1904. The world's first public television service was opened in Britain in 1936.

If we take civil engineering, we find Britain's contractors at this moment engaged on overseas contracts valued at over £500,000,000. Harking back, the record shows Britain had the world's first steam railway in 1825, the first pre-fabricated house in 1830, the first railway tunnel in 1831. In 1890-91 British engineers built the first railway tunnel under the Hudson River, New York. Among recent projects, British contractors have completed the world's largest oil harbour, at Aden, in only 20 months.

In the field of prime movers, all gas-turbine airliners in the Western world, until mid-1958, had been built in Britain. The first prime mover, the steam engine, was invented in Britain in the mid-18th century. In 1884 the British pioneer Sir Charles Parsons made the first steam turbine driving a high-speed electrical generator, forerunner of the modern power station. And, incidentally, his steam turbine foreshadowed the principles of the gas turbine.

Take ship-building. United Kingdom yards turned out 17,000,000 gross tons of merchant shipping between 1946 and 1958. The world's first practical steam-driven ship, the "Charlotte Dundas", was launched in Scotland in 1802.

How easy to go on quoting—how hard to stop. Yet any fact-finder dipping into this book would confirm I have no more than skimmed its surface.

Ceylon Fortnightly Review

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PROFILE

**Major W. W. A. PHILLIPS,
F.Z.S., F.L.S.**

CEYLON man in the news in recent weeks was Major W. W. A. Phillips, who is now Liaison Officer with the Royal Air Force on Gan Island, where the U.K. Government is building a staging post by agreement with the Government of the Maldives.

A few weeks ago three southern islands revolted against the Maldivian Government, a development that was said to have been brewing on account of unrest and starvation in some of the atolls. The Maldivians accused Major Phillips of "undesirable and poisonous political activity" and demanded his immediate removal, "if Britain seriously proposed" to continue friendly relations with the Maldives."

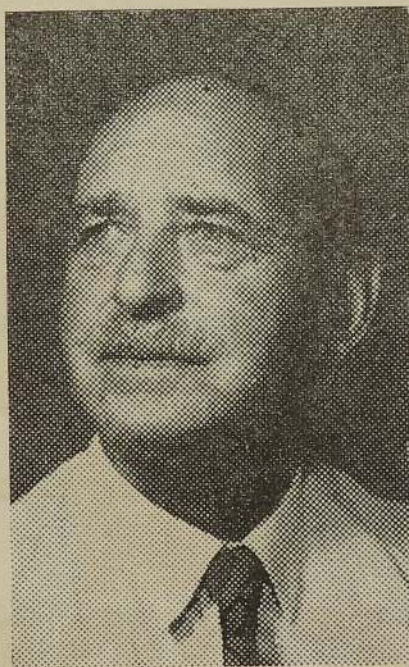
In the House of Commons, the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Affairs, Mr. Cuthbert Alport, vindicated Major Phillips' good name. On behalf of the U.K. Government Mr. Alport denied that Major Phillips was responsible for the recent revolt. He had been resident in Ceylon for about 40 years and had had to visit the Maldives frequently in pursuit of his hobby, ornithology, and had learnt the languages and habits of the Maldivian people, with whom he became very friendly. Major Phillips' knowledge was unique because no Europeans normally resided in the island.

* * *

MR. Alport continued that when the U.K. Government decided, in agreement with the Maldivian Government, to erect a staging post on Gan Island, it was fortunate to obtain the services of Phillips as Liaison Officer, and the Maldivian Government had agreed to the appointment. Major Phillips, he said, was 67 years old and undertook the job on a temporary basis and since December last he had strongly represented his wish to be relieved of his appointment.

"I am particularly glad to have the opportunity of clearing the reputation of Major Phillips, who in fact at great cost to himself and in the service not only of the United Kingdom but also of relations between the U.K. and the Maldives, undertook these duties when there was no call to do so other than a high sense of duty," Mr. Alport concluded.

The Maldivians, however, claimed not to be appeased. They made the fantastic charge that Major Phillips' interest in ornithology was "more political than scientific" and even declared that he was "the twentieth century version of the traditional Britisher who used to effect the conquest of "black" territory with a Bible in one hand and a sword in the other—in this case the bird replacing the Bible!"



—Times

Major W. W. A. Phillips

FORTY-five years a planter in Ceylon, Major Phillips' first interest has always been natural science and ornithology. He has earned international repute as a natural scientist, and is a Fellow of the Linnaean Society and of the Zoological Society—in themselves passports to distinction. His books on the mammals of Ceylon was the first systematic work of its kind and is still regarded as the last word on the subject, and he is similarly an authority on the birds of Ceylon. A great deal of the birds and mammals of the Indian sub-continent in the Natural History Museum, at South Kensington, London, is his collection. So much for the fantastic

charge that his interest in ornithology was more "political than scientific!"

* * *

MAJOR Phillips' contribution to the preservation of the island's fauna and flora has been considerable, in his capacity over a long period of years as the Secretary or President (he has been both) of the Ceylon Game and Fauna Protection Society. He has identified himself prominently with the efforts to save the Ceylon elephant from extinction, and if the Government of Ceylon has not yet taken adequate steps in this connexion it is not the fault of such enthusiasts as Major Phillips.

He came to Ceylon in 1911 as a lad of 19 to start planting with his uncle, the late Mr. R. W. Kerr, and he retired in 1957. In his planting career in Ceylon, there were two "breaks" on account of war service. Incidentally, he has a fine war record.

In 1914 he went on war service in World War I with the CPRC contingent and fought in the defence of Suez (1915) and in Mesopotamia and was taken prisoner by the Turks. A p.o.w. for two years, he returned to Ceylon and planting in 1919.

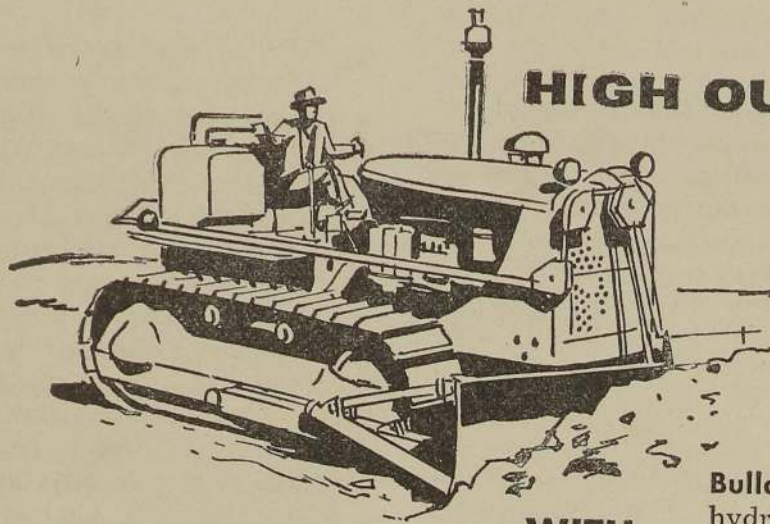
Again in World War 2 he answered the call of duty and served as a Major on the intelligence staff with the GHQ of the India Army and his duties took him from Ceylon and India to Egypt, England and Canada.

* * *

IT is interesting to recall that his visits to the Maldives, prior to his appointment as Liaison Officer with the R.A.F., included a birding expedition in 1957 when he spent some months with his wife.

On this expedition also he confirmed the existence of a rare and resident species of Shearwater, so called from the bird's habit of skimming over the surface of the sea appearing to make a slit with his beak on the water. A story first told some 60 years earlier of the existence of the species was proved by his observation.

Major Phillips' chief delights are shooting, fishing, bird photography and natural science and Ceylon has reason to be proud of his long and distinguished connexion with the island.



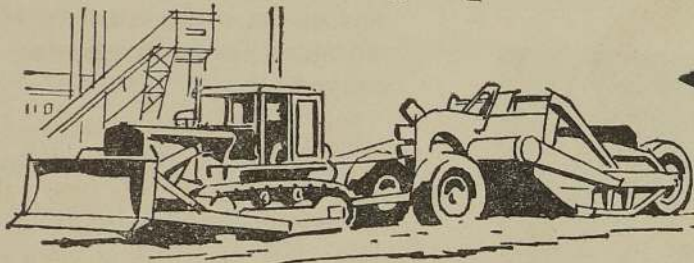
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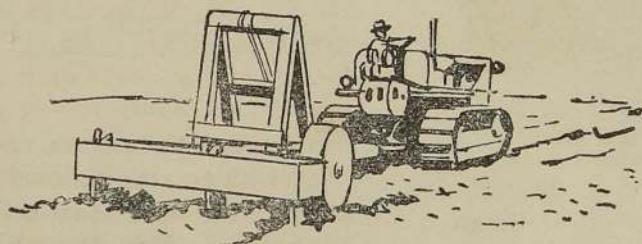
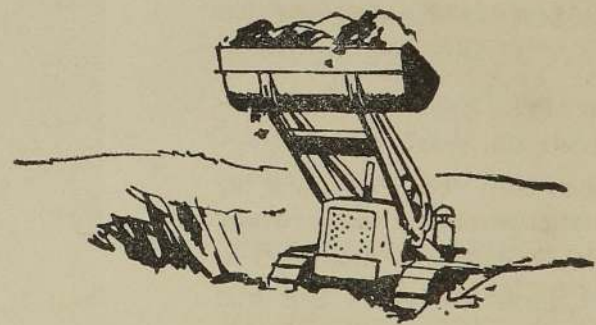
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A POLITICAL NOTEBOOK

By CROSS-BENCHER

PROPOSALS of the Minister of Food and Agriculture, Mr. Philip Gunawardena, for the establishment of a Co-operative Development Bank have led to another vigorous controversy between the Right Wing and the Left in the Cabinet. The Ministers failed to reach agreement on the Bill drafted by the Food Minister—according to one reckoning the Ministers were divided ten to four—and the Prime Minister directed that the Bill should be first discussed by the Government Parliamentary Party. It will go to the Cabinet again when the Ministers out of the Island at the time—there were three—return.

The Bill provides for the establishment of a bank "to develop the co-operative movement of Ceylon, rural banking and agricultural credit by furnishing financial and other assistance to co-operative societies and other persons". It has powers to grant loans, advances and other accommodation to co-ops., including medium and long-term loans to any one carrying on or intending to carry on any agricultural, industrial or business undertaking which in the opinion of the Board of Directors is a small-scale undertaking.

The opposition to the Bill is mainly on the ground that it gives the Minister extraordinary powers—including the right to hire and fire the Board of Directors—and that the Bill empowers the Bank to do things which at present even the Bank of Ceylon is not entitled to do, besides encroaching upon the functions and powers of other Ministers like the Finance Minister. It has been described as a further step of the Food Minister's programme of "revolution by legislation".

* * *

A BRIEF announcement that the Public Service Commission had decided to retire Mr. Osmund de Silva as Inspector-General of Police on July 25th on the expiry of the four-year term for which he was appointed was the prelude to a series of events which have seriously disturbed not only the Police but the entire public service. It transpired that the decision not to extend the appointment of Mr. de Silva, who is only 50 years old—he joined the service as a probationary A.S.P. in 1931—was that of the Prime Minister

himself, as was the choice of Mr. M. W. F. Abeykoon, a former land settlement officer and presently Assistant Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, as the next I.G.P. Mr. Bandaranaike disclosed the fact at a meeting the five Deputy Inspectors-General of Police—Mr. C. C. Dissanayake, Mr. Sidney de Soysa, Mr. W. Leembruggen, Mr. S. A. Dissanayake, and Mr. D. C. W. Pate (CID)—had with him at which the future of the Inspector-generalship was discussed.

It is reported that Mr. Bandaranaike told them that he could quote chapter and verse to prove that



—Times

Mr. Osmund de Silva

Mr. de Silva was unfit to be retained as I.G.P. In the context of the situation in the country it was most desirable that an outsider should be appointed to the post. He was not going to appoint any of the D.I.G.'s as the five of them being Christians it might be said that they had plotted to oust the I.G.P., who is a Buddhist. At the present juncture only a Buddhist could be appointed to the post.

The D.I.G.'s were apparently themselves divided on the question of extension of Mr. de Silva's term, but in favour of an officer in the service being appointed to the post in the interest of the service. The announcement of the appointment of an outsider in Mr. Abeykoon was followed by Mr. C. C. Dissanayake, the most senior D.I.G. sending in his resignation. Mr. Abeykoon is to

assume duties on April 25, when Mr. de Silva goes on leave.

* * *

AFTER a meeting at which they discussed among themselves the circumstances of the retirement of Mr. Osmund de Silva and the appointment of Mr. Abeykoon, the D.I.G.'s and gazetted officers of the service were received by the Prime Minister, with whom they were in conference for three hours. According to a communique subsequently issued Mr. Bandaranaike informed the officers that in coming to the conclusion that he was not justified in renewing the contract of Mr. de Silva as I.G.P., he had no grievance against him. Indeed he looked upon him as "an estimable gentleman whose fitness for an important position in another sphere he had recognised by the offer of a different post" (according to reports Mr. de Silva was offered and turned down the post of Minister to Indonesia or Ambassador to West Germany).

Mr. Bandaranaike also assured the officers that it was his principle that race, religion, caste, etc., should not be taken into account in appointments to the public service and endorsed the general principle that not only in the Police but the entire public service seniority and merit should be the basis of promotion. He pointed out, however, that exceptions to this rule were possible and mentioned the appointment of Sir Richard Aluwihare as I.G.P. and Dr. C. A. Howes as Director of Education. Mr. Bandaranaike defended the appointment of Mr. Abeykoon as warranted by the exceptional circumstances of the present case, "particularly the mischievous campaign that had been started" (this obviously refers to the clamour in some quarters that the I.G.P. should be a Buddhist). He explained that Mr. Abeykoon's appointment would be on secondment and indicated that in due course the normal practice would be resumed.

The clarification of his position by the Prime Minister apparently by and large satisfied the gazetted officers, as it was later announced that Mr. C. C. Dissanayake had withdrawn his resignation. A meeting of the Central Welfare Committee of the Police, which is representative of the rank and file of the service, however, adopted a resolution that Mr. Osmund de Silva should be given an opportunity to defend himself before his services were terminated.

(Continued on page 32)

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GALLE AND ITS ANCIENT GLORY

By "HISTORICUS"

(Fortnightly Review Special)

AFTER years of somnolence Galle is again bustling with activity, the Government having been compelled to fall back on the old port to relieve the congestion in Colombo. There is talk of blasting the rocks in the harbour and increasing the accommodation, suggesting a return to prominence of the southern capital.

The following description, written some years ago, of the city in its heyday in Dutch times affords a comparison between Galle as it was and during its decline. As to its future development, the author's vision seems prophetic.

GALLE belongs to the past. Like the ancient city of Bruges it has many a street whence busy life has fled. Its glory was its harbour, and when the Colombo breakwater was built eighty years ago, Galle slid into the past. But Galle still remains a museum of brick and stone and memories, and can afford much material of interest to the stranger within its gates.

As you leave the Railway Station and turn in the direction of the Fort, the ancient harbour of Galle breaks into view. On the gently undulating water of its surface a single ship lies lonely as a sentinel, and the jetty and warehouses appal you by their silence. They are there to remind you that Galle has not entirely disappeared as a port of call. When the sunken rocks which imperil its harbour are removed, some of its ancient glory will return to Galle, but it can never once again be the old Galle, which held all the ocean-going traffic of this island.

* * *

THE grim ramparts loom before you, broad-based, massive and solid, and furnish an indication of the characters of the men who built them. They stand for permanence and defy the corroding hand of time.

The Fort is very still. It is not because you have arrived in the early forenoon, but it is so at all times. Gone are the days when touts and the sellers of curios jostled passengers in the narrow streets of the Fort. Gone also are the well known hotels, Britannia, Commercial, Eglington, Loret's, Pavilion, Sea View, which were full to overflowing, especially on Mail Days. One link with the past remains, however, the Oriental Hotel, re-christened the New Oriental Hotel, and one often wonders why so small a town needs so great a hostelry. But sleepy

Galle wakes up at the end of the year and the burst of activity which is created by the Sports Meet of the Galle Gymkhana Club fills this hotel to overflowing.

* * *

ALTHOUGH there have been structural changes in the Fort of Galle, it still preserves a typically Dutch appearance and portions of the city of Utrecht in Holland have a strange resemblance to it. The houses seem huddled together for companionship, but the exterior view from the streets cannot convey any idea of the lofty roofs, the well-ventilated rooms and the solid walls of the old Dutch homes. The Dutch engineers knew exactly how to build in limited areas, so as to secure the maximum of coolness and shade. If you wish to see Dutch houses laid out in gardens you should visit the suburban areas like Magalle on the shores of the harbour.

One of these was the tragic home of Pieter Willem Ferdinand Adriaan van Schuler, Dissave of Matara. This spacious building was, until recent times, used as the Kachcheri at Galle. In Dutch days the house bore the name "Vliet-Zorg." On either side of it stood two houses, one of which was named "Eendragt" and the other "Vrijheid-Blijheid."

* * *

NEXT to the New Oriental Hotel there stands what is probably the most historic building in Galle, the New Dutch Church. New and old are after all relative terms, and many a town in Holland has a new Church and an old Church, the new Church dating back to the middle ages. The new Dutch Church at Galle, which was built in 1754 at the private expense of the Hon. Casparus de Jong, Commander of Galle, is the repository of a large number of tombstones and mural monuments of the Dutch period.

Most of the memorials are of great historical interest, but it is sufficient for me to refer to the tombstone of Mattheus van der Spar and Elizabeth Mooyart, because they belong to two Dutch families, the van der Spars and the Mooyarts, which have a long and illustrious connection with the island. Mattheus van der Spar was father of John Joachim van der Spar, the founder of the firm of J. J. van der Spar & Co., in whose memory the stately marble monument in the Church was built. Elizabeth Mooyart was the wife of the Hon. Jacob de Jong, Commander of Galle.



Galle Harbour on a busy day.

—Times

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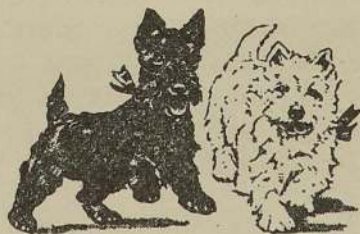
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GALLE AND ITS ANCIENT GLORY

THERE were three Commanders of Galle who bore the name of de Jong. These were the Hon. Iman de Jong, the Hon. Jacob de Jong and the Hon. Casparus de Jong. Another spot, which invites antiquarian research, is the Dutch *Kerkhof* or cemetery, which is situated just outside the Fort, and bears a stone on each gateway with the date 1785 and the word, *Memento mori*. J. F. Lorenz, father of C. A. Lorenz, is buried here.

The old gate of Galle, which is little used now, was the natural entrance to the town by way of the harbour. On the top of the gateway on its inner side there appears on a shield the Dutch monogram V.O.C. which stands for *Vereenigde Oost Indische Compagnie*. Under it is the date 1669 and the crest of the shield is a cock, which lends some little weight to a popular theory that Galle is derived from the Portuguese word for cock.

* * *

MOST of the street names of Galle are mere translations of names the Dutch used. Middle Street was *Middel Straat*, Church Street was *Kerk Straat*, Church Cross Street was *Kerkdwars Straat* and Pedlar's Street was *Kramers Straart*.

The Galle ramparts are the lungs of Galle, where the residents take the air, and few towns in Ceylon are so well supplied in this respect. many years ago the residents of Galle vehemently and successfully protested against a suggestion that the ramparts should be demolished. The proposal seemed to be pure vandalism, unrelieved by any practical advantage, unless indeed it was hoped to utilise the broken fragments of the ramparts for other purposes. But that was before the establishment of an Archaeological Department in the Island, and the menace is not likely now to reappear.

* * *

THE lofty clock-tower which stands on a prominent part of the ramparts was erected to the memory of Dr. P. D. Anthonisz, the greatest son of Galle in modern times. Not only was Dr. Anthonisz famous as the greatest physician and surgeon of his day, but his benevolence to the suffering poor won for him universal respect and affection.

The cost of the tower was met by public subscription, while the costly

clock was the gift of Mudaliyar Sampson Rajapakse, a grateful and devoted patient.

I have so far dealt with the past, but even at the present day the town and district of Galle fill a considerable place in the life of the country. Education is an important activity and derives much encouragement from the success of the old Central School at Galle, maintained by Government, under the capable charge of the late Mr. J. E. Anthonisz. Its successor, All Saints' College, is maintained by the Church of England Mission. One does not usually associate hills with the low-country, but the three leading boys' schools outside the Fort, managed by the Wesleyans, the Roman Catholics and the Buddhists, are placed on picturesque eminences, commanding fine views.

* * *

THE Girls' Schools of Galle have not been behind the Boys' Schools in making history, though they have not "soared so high" as the Boys' Schools.

There are many points of interest in the neighbourhood of Galle, and these are now historic as they afforded the first glimpses of tropical life and beauty to the astonished gaze of new arrivals from Europe. One of the best known of these is Armitage Hill, Wakwella, the scene from which is difficult to rival, even in the endless diversity of scenery in our beautiful island.

The Gin Ganga, which winds pleasantly past green fields, invites the gentle sportsman in quest of snipe fields, once famous like old Galle, but in these later days less alluring. It occasionally puts up an S.O.S. signal to nimrods of more valiant breed to rid it of its man-eating crocodiles.

* * *

MODERN Galle was fast developing into a great agricultural and industrious centre when the gaunt figure of depression appeared. A time will come again, no doubt, when its plantations of tea, rubber, cinnamon and citronella, will bring plenteousness to the land and its specially developed industries in jewellery, tortoise-shell ornaments, coir and lacemaking will flourish. But an old town like Galle has had its vicissitudes and knows how to cultivate patience.

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No town in the island can better illustrate the social and the economical progress of the Moors than Galle. They seek English education in large numbers and have won a considerable way in public life, while a representative section of their people maintain the petty trade which from time immemorial has been in their hands.

The late Sir Macan Markar, the former Minister of Communications and Works, was produced by Galle.

* * *

A REMARKABLE fact is the peaceful penetration of the Fort of Galle by the Moors. A large number of dwellings in the Fort, which a generation or two ago were the homes of Burghers, are now occupied by Moors. The Moors of Ceylon are sometimes referred to as a backward community. The industry and the business aptitude which characterises these may well set a standard to other communities.

In one respect Galle is surprisingly up to date and that is its interests in games. If you sit on the ramparts, facing outwards from the neighbourhood of the new gate, you will have the esplanade before you. There can be no mistaking a fixture for a football match, as a great sea of heads will foregather before play begins. Nor does rude or unseasonable weather daunt enthusiasm to a marked degree, as the crowd persists to the end. That is all to the good, because the next best thing to playing the game is seeing it played as it should be. In this respect the schools have a great mission to fulfil, and they do their part well.

* * *

IN the good old shipping days of Galle the Maldivian schooners brought regular cargoes of *bondaluwas* and *diahakuru*, which were in great demand from all parts of the island. *Bondaluwas* were excellent sweets, so at least they seemed to schoolboy palates, and *diahakuru*, an equally excellent fish sauce, and it was not possible to be on the streets without having your attention invited by vendors of these articles.

In my later visits to Galle I have never heard of these delicacies and I am left wondering whether like the carrier pigeon of the Galle-Colombo mail service, they too belonged to a past that cannot return.

(Continued on page 19)

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RECOLLECTIONS-IV

By "OLD 'UN"

(Fortnightly Review Special)

THERE was an old family of the name of Anderson, descendants of an old sea-captain of that name who settled down in Jaffna, having married a Dutch lady there. This branch of the family migrated to Negombo, where the old man practised as a surveyor of some distinction. They lived in an old house facing the lake, next to the "head-quarters" of the steam-boat business that plied regularly and prospered chiefly at the time one Soyza (? Zoysa) was the manager; he was nicknamed "Lotus" after one of the boats so named. He was a little man, very humorous and jovial, and one of the safest fielders at "point" in those days.

The Andersons were a lusty and numerous brood, very fair of complexion and tall and well-built, the sons all becoming health officers and sanitary inspectors in several large towns in the Island, one of the daughters being married to a local board inspector of an up-country station, quite a "healthy" family altogether.

The aforesaid steamboat business started disastrously and was given up by the Akbars, who pioneered the line, with one Kelaart as their skipper or engineer: those boats proved to be too large and much too heavy for the canal run, the old Dutch Canal linking Colombo (Kelani Ganga) with Negombo on to Chilaw, Puttalam, and Kalpentyne—now Kalpitiya. It seems such a pity that that grand old canal has been so neglected and starved of late that it is hardly navigable in parts between Negombo and Chilaw.

* * *

OF course, our great ancestors from Holland believed in canals and water transport, and established communications between Kalpentyne on the north-west and Kalutara in the south-west and also kept the canals in good working order. When Koelman's horse-coach service broke down and failed—or the roads did—then it was that the old Dutch waterways were particularly useful, the bullock-coaches doing a good business when the floods came and breached the roads and carried away a bridge or two here and there. How

many old sinners are still living who can remember the old pontoon-bridges that served whenever bridges were washed away—more especially the famous "Bridge-of-Boats" across the Kelani River to Grandpass, a fearsome thing to trust to when the great river was in flood.

The present writer remembers many occasions when the old horse-coach was afloat on this bridge-of-boats and the team of horses showed their objection to such a form of transport—they had never heard of Noah and their earliest "ancestors" living so happily on that first great "carrier." When the horses got scared and skittish with the floating "bridge" in midstream, and the full force of the river current tossed it and pulled it about, so that the very chains that held it were strained, it was rather trying to the nerves of the few passengers afloat—"and the boldest held his breath for a time."

* * *

WHAT a relief it was to get across finally, and find yourself alive and well and "all in one piece," with the coach and horses pulling on *terra firma* once more—not that the *terra* was always so *firma* as all that during the rainy season, the road especially there (at the Grandpass end) being a veritable quagmire.

Oh those Koelman's Coaches! And their horses—really nondescript and utterly indescribable and above classification. Every start at each halting-place was an adventure in itself. Invariably one horse of the pair would insist on facing the driver, refusing to get between the traces, so that the coach usually started with only one horse of the pair pulling the coach forward while his "comrade" objected for a time and ran along sideways, with the runner holding the traces and running alongside him, and gradually pushing the animal inwards until he was perforce moving along with the other animal and taking his share of the strain. The runner meanwhile adroitly and pluckily at the risk of life and limb hitched the traces on skilfully, and jumped aboard.

The entire operation had to be seen to be believed, with the runner finally perched with his bare foot slid-

ing over the hub of the revolving wheel until he managed to find a seat on the footboard. It was no secret that every brute of a horse that was utterly unmanageable and intractable that could not be broken to saddle or harness ultimately found himself at Koelman's coach stables, his price ranging from ten rupees to fifty rupees "last price"!

GALLE AND ITS ANCIENT GLORY

(Continued from page 17)

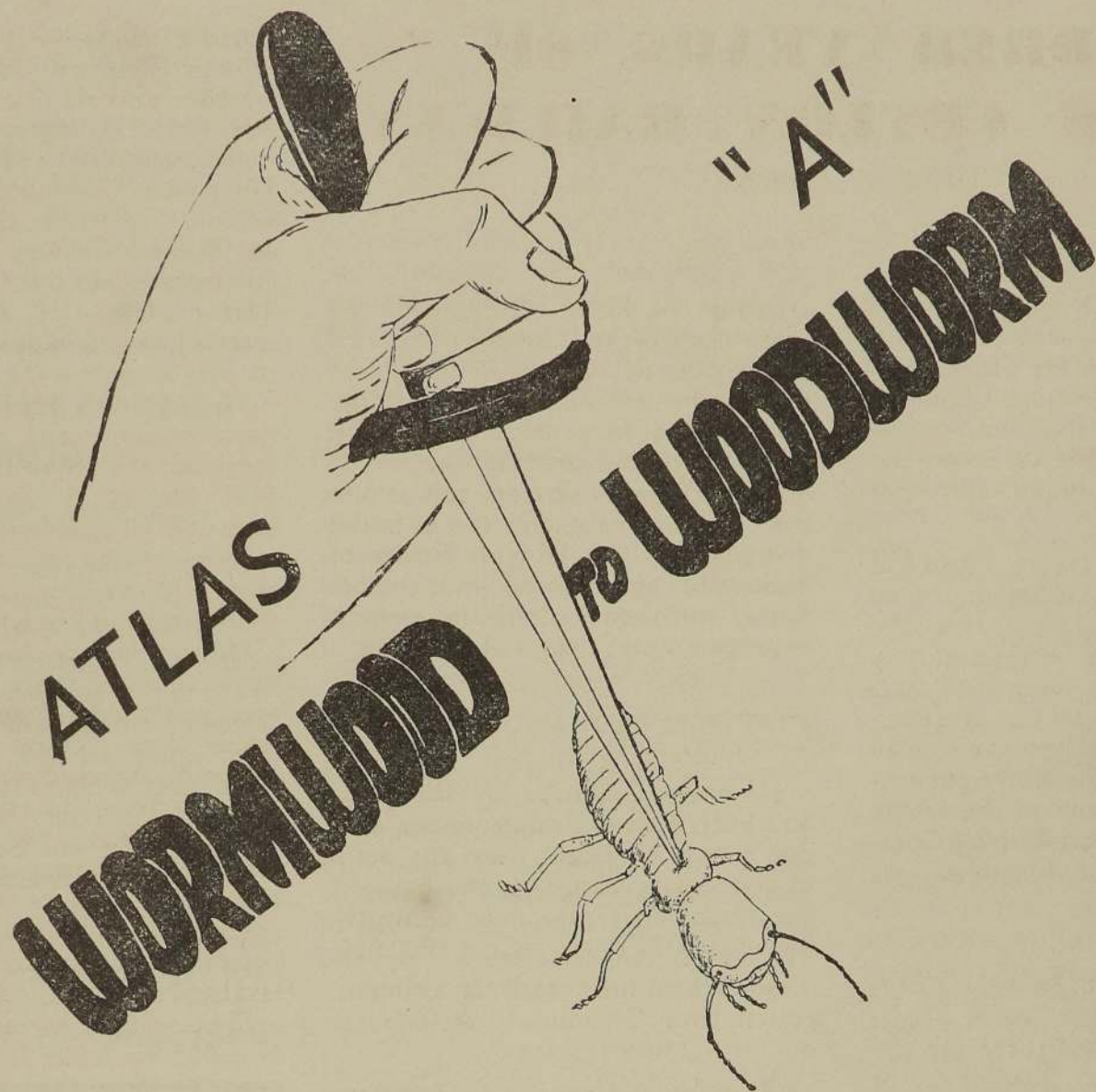
I WISH, however, to end on an optimistic note. Ceylon is too important and too progressive an island to depend on a single harbour. It is true that improvements to Galle harbour will cost money, but so will any other scheme to develop the resources of this island. With Galle as a safe harbour, much of the seagoing traffic can be diverted to it from the congested harbour of Colombo. What is more, the ancient glories of Galle will revive and plenteousness return to the homes of the educated and industrious South.

CEYLON NAVY OFFICER TRAINEES IN U.K.

AMONG eight young Ceylon Navy officer trainees who have been visiting London aboard the Royal Navy's Dartmouth Training Squadron are Midshipman Palitha Mahendra Thambugala, of Kandy, and Cadet Thambirajah Nadarajah Naysum, of Jaffna. They have returned from a cruise in the Mediterranean and are back at Dartmouth to continue their courses.

Midshipman Thambugala is training to become a Supply officer. He joined the Navy about three years ago and will complete his 2 1/2-year course in the United Kingdom next July.

Cadet Naysum joined the Ceylon Navy only a few months before going to the United Kingdom in April last year. He hopes to return to the United Kingdom, after completing his present course, for a further three years to obtain his engineering degree, returning to Ceylon as an engineering officer.



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A HUNDRED YEARS OF THE CEYLON RAILWAYS

—By J. D. BORGER—

III

THE Home government approved generally of a guarantee of six per cent on £50,000 for 55 miles of railway to Gordon's Bridge, confining the capital to be guaranteed and the export duty on coffee to cover the guarantee, to a sum required for that purpose only.

By May, 1855, Sir Henry Ward had taken up reins of government and he expressed his own view that the whole line to Kandy, instead of only 55 miles, should be completed on a guarantee of six per cent up to £800,000, levying the tax if necessary on all exports generally. The Home government decided in favour of the whole railway and the Ceylon Railway Company was asked to formulate its terms.

* * *

THUS, the Ceylon Railway Company, formed ten years previously and later reconstituted for the purpose, secured the guarantee of the concession of six per cent on all capital not exceeding £800,000 and five per cent on all capital expenditure beyond that sum. Early in 1856 a provisional agreement was drawn up. It was designed to become a contract binding on both parties if confirmed by Ordinance within six months of the date of signature. Ordinance I of 1858 "For giving validity" was presented at a meeting of the Legislative Council on August 13, 1856, by the Queen's Advocate, Honourable H. C. Selby. There was opposition at the second reading on August 27, 1856, and after a lengthy debate it was passed by nine votes to seven. The Bill was read a third time and passed on September 3, 1856.

Matters, however, did not end here. Opposers of the Bill succeeded on September 12 in getting an address to the Queen adopted by the Council praying "that Her Majesty might be graciously pleased not to give her consent to the Ordinance until a new survey of the route and estimate of cost had been made."

Captain Moorsom, an experienced engineer was sent out by the Secretary of State to examine Mr. Drane's trace which provided for

crossing the Kelani Ganga near the mouth below the "Bridge of Boats"—the present Victoria Bridge—and passing through a crowded part of the City, it otherwise kept the general direction of the present line for 35 miles. Then it skirted the south bank by the Maha Oya for 22 miles diverting up the Hingula Valley to Illukwatte about nine miles from Kandy and thence along the present trace to Kandy, a total of 80 miles.

* * *

CAPTAIN Moorsom submitted six different routes:—

(1) From Colombo by the most Southerly Pass of Ambegomuwa with one tunnel to ascent from the basin of the Kelani Ganga to the basin of the Mahaweli Ganga near Ginigathena Pass—79 miles. Cost £800,000.

All other lines took a common course from Colombo to Ambepussa on Mr. Drane's trace.

(2) From Ambepussa to Ambagomuwa Pass with one extensive tunnel 2,400 feet above area level—82 miles. Cost £776,175.

(3) Ambepussa Valley by the Maha, the Hingula and Gadadessa Oyas to Parnapittia Pass—72 miles. One short tunnel. Summit level 1,780 ft. Cost £706,557.

(4) From Ambepussa up to the valley of the Maha Oya, thence diverge under the base of Alagalla and circle round its Northern ranges. Length 79 miles. Summit level 1,770 ft. Cost £736,950.

(5) From Ambepussa to within two miles of Kurunegala via Galagedera Pass—83 miles. Summit level 1,800 ft. Cost £752,025.

(6) From Ambepussa to Kurunegala, thence by the Ibbagama Valley to the Yatewatte Pass near Ambokka up the valley of the Yattewera Oya to the Pattiagedera Pass—95 miles. Two summits at Yattewatte 1,600 ft. and at Pattiagedera 1,500 ft. Cost £953,600.

The Kadugannawa and Balana Passes were considered too steep for locomotive grades. Captain Moorsom favoured routes (2) and (3) but preferred the latter via Parnapittia which was the same as Mr.

Drane's route with some modifications. Captain Moorsom's estimate for a single line along this trace was £856,557 which included land works, stations, rolling stock, etc. The government adopted this report and relying on it, agreements with the Ceylon Railway Company were ratified and put into force by Proclamation of May 18, 1857. The contract of the Company was accepted on July 6, following.

The contract having been secured the company made arrangements to carry out the work and by the end of 1857, Mr. W. T. Doyne, "a gentleman of high professional attainments and having the full confidence of Sir Henry Ward", arrived in Ceylon with a carefully selected staff.

During the period of protracted negotiations there was, therefore, general agreement that the proposed line should commence in Colombo and reach Kandy, the centre of the coffee industry at the time. But Kandy was in the heart of the Hill country which rose in a mass not less than 1,500 ft. above sea-level. It was encircled by mountains, none of the passes on the near side of which were less than 1,500 to 2,400 ft. The intermediate ranges varied from upwards of 3,000 to 6,000 ft. They rose in peaks to more than 7,000 and in one case to more than 8,300 ft. Comprising altogether, a singular tract of land 60 miles each way.

* * *

THE Low-country, from which this elevated district rose, did not attain more than 400 ft. above the sea until the bases of the hills, partially isolated from their massive companions. It was dotted with hillocks almost down to the sea shore, so that a general level, hardly exceeded 200 ft. above the sea, characterised some 30 miles from the shore going inland from the neighbourhood of Colombo Eastwards. Beyond this distance the inferior ranges, rising from this base in ridges, varying in altitude from 500 to about 1,300 ft. above the sea, still rendered the next 20 miles practically a mountainous country.

Beyond 50 miles from the coast there was no escape from the mountains. An encounter with them was inevitable to any railway or road attempting to reach Kandy from Colombo. The question how to negotiate this difficult country became a serious engineering problem and all other considerations had to give way here to the physical features which nature had imposed.

(Continued on page 32)

PEOPLE

MR. H. Kenneth de Kretser, C.M.G., retired Director of Public Works, who for over half a century has been an outstanding figure in the public, social and sporting life of Ceylon, sailed for Australia in the P. & O. "Iberia", which left Colombo on Thursday, 26th April, to make his home in Brisbane. He was accompanied by his son, Ronald, and his sister, Mrs. Zillie Martin, whose two daughters have been in Brisbane for some years.

Mr. Kenneth de Kretser won the distinction of C.M.G., awarded each year to members of the Public Service for long and meritorious service, in 1950. After his retirement as Director of the P.W.D. he served for nine years on war emergency duties. He was President of the Dutch Burgher Union for some years, a prominent Rotarian since the inception of the Colombo Rotary Club and one time President of the Club. An enthusiastic sportsman, he was at one time President of the Ceylonese Rugby Football Union. He was also a senior Elder of the Dutch Reformed Church.

* * *

MR. W. R. Van, First Secretary (Commercial) of the High Commission for Canada, accompanied by Mrs. Van and their four children left Ceylon last Sunday in the "Victoria." Mr. Van, who has been in Ceylon for



Mr. Kenneth de Kretser, Mrs. Z. Martin and Mr. Ronald de Kretser going on board the "Iberia".

two years is returning to Canada on leave prior to taking up his next post as First Secretary (Commercial) in Dublin.

Mr. L. V. Macdonald, who succeeds Mr. Van, will arrive in Colombo in August, accompanied by his wife and three children. He is now Assistant Trade Commissioner in Johannesburg.

* * *

DR. H. M. C. Poortman, WHO paediatrician, left Ceylon on March 23rd after an assignment lasting three and a half years in the Island. During this period he initiated a scheme to co-ordinate curative and preventive paediatrics at

Kalutara, where he was attached to the health unit and the hospital, which was later extended to the whole country.

Dr. Poortman has been succeeded by Dr. (Miss) I. van Dyke.

* * *

COMMODORE Royce de Mel, Captain of the Royal Ceylon Navy, and Lieut.-Commander S. T. R. Proctor, left Colombo on April 1 on a 20-day tour of the United States as guests of the U.S. Navy. Their itinerary includes a coast-to-coast tour and inspection of major U.S. naval and naval air installations. Informal meetings have been arranged with U.S. Defence Department officials and military officers, and the president and other officials of the U.S. Olympic Committee.

The invitation came from Admiral A. Burke, Chief of Naval Operations, U.S. Navy, and Commander James F. Phelan, U.S. Naval Attache of the American Embassy in Colombo accompanies them as principal escorting officer.

* * *

MR. Duncan Sandys, U.K. Minister of Defence, arrived in Ceylon on March 27 and left three days later for Wellington, New Zealand, where he took the place of Mr. Selwyn Lloyd as leader of the U.K. delegation to a meeting of the South East Asia Treaty Organisation Council.

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PEOPLE

THE death at the age of 68 years of Mr. Robert Spencer Schrader of Wester Seaton Farm, Negombo, removes from our midst a country gentleman and an authority on animal husbandry. Educated at Royal College, Colombo, in the days of Charles Hartley, he studied law for some time but forsook the law accepting a staff appointment in the Excise Department. Soon he found his real metier, farming and animal husbandry, and devoted his life to his career on the land.

He enjoyed a high reputation as a farmer and was a profound authority on animal husbandry. His researches in this were wide and extensive and he published them in speeches, and articles in the Press and magazines. His advice was freely made available to all those who asked for it, and his services as a member of the Central Board of Agriculture and the Milk Board were highly valued.

The late Mr. Spencer Schrader was open-hearted, a genial host, a fine shot and an enthusiastic angler. He travelled in the backwoods of the country and had an excellent knowledge of the island's antiquities and a vast store of its legends and folklore.

* * *

THE sudden and tragic death of Mr. Alan Demmer, which occurred at Galoya on Good Friday morning when he was preparing to attend the three hours' service, came as a shock to his many friends throughout the Island.

Mr. Demmer served in the C.G.R. for 41 years and rose from the rank of an apprentice Loco Foreman to be acting General Manager. After his retirement in 1955, he was Equipment Superintendent of the Galoya Board during the last three years.

It is a noteworthy fact that the Demmer family—father, the late Mr. Colvin Demmer, who was a senior stationmaster, and four brothers were connected with the C.G.R. Three of them are still in service.

The funeral at the General Cemetery, Kanatte, on the evening of 28th March, was largely attended.

* * *

MISS M. Simon, former Principal of Ladies' College, Colombo, recently underwent an eye operation at the Moorfield Hospital in London. The operation was successful and Miss Simon has now left hospital.

MR. S. J. C. Schokman, President of the Colombo Young Men's Christian Association, who is one of the two delegates from Ceylon—Dr. Austin Perera, Hony. Secretary of the Galle Y.M.C.A. is the other—left by B.O.A.C. Plane for Singapore on the 6th April en route to the Fifth Asian Y.M.C.A. Leaders' Conference which is to be held at Gotemba, in Japan, from the 16th to 25th April. Mr. Schokman, who will be spending a few days in Malaya and Hongkong on his way to Japan, hopes to be back early in May.

* * *

MISS A. E. Bay bade farewell to St. Thomas' after thirty-nine and a quarter years' service, at a special Assembly on the last day of term. The Bays were well-known figures in Mutwal, as the Warden recalled. One more link with the old days is, thus, severed.

Mr. Percy Cooke, second only to Miss Bay in length of service, recalled that Warden Stone had invited her to join his staff on completing her

training. Her two brothers, George and W.F., were both in the Thomian cricket eleven, the former, who later took to planting, being a fine all-rounder. W. F. in later years was a member of the Sports Club, and his clever left-arm bowling earned him a place in the European team against the Ceylonese in a Test match.

Dr. R. L. Hayman, Headmaster of St. Thomas', Gurutalawa, was accommodated on the platform, joining in the simple ceremony of farewell.

* * *

DR. C. L. P. Samarasinghe of the Ministry of Health, Ghana, left Ceylon recently after a short holiday to return to Ghana via the U.K. Dr. Samarasinghe qualified in Ceylon and served with the Department of Health Services and the Army before he left for the U.K. in 1951, where he joined the National Health Service. In 1957 he was seconded for service with the Ghana Government.



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PEOPLE

PAKISTAN'S new High Commissioner, Mr. Hamid Hussain, arrived in the Island in time to take part in the celebration of the third anniversary of the inauguration of the Republic on March 23rd. A reception to mark the occasion was given by Mr. Mahdi Masud, acting High Commissioner, and Mrs. Masud. Among those who attended it were the Governor-General, Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, and the Prime Minister, Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike.

Mr. Hussain has come direct from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations at Karachi, where he was chief of protocol with the rank of joint secretary. His early career was with the Army. Commissioned in 1934, he served in Iran and Iraq during World War II. On independence he was deputy-director, Ordnance Service, and later Director of Weapons and Equipment and Inter-services Intelligence, G.H.Q. He joined the foreign service in 1951 and has served in London, Jeddah, Ankara, Teheran and Baghdad.

Mr. Hussain succeeds Mr. Siddiq Ali Khan, who has been posted to Cairo.

* * *

MR. R. C. Scott of Ottery, Dickoya, and Mrs. Scott have left for the U.K. on a holiday. They expect to be away for six months.

* * *

OUR London Correspondent, writing on 18th March, says: "I met John Wing, who spent some years in Ceylon with S.E.A.C., a few days ago looking very fit. We dined that night with Richard Greenough, who was in Ceylon for a month last Christmas, and afterwards had the pleasure of seeing Richard's Ceylon film which John Wing was thrilled with. I have met many Ceylon friends since my return to London two months ago—Olga Delgado, the day before she left for New York to take up the post of Sir Claude Corea's Secretary at U.N.O., Jennifer Jonklaas, Dr. and Mrs. Aubrey Jansz and Dr. and Mrs. Larry Foenander who have a flat in Wimbledon. Dr. and Mrs. Darryl Weinman are living at 77, Woodside, Wimbledon.

"We had lovely sunny Spring weather for the last three weeks but very suddenly three days ago it became terribly cold and wintry."

L.T.-COL. B. R. Heyn of the Ceylon Army left by air for the U.K. recently to attend a conference in London. He will be away for a few months.

* * *

PROF. Dr. H. E. Hass and four other German Professors and Lecturers are in Ceylon till April 13th.

Prof. Dr. Hass, who is head of the Department of Philology of the University of Berlin, gave his first Lecture yesterday at 6.30 p.m. on his special studies.

* * *

MR. and Mrs. Robin Gibson, who were to leave for Australia on the "Orcades" last Tuesday, decided to put off their departure for some time later owing to unforeseen circumstances.

* * *

DR. N. M. Perera, Leader of the Opposition in the House of Representatives, is attending a meeting of the Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union which began in Nice, last week.

THE luxury ship, P. & O. "Arcadia," which left Colombo for the U.K. on the 5th of March, according to a Ceylonese passenger on that ship, reached Tilbury on Sunday morning, the 22nd March, after a very enjoyable journey. There were a number of Ceylon people on this ship. The "Arcadia" is to be thoroughly reconditioned and all the tourists' cabins are to be air-conditioned. It will be a grand ship to travel on when it is ready. I should mention that we overtook the "Leicestershire" which left Colombo two days before we did.

* * *

DR. R. C. J. Rustomjee left for the U.K. last Monday by the P. & O. "Stratheden" under a Colombo Plan Technical Scholarship. He was accompanied by Mrs. Rustomjee. Dr. Rustomjee will spend about three months in the U.K. reviewing the recent advances in E.N.T. Surgery and after this he will spend a month in the U.S.A. for the same purpose.

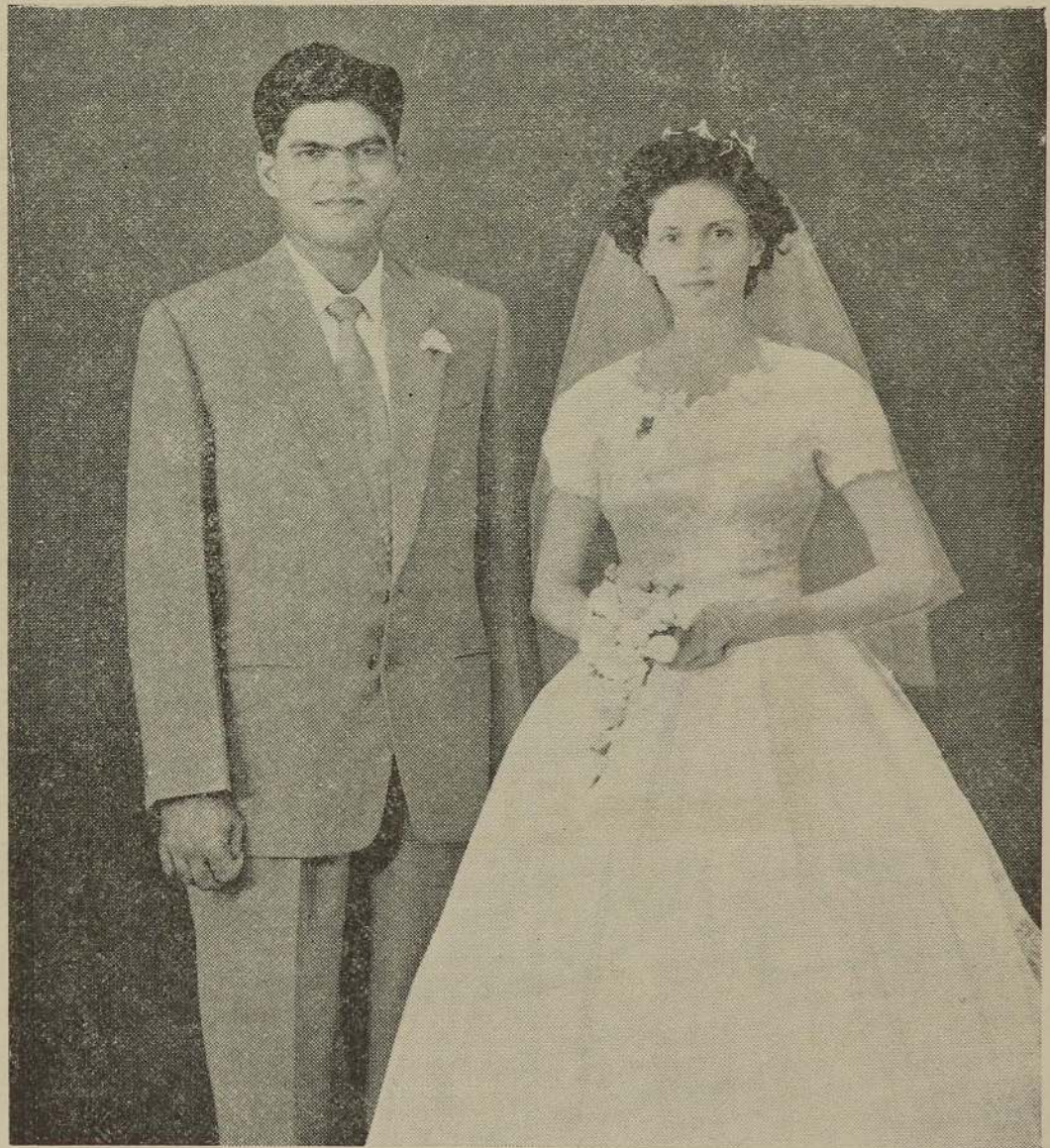


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The marriage took place recently in Colombo of Ashley Andries de Abrew of Messrs. G. A. S. & Co. (Eastern), Ltd., and Patricia Beryl Collinson.

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ART, MUSIC & DRAMA

—By "LYRICUS"—

THREE concerts by America's famous Little Orchestra measured up to the highest expectations of music lovers who had the opportunity to attend any or all of them. Conducted by Thomas Scherman, the Orchestra provided a feast of modern music such as comes Ceylon's way but rarely.

Critics were agreed that it was a stimulating experience to listen to the orchestra and the consensus of their opinion was that rarely has contemporary music been played with such complete authenticity and conviction. As one reviewer put it, adapting a saying of a famous British conductor, the orchestra gave us what we did not know and by its sheer ability made us like it.

The two Block works it played were described as immensely exciting and a truly memorable experience. The Ricercari for piano and orchestra by Normal Dello Joio was thrilling and the interplay for piano and orchestra by Morton Gould as good.

There was full appreciation of the exquisite wind and woodwind quartet in the Sinfonis Concertante of Mozart and Mendelssohn's Italian Symphony bubbled with vitality.

Perhaps the most popular thing the Orchestra did was to combine with the Symphony Orchestra of Ceylon in giving a farewell concert in the open air in Colombo. The 73-piece combined orchestra played Symphony No. 36 in C Major by Mozart as the closing selection of the programme.

In the first half the Little Orchestra played the new Madras Symphony by Henry Cowell, based on south Asian melodies and themes set in western symphonic form, composed by Cowell following a tour in this part of the world two years ago. It was the second public performance of the Symphony, the first being in Madras by the Little Orchestra.

It remains to be added that Thomas Scherman paid a high compliment to the standard of the Symphony Orchestra of Ceylon conducted by Mr. Hussein Mohamed.

* * *

SEASONAL musical fare was provided a fortnight ago by the Colombo Philharmonic Choir which

began its fifth season with Handel's oratorio, "Messiah", at St. Michael's Church, Polwatte.

The conductor was Gerald Cooray and the soloists were Joan Cooray (soprano), Phyllis Shepperd (contralto), Lylie Godridge (tenor), Douglas de Niese (bass) and the accompanists were Lucien Fernando (organ) and Earle de Fonseka (pianoforte).

* * *

A NEW film made by the Government Film Unit received favourable notice in the Press. "The Living Wild", as it is entitled, tells the story of man and nature, man living in harmony with nature and animals, the claims and needs of man gradually coming into conflict with those of animal life, and finally man and nature in conflict, and nature herself turning against both man and animal.

The theme suggested comparison with the Walt Disney film "The Living Desert" but owed little to it. It is photographed in Eastman colour by Leo Wikremaratne and Sanath Liyanage, and written, produced and directed by Irwin Dassenaik.

* * *

A REMARKABLE event last month was the presentation by the Ceylon Society of Arts of an exhibition of paintings by seven-year old Senaka Senanayake of the Royal Primary School, Colombo, and a grandson of the late Mr. D. S. Senanayake, Ceylon's first Prime Minister. He is the first child artist to be so honoured by the Society. Over 50 paintings were on show and were highly praised by critics.

* * *

THE Players distinguished themselves with the presentation at the Lionel Wendt Theatre of "Fire and Stormwind", written and produced by Lucien de Zoysa, whose name has been synonymous with enterprise in this field.

The play ran for several nights and dealt with the unification of Ceylon by Parakrama Bahu the Great and the treatment of the theme was in full keeping with its grandeur.

Lucien de Zoysa himself played the part of Parakrama Bahu and it was perhaps the best thing that he has done so far on the local stage. Olga de Jacolyn, as Lilavati, mother of Parakrama Bahu, gave a memorable performance but then she is a veteran trouser so to say and that was to be expected. A comparative newcomer—it was the second play she has

appeared in, both with The Players—Manorani de Zoysa gave remarkable proof of her talent. Eustace Fonseka scored an undoubted triumph as Gajabahu; he was every inch a king.

Particular mention should be made of the costumes, which were colourful as they were appropriate. Once again, there was an excellent exhibition of the ancient art of drumming, a characteristic feature of a de Zoysa production.

* * *

AN esteemed correspondent sends me the following interesting criticism of "The Waltz of the Toreadors", staged at the Uva Club, Badulla, early last month:—

Producer Henry de Montfort in absentia, and his able Assistant, Kay Staddon, who was present, are to be congratulated on their splendid effort on Anouilh's "The Waltz of the Toreadors" at the Uva Club recently. The Club itself was particularly fortunate in having had the opportunity of seeing this play, which was a departure from the type usually staged up there.

The play is distinctly not easy to produce, and is not one that would be expected to go down with provincial audiences, but the excellent team work of The International Theatre Guild, and the distinguished acting of Anne Willis and Percy Colin-Thome in the principal parts, made it the eminent success it was. Anne Willis, as the ailing wife of the ancient General St. Pe, proved herself an actress of class. Her sustained effort in a difficult part was most realistic. Percy Colin-Thome excelled in the role of the lustful General, plagued by the still smouldering desires of his youth, haunted by the memories of the amorous adventures of the past, endeavouring to pick up elusive strands of his youthful pleasures. As an effort of memory alone, his was an achievement much to be commended. He adapted himself admirably to the part.

Credit must also go to Rolli Ranasinghe, as the fickle Ghislaine. Her every gesture merited praise, and established her as an accomplished actress. As Gaston, the young Secretary, whose ineffectual immaturity, stimulatingly braced by the discerning Ghislaine, is suddenly transposed into the self-assurance of an adult, Neil Carder gave a graphic characterisation. James Carson, as the suave Dr. Bonfant, was effective,

(Continued on page 32)

A SPORTS CAUSERIE

By "ITINERANT"

Treble for Isaacs

THAT old favourite Joshua scored a popular victory in the Nuwara Eliya Mayor's Cup (7 furlongs)—the main attraction on the opening day of the Nuwara Eliya race meeting.

Joshua, ridden by Baldwin Perera, withstood a late challenge from the favourite, Hard Luck, to win by a head. Cobscar finished third, a head in front of Kittiwake.

It was a disastrous day for punters for only two favourites obliged. Biggest upset was the win of Persian Approach in the Sita Eliya Stakes (7 furlongs), Persian Approach beat Naseeb into second place in a close finish to return odds of 11 to 1. Mahal, Trust finished third and Nicorango—the hottest favourite of the day—fourth.

The opening event of the day, the Watagoda Handicap, was won by Masud al Khair who finished too strongly for the favourite, Hadban al Karkh.

The Ceylonese rider Isaacs completed a treble. He first rode Royal Coronet to victory in the Pedro Stakes winning by a neck from Jendy; then in the Lower Division of the Lunuwila Plate (7 furlongs) he rode Start of Joy to a comfortable win from Al Tayeb; and in the last race of the day, the Kandapola Plate, he scored easily on the favourite, Hyperama.

The top division of the Lunuwila Plate was won stylishly by Hilal Khalil ridden by Frank Smith, Mihyar cracking up near the distance to finish second, Falada third and Mohan's Pet a disappointing fourth.

The day's racing was marred when the mare Santa Rosa had to be destroyed after injuring herself seriously in the last race of the day.

The training honours went to Renga Selvaratnam and Samarawira who saddled two winners each.

* * *

Startling Upsets

STARTLING upsets and inclement weather gave punters an unhappy time on the second day of the Nuwara Eliya races, held for the first time on a Sunday.

With the exception of Rosieness and Salmat Mahmud, favourites failed in the other races especially in the

treble. The neglected Kola Bear, Fayadhan Baghdad and Safirat al Bahrain were nominated by 19 ticket-holders who won Rs. 2,695 each.

The first surprise was Kola Bear's win in the main attraction of the day, the Lake Gregory Stakes over one mile, from Friendly Isle and Way to Paradise.

The day's racing was noteworthy for the success of the Ceylonese jockeys who won 6 of the 7 races on the card. The honours went to Bulathsinghala and Jayawardena—two winners each.

Training honours went to Robert and Samarawira—also two winners each.



—Times

Mr. A. R. M. Zaroob's Joshua

THE Colombo Rowing Club beat the Madras Boat Club in the annual fours race between the two clubs at Madras by half a canvas in 4 minutes 4.5 seconds.

It was Colombo's 20th victory in the series. Madras have won 14 times and there have been 2 dead heats.

Colombo did not fare too well in the 19th All-India Regatta, Calcutta winning most of the events.

The Royal Colombo Yacht Club beat Madras Yacht Club by 37 points to 28 to win the inter-port trophy

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Dull Hill Climb

THE Mahagastota Hill Climb this year was devoid of the usual thrills, but E. J. "Sandy" de Soysa achieved a notable treble when he won three events for stock cars.

The fastest time for the day—46.4 secs.—was clocked by Kingsley Smith astride a Triumph 110 but his time might have been better if he had competition.

The fastest time for cars was recorded by I. D. Wollen who interrupted his honeymoon to clock 49.4 secs. in the Cooper Special.

Just a tenth of a second slower was J. P. Obeysekera in his home-built "Experimental 2".

Other winners in the sports and racing car events were H. McPherson (Austin Healey Sprite), R. Caneke-ratne (M.G.A.), G. C. Johnston (Triumph TR 5) and S. N. Keast (Triumph TR 2).

Perhaps the best driving of the day came from Ray de Costa who took his Borgward up the hazardous course in 54.8 secs.

Apart from Smith, Alan Clarke and W. D. Ignatius won their respective motor Cycle events.

* * *

THE inter-school cricket season ended with the usual drawn games at the Oval, venue of most of Colombo's "big matches". First it was the Royal-Thomian encounter, then the Josephian-Peterite and Ananda-Nalanda matches.

A spate of dropped catches and defensive batting doomed the Josephian-Peterite match to a draw. On the first day Peterite fresher T. Le Mercier bowled accurate left-arm spin to take 6 for 30 in a Josephian total of 157, and on the second day the Josephian off-spinner Priya Perera bowled equally well to take 5 for 32 in 28 overs—St. Peter's 161 for 9 declared.

The rest of the match was notable for some hostile pace bowling by A. Perera of St. Peter's, who was poorly supported in the field, and a good attacking innings by R. de Silva when St. Joseph's were in danger of defeat.

Ananda chasing a total of 143 to win in 75 minutes against Nalanda came close to defeat. They made 70 for 2 in 55 minutes and then, with little chance of making the runs, continued to attack. Wickets fell in rapid succession to rash strokes and the eighth wicket pair were defending grimly at the end.

SPORTS CAUSERIE

Batsmen dominated this match in which three declarations were made. S. Silva, the Nalanda captain, made two fluent half-centuries.

At Asgiriya, St. Anthony's led Trinity on the first innings in another drawn game notable for another fine innings of 95 not out by C. Joseph, the Antonian captain.

The big match in Galle was also drawn, rain and bad light saving Mahinda who still needed 90 runs to avoid defeat with 2 wickets in hand at the end.

* * *

West Indies Win

WEST Indies made amends in the Final Test against Pakistan at Lahore winning by an innings and 156 runs after the home team had been caught on drying turf in the second innings.

Rohan Kanhai hit a brilliant 217 out of a West Indies total of 469 and Pakistan replied with 209, Hall taking 5 for 87 including a hat-trick, and Ramadhin finishing with 4 for 25. West Indies had lost the first two tests on matting after beating India comfortably.

* * *

Au Revoir to One of the "Old Brigade"

CEYLON will be losing one of her best known planters and a very famous rugger player of other days when Mr. H. M. Thomas, presently in charge of Invery Estate, Dickoya, leaves for the U.K. on the 2nd of May, with Mrs. Thomas, on well earned retirement. It is thirty-nine years since Mr. Thomas arrived in the Island soon after the end of World War I to start his planting career as a creeper on Yahalatenne, in the Kandy district, under that famous planter and cricketer, Mr. W. A. F. Murray, a prominent member of the old A.B.C.D. Club, and contemporary of that distinguished all-round sportsman, Col. Tommy Wright, now living in retirement in London.

Leaving Yahalatenne after his training, Mr. Thomas went to Pitakande in Madulkelle and later to Relugas, in the same district, where he remained for twenty-one years. In 1947, he took charge of Midford Estate, Dickoya, and was there till 1957.

ONE of Ceylon's leading Rugby exponents for several years since he first appeared for Kandy in 1920, H. M. Thomas came out with the reputation of being an exceptionally capable full-back and he took very little time to justify that reputation. The present scribe had many opportunities of seeing this player in action and remembers his great value to the Kandy fifteen and his consistently good displays as Ceylon's full-back in the All-India Rugby tournament at Madras in 1920, 1923 and 1926. His final appearance for Ceylon was in the match against the Warathas, when he did more than justice to himself in a gruelling game. In all he played for Ceylon on thirteen occasions and was Up-country's full-back against Colombo and other visiting teams in no less than fourteen matches.

He had the honour of being elected President of the Ceylon Rugby Football Union in 1933 in recognition of his invaluable services to the game.

* * *

NOT only did this fine sportsman give of his best to the Kandy district as a Rugby full-back, but he also rendered useful service to the Kandy Sports Club at cricket and captained the team in the early thirties when Kandy cricket was flourishing with such players as Oswin Wright, R. P. Gaddum, and W. H. Field, among others.

While figuring so prominently himself on the Rugger field in particular, his wife impressed as a fine exponent of Lawn Tennis, being runner-up on one occasion to Miss Doreen Sansoni in the Ladies' Singles Championship at Nuwara Eliya. She also proved a capable doubles player and won the Ladies' title twice in successive years with Mrs. Evans as her partner.

* * *

MR. and Mrs. Thomas have every reason to be proud of the brilliant achievements of their daughter, Shirley, in more than one branch of Ceylon sport. As an athlete in particular she won fame when competing in the A.A.A. meets.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas will carry away with them the best wishes of their numerous friends throughout the Island for "Happy Days" and the best of good health in their

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NEW CAR NEWS

By J. P. O.

GENEVA.—The first International motor exhibition for the year has just been concluded at the Grand Palais, in Geneva, Switzerland.

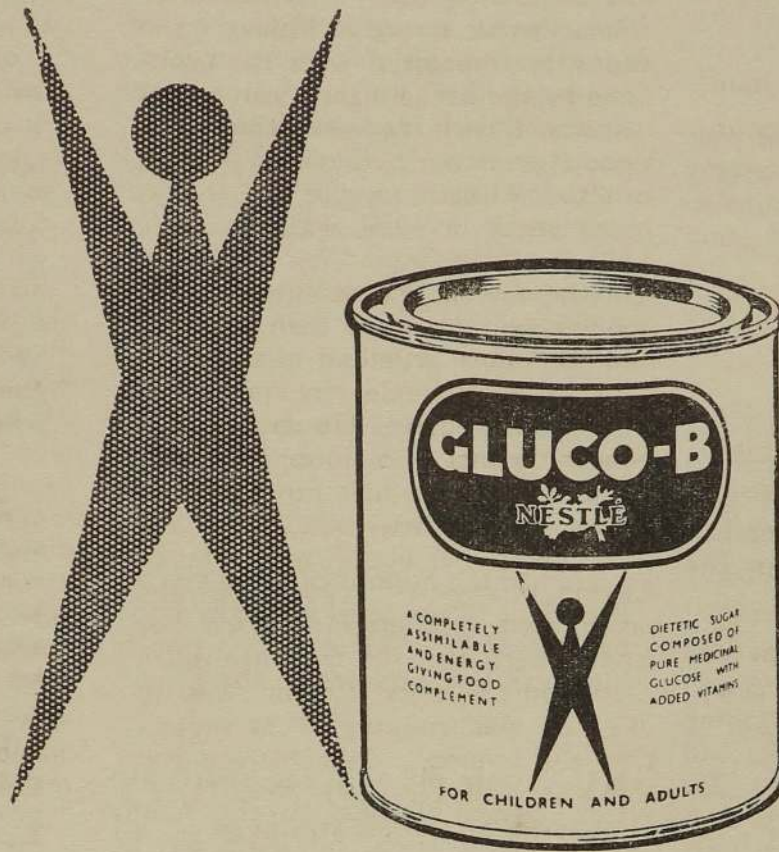
For motor manufacturers and traders, the Geneva Show is an indicator as to what they may expect for their products throughout the year. The Swiss, apparently, are a remarkably discerning race, when it comes to selecting motor cars, and their judgment is very critical. Rather like Ceylon, Switzerland has a market which sells practically every known make. The saying goes that if a model meets with approval in Switzerland, this is more or less a guarantee that it can be sold anywhere else in the world.

* * *

A new FIAT.—One of the outstanding exhibits at the Geneva Show was a completely new 6-cylinder Fiat, known as the "1800," which is to be available in saloon or station wagon form. The engine capacity is 1,795 c.c. and it develops 85 horsepower at 6,000 revolutions per minute. If required, a larger engine of 95 horsepower may be installed, giving the car an all-out speed of slightly more than 90 miles per hour. A new system of front suspension is introduced, using torsion bars. Very wide doors, and thin screen pillars to facilitate driving vision, are features of the new model. Its individual front seats have aeroplane pattern adjustable squabs for obtaining maximum comfort. Handling and riding qualities are reported to be well above average, which is saying a lot, as present day standards in this respect are high. I shall look forward to seeing these choice cars in Ceylon. The station wagon is of special interest—it has four doors and plenty of luggage space.

* * *

The Berkeley is a small sports car from Britain, which also makes its debut at Geneva. It is vastly improved when compared with previous models, and is now fitted with a 700 c.c. Royal Enfield vertical twin engine which has overhead valves, is air cooled, and develops 50 horsepower at 5,500 revs. per minute. This tiny sports machine which weighs approximately 7 cwt. is expected to produce a top speed in the region of 100 miles per hour. It has independent suspension all round, and sells in Britain for £659.



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A WOMAN'S DIARY

THE annual trek to the hills began earlier than ever this year, for the scorching heat, even in the milder climates, had become almost unbearable during the last few weeks of Lent, and even after Easter.

Nuwara Eliya has much to offer during the festive season—motor sports, races, flower-shows—in spite of the drought and the frost which combined to spoil most gardens, and created a dearth of fruit usually so plentiful at this season. But Colombo had plenty of counter-attractions, and the spate of carnivals, plays, art exhibitions, and displays of textiles and handicrafts were all of considerable interest and very well attended. And, in spite of the heat, or because of it perhaps, Colombo's flowering trees are a riot of colour, with promise of an even more prolific and riotous display in the weeks to come.

* * *

Inherited Talent

SENAKA Senanayake, the seven-year old child artist whose work was presented recently by the Ceylon Society of Arts, belongs to the fourth generation of a family which has always taken a keen interest in art. His mother was the first woman artist to exhibit with the 43rd Group; she won several prizes and had many of her pictures exhibited shortly after she left school. Nalini Wijeynaike, as she was then, owed much to the encouragement of her father, who had taken a special interest in her work during his life-time. Another member of the family who was keenly interested in her work, and is now delighted with the talent shown by her son is Mrs. Thomas Dunuwille, Senaka's ninety-year-old great-grandmother, who travelled down from Kandy to see his Exhibition. As far back as 1888, Mrs. Dunuwille took lessons in portrait painting from the German artist Oertell, who was then in Ceylon. She feels that Senaka's talent is not merely inherited, but a divine gift. His work has won unstinted praise and genuine admiration from art critics and the public—appreciation of which he is not yet aware.

Varied Interests

A VISITOR with varied interests who was in Ceylon recently was Mrs. Majeed, President of the Family Planning Association of Malaya. During her stay in Ceylon she took every opportunity of visiting as many social welfare organisations as she could, and comparing their activities with similar work done in Malaya. She was very impressed with the work done by the Lanka Mahila Samiti, and is in touch with the very progressive association in her own country which is also affiliated to the A.C.W.W. in its work in rural areas.

Four of Mrs. Majeed's daughters are Guiders in Kuala Lumpur, and one of them attended the World Conference of Guides held in Ceylon a few years ago. She herself has been in contact with Guiding for over 26 years, and still takes an active interest in the Movement. She has taken with her happy memories of Ceylon in spite of a very crowded programme, and often assured her friends here that she felt very much "at home" since Ceylon was so like her own country in its vegetation and scenery. Mrs. Majeed was the guest of Dr. and Mrs. M. P. Drahaman during her stay here.

* * *

The Red Cross

THE Red Cross completes a centenary of world service this year, services rendered not only during war time, but in times of peace. In Ceylon the Red Cross helps in many practical ways in the hospitals, follows up on the after-care of patients who need attention in their homes, runs classes in Home Nursing, and First Aid, which have proved their usefulness in times of emergency and crisis.

Junior Red Cross groups have been formed in many of the bigger Schools, and a few in the villages, where the movement is attracting much interest.

A request that a special stamp be issued to commemorate the centenary has been refused, though the organisers are hoping this matter will be reconsidered by the Minister of Finance; but Red Cross slogans will be used for stamping letters during the celebrations, which will culminate in a grand parade in Independence Square on the 8th May.

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Tourist Trade

"I SHALL never forget the charming friendliness and hospitality of your people . . ." writes a woman delegate to one of the conferences held in Ceylon, on her return home, ". . . the parties with almost a fairy tale setting, the music, dancing, the beauty of your country-side, and the kindness we met everywhere . . ." This has been the key-note of many such letters written by visitors from overseas to friends in the Island, coupled, usually, with the determination to re-visit the scene of such happy memories.

And yet the papers headline a slump in tourist trade—with a drop in income of many million rupees! Reasons attributed are insufficient propaganda, lack of suitable accommodation, and "cumbersome and meaningless forms to fill up". The irksome filling in of forms has been pointed out by visitors quite often; accommodation problems are being worked out by the improvement of resthouses; all these may be of use to the long term visitor, and to those who are taken care of at conferences, and by friends or agencies which make all the necessary arrangements.

But what of those visitors who come, when their ships manage to get into port and are therefore able to have a few hours ashore, with money to spend and a desire to spend it—perhaps in sight-seeing or in small purchases for friends at home? Quite a considerable income used to come into the island as a result of these passengers, but many of the modern travellers prefer to stay on board rather than venture ashore. For those who *do* come ashore on their own, often go back disillusioned and disgruntled, and their "propaganda" stories of exorbitant taxi-fares, high prices, touts, beggars, and other unpleasantnesses, just during those few hours, make their friends on board decide to stay where they are—even if the ship remains longer in the harbour. I have often heard the excuse made that "it happens everywhere—particularly in Eastern Ports!" What concerns us is that it **does** happen here. If the tourist bureau would place some of their own reliable men (or women) to safeguard the interests of the ordinary tourist in the streets and parks, it would help considerably towards the favourable propaganda which we need.

EVELYN.

MATTERS OF MOMENT

(Continued from page 7)

and 1957 was arrested in 1958. Although 1958 itself was not as good as 1955, there appeared during the year several indications which were favourable. The terms of trade moved in Ceylon's favour, reversing the adverse trend which had begun after 1955. The value of exports increased and the value of imports fell. The decline in external assets was substantially lower than in 1957 and physical production was higher in most spheres.

The reversal of the downward trend is all the more remarkable, the report comments, because it happened against a very unfavourable background of domestic circumstances. Reference is made to the floods of December, 1957, the strikes in the public and private sector, the communal disturbances of May, 1958, and the state of emergency that followed, and the situation in the port as causing dislocation of the economy. However, as a result of both the increase in physical production and the favourable movement of the terms of trade, the overall economic situation was far better than in the previous year.

* * *

PLANS for improved amenities for man and beast in the Ruhunu (Yala) and Wilpattu national parks figure in a five-year programme of the Ministry of Lands.

The water supply for animals is to be increased by the restorations of tanks in the two reserves. For visitors to the parks the Tourist Board proposes to build two resthouses of the cottage type—one at Wilpattu and the other at Yala. The one at Yala will be at Amaduwa, close to the sea beach, and will therefore allow of sea bathing. The Wilpattu rest-house will overlook the Hunuwilegama tank.

The existing bungalows at Buttua and Yala in the Ruhunu park are to be reconstructed or rebuilt in log-cabin style.

* * *

THE informative address given by the Director of the Tea Propaganda Board, Mr. C. O. Coorey, is reproduced in the handsomely produced annual report of the Southern Province P.A. The address was the outcome of certain criticisms of

the Board made by Mr. B. Warusavitarane, a former Chairman, after a visit to the U.K. and Europe.

The activities of the Board are succinctly summed up in the following passage in Mr. Coorey's address: "The Board is now financing promotion for Ceylon tea in the U.K., Australia and New Zealand, South Africa, Denmark, Egypt, Iraq and Italy, and for tea as a beverage, jointly with other producing countries, in the U.S.A., Canada, West Germany and the Netherlands, *i.e.*, countries consuming about 60 per cent of the world's total production of black tea, excluding Russia and China—and the Board has now almost reached the limit of its financial capacity to work in overseas areas."

At the annual meeting Mr. Francis Amarasuriya was elected Chairman in succession to Mr. J. Burgess and Mr. S. S. Perera was re-elected Honorary Secretary.

ART, MUSIC & DRAMA

(Continued from page 27)

and to the manner born. The minor roles of Estelle and Sidonie, the Daughters of the General, were well acted by Janet Warren and Christobel Felsing. Marina Joseph, as Mme. Dupont-Fredaine, gave a good rendering. Heather Dean and Moira Colin-Thome, as the Maids, were good, the latter earning a "special mention" for coming on to fill the part at what was literally a moment's notice.

Anouilh's mordant scintillations of wit and intellect were much appreciated, and though many would not have agreed with the philosophy he expounded, the acting of the Company carried it through. It was altogether an attractive production.

At the conclusion of the Play, Dr. Ellis Jones, President of the Club, congratulated the Players, and thanked them for having given the Club a treat they had enjoyed. Their enterprise in coming all the way to distant Uva to give them a performance was much appreciated.

Mrs. Kay Staddon, on behalf of the Producer, who was unavoidably absent, thanked the Club, and the very appreciative audience, for their generosity. The cast had enjoyed their glimpse into the way of living of the people of the Uva country.

A HUNDRED YEARS OF THE CEYLON RAILWAYS

(Continued from page 21)

Well might one ask then as to why the country had been committed to this project. The answer is the Planting Industry. To the exclusion of coffee there was no produce of any magnitude requiring the facilities of a railway. The coffee planter had, therefore, to take the risk and the burden; and the railway, which his enterprise rendered possible, had, therefore, to reach his estate and connect it with Colombo, the chief sea port. It was a matter of great advantage to the planter in the expeditious transport of the yield of this industry.

Thus the gestation period of the Ceylon Railway was at an end and Sir Henry Ward cut the first sod at Maligawatte on August 3, 1858, but its troubles and trials were many.

By courtesy of "Ceylon Today"

A POLITICAL NOTEBOOK

(Continued from page 13)

THE motion of no-confidence against the Speaker, arising out of the incidents in Parliament in February when several members of the Opposition were ejected from the House at the closure of the debate on the Public Security Bill, was, as it was bound to be, defeated by the Government majority. The closure of the debate was defended by the Minister of Food (Mr. Philip Gunawardena) and the Prime Minister, as was the employment of the Police to remove the recalcitrant members from the chamber. A point which was not cleared, however, was at whose summons the Police were present within and in the precincts of the House. That the Police were armed was refuted by the Prime Minister, who however made it known that a single officer was found wearing a revolver and he was promptly ordered to divest himself of it.

The proceedings evoked comment on two grounds. The Speaker himself presided during debate, although he followed local precedent. He made no statement, however, bearing on the criticism of his actions. There was no explanation given for the clearing of the galleries. Members of the Opposition as well as the Government had to intervene on behalf of the Press and members' guests.



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