

# The Ceylon Fortnightly Review

ELEVENTH ANNIVERSARY NUMBER

Vol. XII

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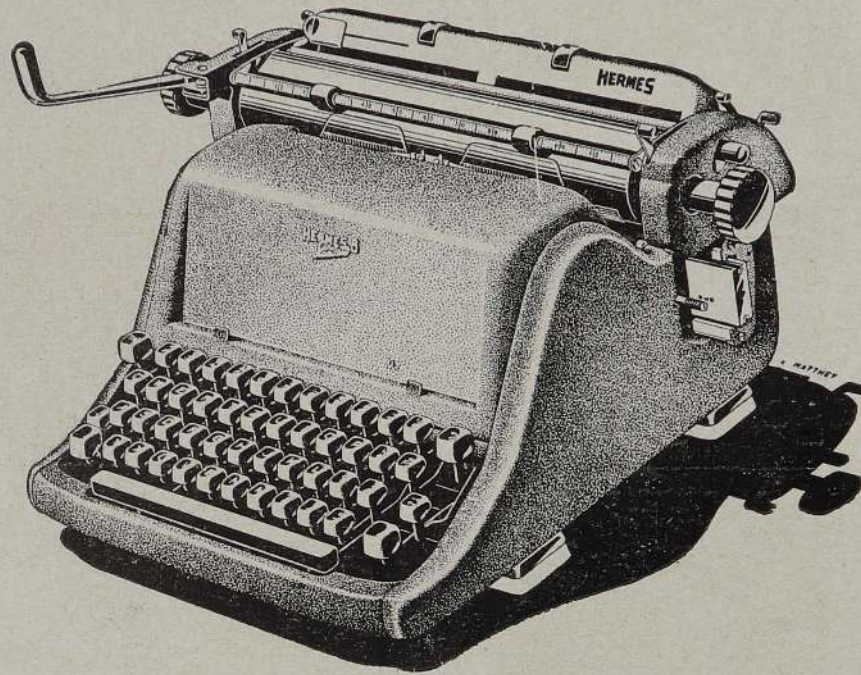
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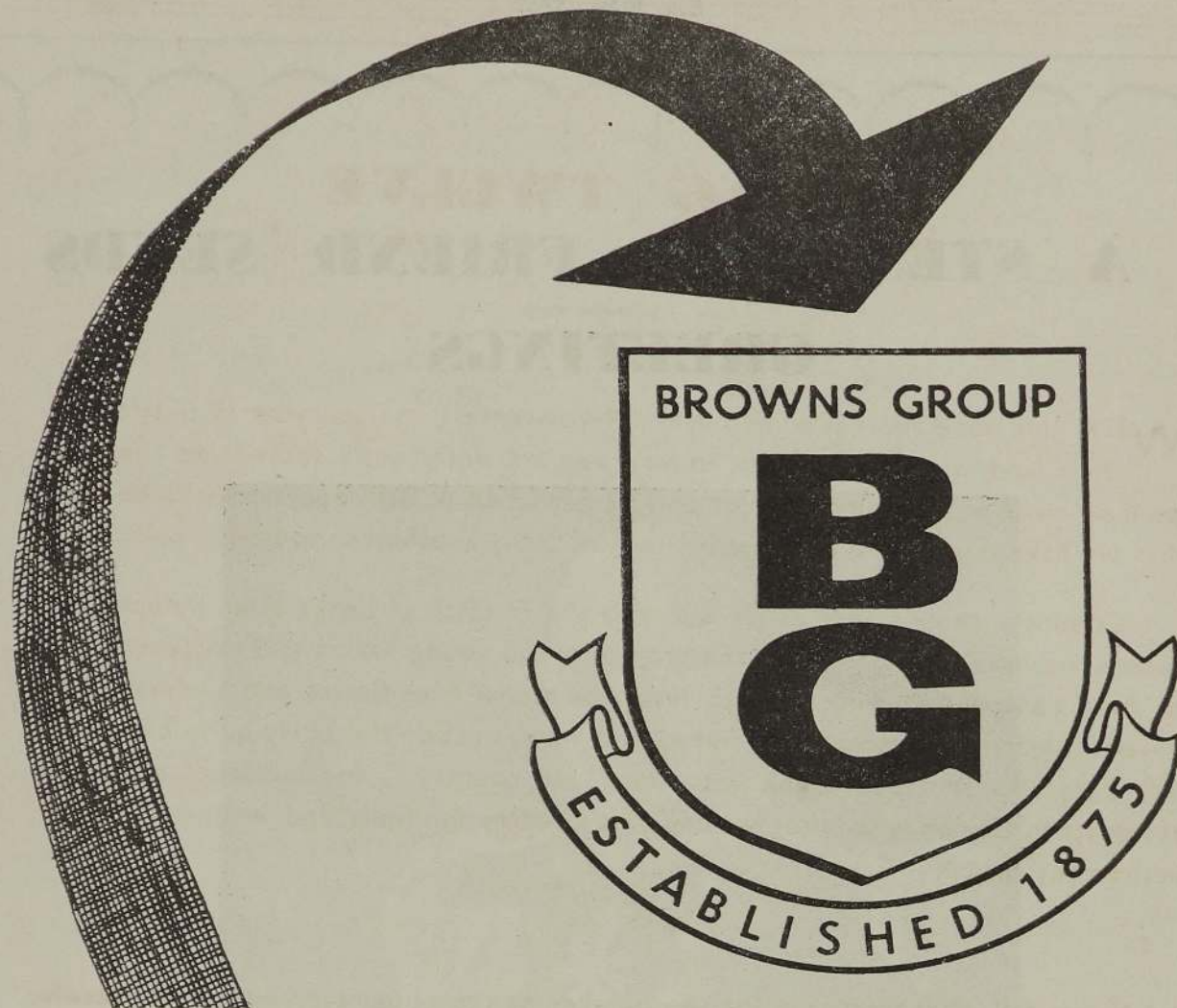


—Times

Sir HENRY MOORE, G. C. M. G.

*Sir Henry Moore, Ceylon's first Governor-General, has been a valued friend of this journal since it was launched in May, 1948, and he has consistently maintained his interest, writing often to us from his home in Capetown to encourage us in our work.*

*In a letter we received recently, Sir Henry, in sending us his greetings, wrote as follows:—  
"This is to wish you and the 'Fortnightly' all success in the New Year. I hope that your own health is standing up to the strain of maintaining the standard of the 'Fortnightly' at so high a level."*



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## RISING TWELVE

WITH this issue the *Ceylon Fortnightly Review* enters its 12th year of publication. In a land where journalistic enterprises are notoriously short-lived this is in itself no mean achievement, but we may be pardoned if, with due modesty, we claim that we have done more than merely outlive many another periodical.

Coming into existence as we did with the re-birth of Lanka as an independent nation, we have kept pace with the growth of the young nation and may even claim to have contributed somewhat to inter-communal friendliness and understanding by our objective presentation of news and views outside the hurly-burly of politics. We have also provided a link with the "old country" for hundreds of former residents in Ceylon who, after serving this country faithfully and well, now live in retirement abroad.

\* \* \* \*

WE are full of appreciation for the number of complimentary letters we receive each year at this time, not merely on account of the kind sentiments they express but also because they afford proof that the *Fortnightly Review* has a special niche in Ceylon journalism, and they encourage us to strive to maintain the high standards we have set for ourselves so that we continue to deserve our readers and advertisers' praise and support. These have been accorded to us in large measure in the past, for which we are thankful.

It is unnecessary to add that without their support and encouragement the *Fortnightly Review* could not render the service to the country which it hopes it has rendered over the past eleven years.

\* \* \* \*

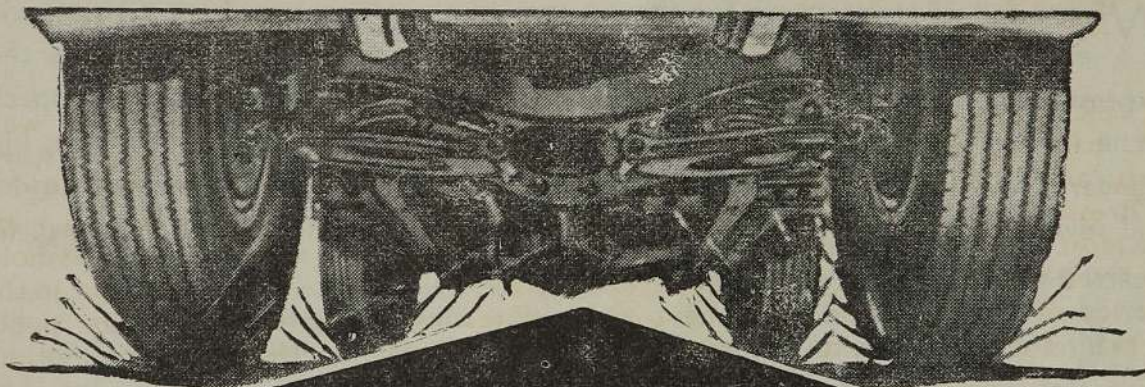
THE past year has not been without its storms and stresses. Difficulties in production, mainly stemming from proposals to raise the taxation on advertising, which happily were not implemented, threatened the very existence of the *Fortnightly Review*. It has survived because of the loyalty and generosity of friends of long standing, which have persuaded us that it has a place in the scheme of things in the transition through which the nation and the country are passing. The longer expectation of life is, we hope, a measure of the success we have achieved in fulfilling the purpose for which the *Fortnightly Review* was launched.

THE EDITOR.



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# RUBBASEAL



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## AN APPRECIATION

—By R. L. BROHIER, O.B.E.—

EPHEMERAL literature in Ceylon has always had an uncertain career. Such magazines as the *Ceylon Miscellany*, *Young Ceylon*, *The Ceylon Quarterly Magazine*, *The Octagon*, *Amicus* and *The Orientalist* are mere names to most people. Not one of them lasted more than two years. Periodicals nearer to our own time have been somewhat more successful but few have been able to win sufficient support from the public. *The Ceylon Literary Register*, *The Ceylon Review*, *The Ceylon Antiquary*—periodicals of the highest value—did not survive for more than a decade.

\* \* \*

IT is not necessary to examine the causes of all these failures, but one is moved to these reflections on realizing that the *Ceylon Fortnightly Review* has completed eleven years of its existence and with the issue of this number is in its twelfth volume. This is a surprising fact when it is taken into account that few Ceylon periodicals have had such good fortune. The reason no doubt is that *The Ceylon Fortnightly Review* has been of service to a widening circle of discriminating public-spirited class of readers whom even the well-conducted week-day and Sunday illustrated press does not entirely satisfy.

\* \* \*

EVERY other week the *Fortnightly Review* has treated its subscribers to a well-balanced digest of such subjects as social life, education, literature, history, arts and sciences chiefly in their connections with Ceylon. The difficulty of "dressing" the *Fortnightly* pages with all the news and knowledge of the hour can be most realized fully only by its Editor, but some idea of it is suggested by the whole-hearted absence of bias or prejudice even at the height of tension and stress, in this period of transition and adjustment which is testing the fibre of politician, public servant and the different people who have made this country their common motherland.

\* \* \*

IT is possible to attribute many other reasons for the success of this Review when so many similar enterprises have failed. By no means the least important of these is the paper on which it is printed and the type, which is so clear and clean-cut. The numbers are as comfortable to read as the volumes, when bound for a library shelf, are comfortable to handle. They are indeed such a pleasure to read and to handle that Colombo's business community has substantially recognised that through the pages of the *Fortnightly Review* they reach and impress their best clientele.

\* \* \*

THE *Fortnightly Review* has for the past eleven years been a speaking symbol to a public that seems to want that little more which means so much in periodical literature. That its contents will continue to be as interesting as they are instructive is a safe assumption. It has enorsed its competence by making a very regular appearance and by fulfilling a dire need for more cultural and literary life in this country.

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**MR. Philip Crowe**, U.S.A. Ambassador in South Africa, and former U.S.A. Ambassador in Ceylon :

“ In this articulate and literate community where a number of periodicals compete for the attention of the reading public, I am frankly impressed by the success of the *Ceylon Fortnightly Review*. The magazine early achieved a complete acceptance by discriminating readers who recognise its value as an objective journal of a high literary and moral standard. I think it is no exaggeration to say the Island has gained because of the *Ceylon Fortnightly Review* and I personally extend to its Editor my very real good wishes for continued success in its significance and endeavour.”

\* \* \*

**SIR Cecil Syers**, former High Commissioner for the United Kingdom in Ceylon :

“ As a regular reader of the *Ceylon Fortnightly Review* I wish to say that the journal has established a firm reputation for itself Overseas and I know how welcome its regular arrival is to readers in the United Kingdom, who are enabled thereby to keep in touch with people and events in Ceylon. It is the only periodical of its kind in Ceylon.”

\* \* \*

**DR. Lucian de Zilwa**, the distinguished physician, author and scholar, now in his 84th year :

“ The *Fortnightly Review* is a publication which many of us have now come to regard as indispensable, because it is unique. It is a journal of universal appeal. There is not a line of malice or of innuendo in the articles, which combine smartness with absolute impartiality.”

\* \* \*

**SIR Arthur Ranasinha**, late Governor of the Central Bank and Ceylon's Ambassador-designate to Italy.

“ As a regular reader of the *Ceylon Fortnightly Review* from the date of its first issue, I wish to say that only those periodicals survive that can command the esteem of our small, but selective, reading public. Such esteem is the reward of balanced views and of the attractiveness of their presentation. The best evidence of the success of the *Ceylon Fortnightly Review* in this regard is its success. May it live long to continue to fulfil its purpose.”

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## MATTERS OF MOMENT

By BRUTUS

**M**AY Day was celebrated with greater enthusiasm than ever before this year. A national holiday since the M.E.P. came into power, workers took possession of Colombo last Friday. Colourful processions of trade unions—men in red shirts and caps and women in red jackets, carrying flags and banners—with music and dancing went up and down and across the City all day heading for the different centres at which demonstrations were held. The Communists gathered on Galle Face, the L.S.S.P. at the Town Hall, the M.E.P. trade unions at Independence Square, the Mercantile Union at Price Park, and the Bank Employees' Union at Price Park.

Addressing the M.E.P. rally the Prime Minister asserted that in spite of the efforts of its enemies to wreck it and the gloomy forecasts of its early demise the Government would serve its allotted period. "With nearly one and a half years more for a general election our enemies will concentrate all their energy on creating trouble for us, but they are doomed to disappointment," Mr. Bandaranaike declared.

Dr. N. M. Perera, the L.S.S.P. leader, announced that the ultimate goal of their trade unions was to secure a minimum salary of Rs. 175/- for workers in every sphere. One of the resolutions passed at the Communist Party called for the immediate nationalisation of all foreign owned banks, estates, insurance and other companies, managing agencies, factories and sections of the import-export trade.

\* \* \*

**O**N behalf of the Government the Prime Minister promised the Law Society financial assistance for its Legal Aid Scheme at the celebration of Law Day by the Society on May 1st, which was also the first anniversary of the Legal Aid Scheme. The Society was commended for its successful working of the Scheme by the Governor-General, the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice, Mr. M. W. H. de Silva. Sir Cyril de Zoysa, President, presided.

Mr. M. S. Alif, Chairman of the Scheme, reported that of 726 applications for aid up to the end of March, 213 were not pursued after

the initial stages, 174 were closed with advice and refused further aid as they were ineligible and 339 involving Court action were allowed and lawyers assigned. The largest number of applications related to land disputes.

\* \* \*

**C**OL. O. B. Forbes (Appointed Member) in a memorable contribution to the debate on the three tax bills introduced in Parliament recently pursuant to the budget proposals last year (Income, Estate Duty and Personal Tax) described them as triplets produced by the Finance Minister after a very normal gestation period, assisted by a rather discredited gynaecologist. They were two boys and a girl—Bill, Income Tax; Will, Estate Duty and, Kitty, Personal Tax.

It was most improbable that under the new proposals any individual would ever be able to make a correct return. The Government was trying to turn us all into a nation of "book-keepers" or even "book-makers".

The new proposals, he said, were, so to say, a major revolution in the method of taxation in Ceylon and it was proposed to put these new revolutionary ideas into effect without adequate preparation, with a steady refusal to even study or listen to the

advice which was readily offered to the Government, and with a complete ignorance of the effect that the proposals were going to have.

The chaos the Government was going to create as soon as these Bills were passed was going to be with the Government for the next five years. The taxpayers would be fed up in the immediate future. The Government—this one or the next—was going to be fed up pretty soon and they were just opening the door to red revolution.

There were many provisions in the Bills which promoted legalised dishonesty. Far from affording the private sector the encouragement the Finance Minister promised was his purpose, the Bills were going to do much to ensure discouragement. To be a shareholder in a private company or partner in a business it was going to be nothing short of disastrous, Mr. Forbes said. Far better not to establish and foster a progressive business because if one did, and made a success of it, one would be dealt with severely!

\* \* \*

**A** BUDDHIST mission from Ceylon led by the Ven. Narada Maha Thera of the Vajiraramaya, Colombo, is to participate in the celebration of Wesak in Indonesia at Borobudhur. The other members of the mission are a Thai bhikkhu studying under Narada Thera and Dr. Wijayatunga of the Air Force and his wife. During his visit the Thera will admit two



—Times

The Prime Minister at the luncheon at the Grand Oriental Hotel, Colombo, on the third anniversary of the Ceylon-American Economic and Technical Co-operation programme agreement. Next to him is Mr. J. L. Roach, Director of the U.S. Operations Mission in Ceylon.

## MATTERS OF MOMENT

Javanese, two Chinese and two Balinese to the Order.

The mission is taking with them, as gifts from the Government, Buddhist books, pictures and flags for Indonesian Buddhists. A Burmese mission led by the Ven. Mahasi Dayadan will present the aspirants to the Order the prescribed requisites. Mr. Ratnasiri Perera of the Ceylon Legation in Djakarta with the co-operation of Indonesian Buddhist societies and the Thai and Burmese embassies has drawn up a programme for the visitors.

\* \* \*

**T**HE Education Minister, Mr. W. Dahanayake, is reported to have issued instructions for the drafting of legislation to abolish the provision in the University Ordinance which empowers the University Court to elect the Vice-Chancellor of the University. Mr. Dahanayake proposes instead that the Vice-Chancellor should be appointed by the Chancellor (the Governor-General) on the recommendation of the Prime Minister.

Meanwhile there is speculation about the delay in the issue of the report of the University Commission which was headed by Professor Joseph Needham of Cambridge,

among the questions referred to which were the "changes that are necessary or desirable in the constitution, control, functions and jurisdiction of the University of Ceylon and its relations with the Government."

It was reported last week that the Ministry of Education had asked Prof. Needham and Prof. S. K. Chatterji of Calcutta, who with Mr. L. J. de S. Seneviratne, Special Commissioner, Official Language Department, formed the Commission, to return to Ceylon to clarify certain points in their recommendations. Prof. Needham and Prof. Chatterji have informed the Ministry that they have dealt with every important item in their terms of reference, and that any clarification could be done by correspondence, as it was inconvenient for them to return to Ceylon.

\* \* \*

**T**HE Ceylon Institute of Architects has been admitted as a corresponding member of the Societe des Architects Diplomes par le Gouvernement, of France. This was announced at the annual general meeting of the Institute, the membership of which consists of 24 architects, of whom five are Fellows of the Royal Institute of

British Architects, and 19 associates, who are also members of recognized allied professional bodies.

Mr. Herbert E. Gonsal was elected President in succession to Mr. N. Wynne Jones, University Architect.

\* \* \*

**N**EVER let anxieties disturb your faith in the future of this land, enjoined the Governor-General, Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, when he opened the Agri-Horticultural Exhibition in Nuwara Eliya. There were anxieties all over the world, he said. Many people might be thinking, he went on, of the events of ten months ago, but did they take into consideration the fact that while some ten to twenty-thousand persons were giving trouble, there were over three million people scattered throughout the country, on estates, fields and homes, who did their day's work peacefully? Were they to be condemned for the lapse of ten or twenty thousand? Things changed in the country as they did in other countries, but the goodness of the people would not change.

Sir Oliver paid a tribute to Mr. R. H. D. Manders, Government Agent, Nuwara Eliya and Chairman of the exhibition committee, with whose retirement the civil service loses its last European member. Mr. Manders' name was known throughout the Island, Sir Oliver said, for the simple way he tried to help the underprivileged.

At the distribution of awards at the exhibition, Mr. Philip Gunewardena, Minister of Food and Agriculture, appealed to planters and to "those who come here as birds of passage" to be conscious of their responsibilities to the rest of the community. He hoped, he said, planters understood the words of the Prime Minister that we were living in a transitional age. The transition was from the old to the new, from the privileged to the underprivileged. The country expected the planter to pull his weight in the development of the country. Changes were coming whether one liked them or not, he warned.

\* \* \*

**T**HE competition between man and beast for living space has reached a tragic stage in the Gal-oya Valley in the Eastern Province. A herd of elephants which has invaded a developed area under the Senanayake



—Times

The Governor-General, Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, and the Prime Minister, Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, with the Netherlands Minister in Ceylon, Mr. Villem Jacob Domdicus Philipse, at a reception held by the Minister on 30th April at the Galle Face Hotel, on the occasion of the birthday of Queen Juliana of the Netherlands.

## MATTERS OF MOMENT

samudra has caused much damage, particularly to the sugar-cane plantation.

Electrification of the fence surrounding the plantation has been of no avail, and efforts to drive the animals to wild life reserves in the district have met with no success either. Accordingly rifle fire by soldiers stationed in the Valley, night long burning of flares and beating of drums are being employed to scare the elephants away. At the same time the famous panikkans of the Batticaloa district have been engaged to noose as many animals as possible for the zoo. Although the animals appear to have lost all fear of man, the indications are that they are fighting a losing battle.

\* \* \*

THE Governor-General, Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, paid the tribute to the Christian churches of Moratuwa, when he attended the centenary celebrations of the Rawatawatte Methodist church, that they had fostered national aspirations by conducting their affairs in the language of the people.

After referring to the fact that the first Methodist missionaries landed in Ceylon 145 years ago, and dwelling on the traditions built up by their successors, Sir Oliver remarked: "I sometimes feel that there has been a tendency to forget the splendid service rendered to the church and the community by our Ceylonese ministers. Some of them have been pioneers in evangelism, education and in the building of churches." As foremost among them he mentioned the Rev. Peter Gerrard de Zylva, "the apostle of Moratuwa," during whose ministry the Rawatawatte church was built. He described the present minister, the Rev. Fred de Silva, as embodying the spirit of Methodism—modesty, sincerity and efficiency. It was fitting, he said, that in the centenary year he should be Chairman-designate of the Methodist church in Ceylon.

\* \* \*

A DEPUTATION of five Buddhist monks has been received by the Dalai Lama of Tibet at Mussoorie. The leader of the deputation is the Ven. Malewana Gnanissara Thero of Colombo and the other members are the Ven. Buddharakshita Thero, Anunayake of the Asgiriya Vihare, Kandy, the Ven. Dharmarakshika Thero of the Malwatte Vihare, Pandit

Gunananda Thero and Pandit Sorata Thero (Secretary).

As they explained Malewana Thero said that it is necessary that the people of Ceylon should have details of the crisis in Tibet at first hand. Moreover, their visit would be a source of spiritual and physical strength and comfort to the Dalai Lama in the situation in which he finds himself.

\* \* \*

THE spirit of independence which characterised the late Sir Paul Pieris was recalled when reference was made to his death in the District Court of Kandy, where he presided for many years and left behind a memorable record.

Speaking on behalf of the Bar, Mr. Arthur A. Perera, the veteran advocate, said that in 1927, when Mahatma Gandhi came to Ceylon, the citizens of Kandy invited him to a reception and Paul Pieris was deputed to be their spokesman. "He made a stirring speech," Mr. Perera said, "admiring the bravery and patriotic service of Gandhi for the freedom of his country. It was a courageous speech. At that time Gandhi was a rebel against British imperialism and Paul Pieris was District Judge of Kandy under British colonial rule. The like of him we will not see again."

Sir Paul was an ideal judge, Mr. Perera said, and off the Bench he was a sociable personality. Very few

knew that he did many an act of social service unostentatiously or that he ran a weaving school for unemployed lads.

Speaking for the Bench, the District Judge, Mr. V. Manickavasagar, referred to Sir Paul's judgment in the famous Gampola Perahera case. It had, he said, clarity of thought, lucidity of expression and running through it that fearless independence which was the hallmark of his work as a judge.

\* \* \*

CEYLON had its first Inspector-General of Police in civvies when Mr. M. W. F. Abeykoon, Senior Assistant Secretary of the External Affairs Ministry, assumed duties on secondment on July 26th. His predecessor, Mr. Osmund de Silva went on three months leave prior to relinquishing the appointment the previous day.

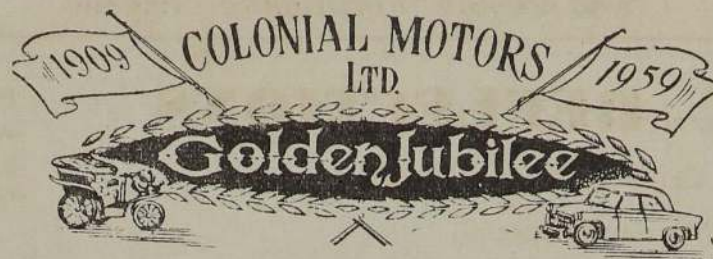
At a Press conference Mr. Abeykoon said he did not contemplate radical changes in the service. On his making the remark that five years of peace would be sufficient to bring the country prosperity, he was asked "Can you ensure that peace?" He replied: "With the co-operation of the people, yes."

When he took leave of his office staff, Mr. Osmund de Silva is reported to have said that had he had half their loyalty and co-operation from his senior officers the service would not have come to its present sorry pass.

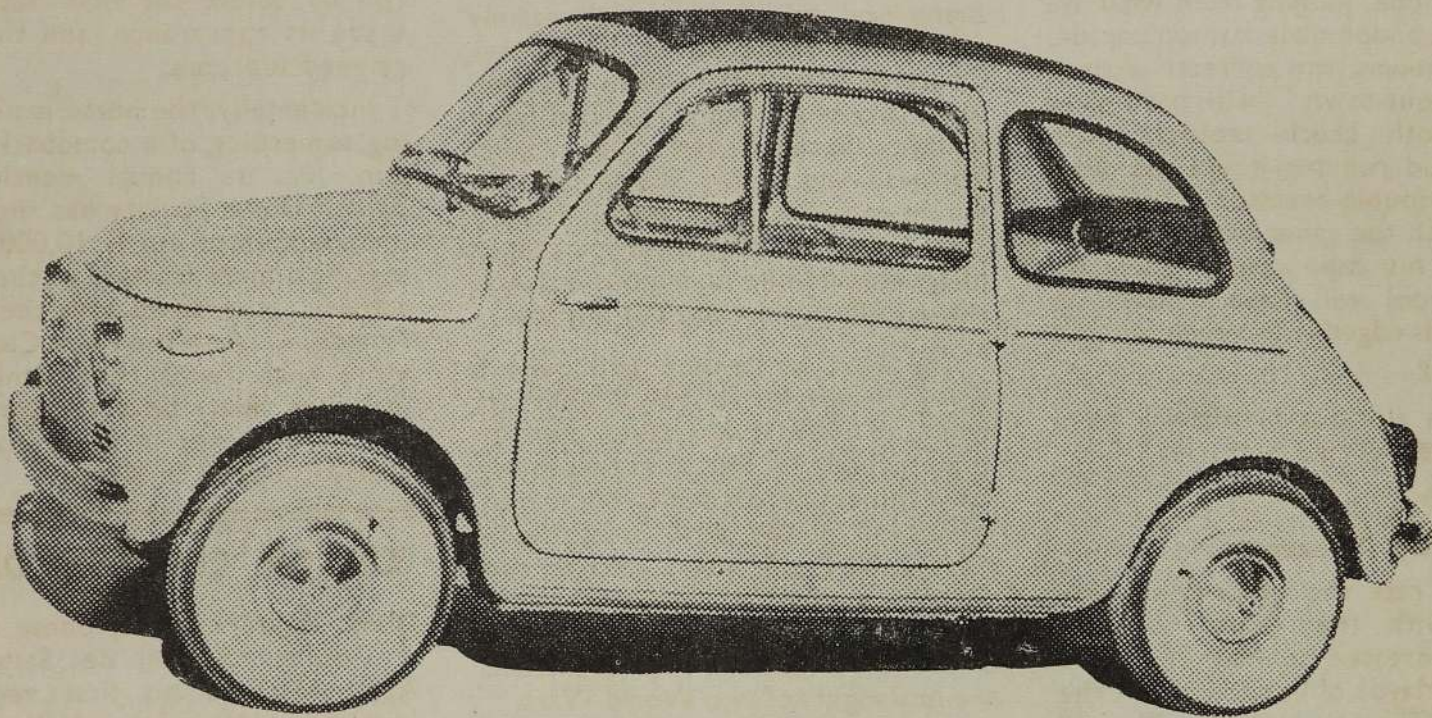


—Times

H. E. the Governor-General, Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, declared open a wing of the Red Cross Society's headquarters at Turret Road, Colpetty, recently. He was received on arrival by Mr. K. Somasuntharam, Chairman of the Council of Red Cross, who is seen standing next to him.



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# RIVERSIDE REFLECTIONS

By ERNEST CHISHOLM THOMSON

(Fortnightly Review Special)

SAVILE Row, London, is justly acclaimed the world's arbiter of taste in men's fashions. But I would never have expected that sedate precinct of tailors and cutters, cloistered in one of the West End's quietest corners, to spring the surprises that startled the menfolk of Britain in March.

Flared waists and sleeves are the coming mode, judging from what we saw at a London male fashion parade. Soon, it seems, the correctly-attired "man-about-town" will have grey houndstooth check trousers with black braid running down the sides and a double-breasted waistcoat edged with the same braid. To add swagger, his cape coat in Scottish lamb's wool will have a stand-up collar, cuffs edged with velvet and red satin lining.

What a glorious breakaway from the drabness of two centuries.

\* \* \*

## City's Own Theatre

AT this rate the men's finery may vie with the charm of the women's dresses on May 28, when the Lord Mayor of London opens the Mermaid Theatre on the Thames river bank, the first theatre in the City of London for 250 years. The point is worth making, because, on the opposite bank in Queen Elizabeth I's time stood Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. We may be sure the men in those days were even more garishly arrayed than their womenfolk.

Built at a cost of £62,000, on the site of bombed-out Puddle Dock, the Mermaid is closely identified with the Port of London. About 60 shipping and transport companies subscribed, and the theatre's opening this year, for the delight of travellers and the City's own pleasure-seekers, is a gracious if unusual, token of the 50th anniversary of the Port of London Authority.

The Mermaid stands just above the buffer-stops, so to speak, of the greatest port in the Commonwealth. Within hailing distance is London Bridge, the highest point upstream to which sea-going liners penetrate with cargoes for the big city. From there the P.L.A. holds sway downstream over more than 60 miles (100

kilometres) of waterway and 4,000 acres (1,620 hectares) of docks, embracing the cream of Britain's merchant service.

\* \* \*

## Gateway To The World

A BOAT trip down river is unforgettable. In the India and Royal Docks you will see the fine, fast medium-sized cargo liners which bring food and raw materials, mainly from the Commonwealth countries—Canterbury lamb from New Zealand, wool from Australia, rubber from Malaya, bananas and sugar from Jamaica. And nearer Thames' mouth is that gateway to the world, Tilbury Dock, with its 30,000-ton passenger liners massed like enormous buff and white cliffs against the flat skyline.

The Port of London had been a going concern for roughly 2,000 years when, in 1909, it was taken over by the Authority. Partly representing Government departments, but mainly composed of the port users themselves, the P.L.A. put a stop to cut-throat competition between docks and achieved the splendid integration of port services which has withstood the onslaughts of two World Wars.

When World War II ended, a third of the warehouses had been bombed-out or severely damaged. Since then £33,000,000 has been spent on rebuilding and the latest mechanical equipment. Sir Leslie Ford, the P.L.A.'s General Manager, has spoken of the past ten years as perhaps the most fruitful in the Port's long and glorious record.

\* \* \*

## Big Ben Centenary

THE voice of London's river comes to all of us who tune in the chimes of Big Ben. The great clock on the Houses of Parliament at Westminster, on the north bank two miles (three kilometres) upstream from London Bridge, is 100 years old on May 31. Thousands of Commonwealth guests will join the throngs visiting the centenary exhibition in the Westminster Jewel House, opening on June 3.

Models of the clock and the elaborate chiming mechanism will recall for many those moments in World War II when this voice of home and

freedom inspired Service men and women and other exiles, as well as enslaved peoples, with trust in ultimate victory.

How did Big Ben get his name? When, in 1859, the burly Commissioner of Works, Sir Benjamin Hall, asked Parliament to call it St. Stephen, a Member shouted—"Why not 'Big Ben'?"—the Minister's nickname—"and have done with it?"

Those were leisurely days—so leisurely that Big Ben, it appears, had been asked for by the architect about 15 years before it was finally erected. On the roads, nearly 40 years would roll by before the first automobile made its appearance, and the horse reigned supreme.

Incidentally, the horse is now staging something of a comeback in Britain. At its annual meeting, the British Horse Society has reported a membership of nearly 10,000, representing a mere fraction of the riding activity going on all over the United Kingdom. And the Pony Club, with more than twice the membership, including many boys and girls, now has 89 branches in Australia, 18 in Canada, and 15 in Kenya.

## CEYLON CELLIST'S DEBUT

THE 20-year-old Ceylonese concert cellist, Rohan de Saram, on April 15 held his first recital at London's Wigmore Hall, where leading instrumentalists from all over the world perform.

The music critic of the "Daily Telegraph" commented of this recital: "He is not only a distinguished artist but a mature one . . . It is the authority in his playing, well beyond his years, that impresses most, together with the intensely perceptive musicianship that seems to range easily among many styles."

Rohan de Saram's programme included the Adagio from a Beethoven sonata, a Debussy sonata and an unaccompanied sonata by Kodaly. Of the last, the same critic remarked: "Here the cello becomes an orchestra in itself and de Saram responded with a performance of breath-taking virtuosity."

Rohan de Saram, son of Mr. & Mrs. Robert de Saram of Colombo, began to study the cello in Ceylon at the age of ten. Later he studied in Italy, in Britain under Sir John Barbirolli and finally under the Master Pablo Casals.

(Continued on page 31)



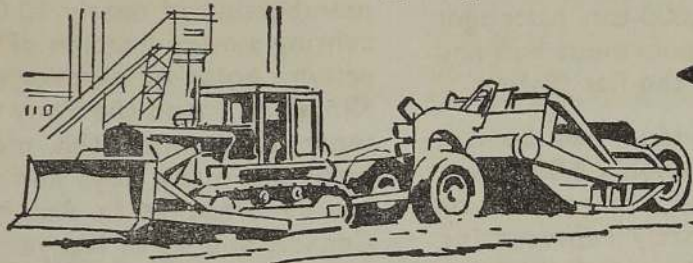
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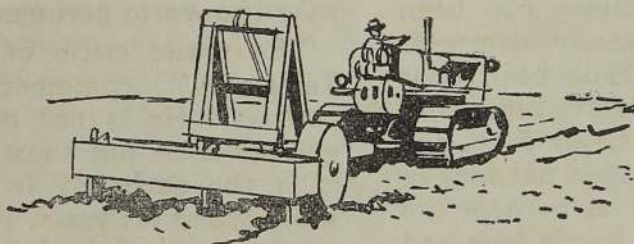
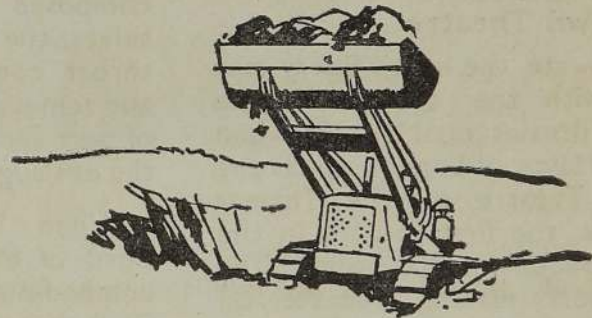
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## POLITICAL NOTEBOOK

By CROSS-BENCHER

WITH another adroit move the Prime Minister overcame the crisis that was brewing over the Food Minister Mr. Philip Gunewardena's Co-operative Development Bank Bill. It was so simple as taking over the Bill himself and assuming responsibility for piloting it through Parliament and implementing it eventually. That the situation was effectively met by Mr. Bandaranaike was shown when both protagonists and antagonists expressed satisfaction at his decision—the former because the legislation would in any case be brought into operation and the latter because it would deprive Mr. Gunewardena of the powers the Act would confer on the Minister administering it.

In a long statement bearing on the controversy that the Bill had aroused which he made to a meeting of his Parliamentary Group, Mr. Bandaranaike said that discussion of the Bill by the Group on May 11th, which he had proposed, might not produce anything profitable in view of the proportions that the conflict had reached. He pointed out that the idea of the Bank was not new; it had in fact been considered from 1953 onwards and been referred to in the Governor-General's speech, which meant it was Government policy.

Without going into details, he said, he himself considered it an important measure for the amelioration of the condition, particularly, of the rural people. It might be that the merits of the Bill had been obscured by other considerations. As he wanted the bank to be established and did not want to be charged with shelving a measure of its importance, he would take over the subject of the Bill as in the case of the Official Language Act. Not that he thought this was normally a subject that should be dealt with by the Prime Minister, he declared, but it was to avert a "dangerous and abnormal situation," weighed against the risk of a complete breakdown or a serious weakening of the Government over the issue, which would be one of the major tragedies that would have overtaken the country for many years.

THE Bills to give effect to the new taxation proposals were passed by Parliament, as anticipated, without any significant amendment. The Personal Tax Bill had only two members voting against it, Mr. C. Suntheralingam (Ind.) and Mr. M. D. Banda (UNP), and the Income Tax Amendment Bill and the Estate Duty Amendment Bill were passed without a division.

While welcoming the wealth tax and the capital gains tax as progressive measures, Dr. N. M. Perera (Leader of the Opposition) criticised the lowering of the rate of income tax from 85 to 60 per cent as liable to cause loss. In his reply the Finance Minister, Mr. Stanley de Zoysa, pointed out that while it was true that those in the high income brackets would benefit by the reduction of the rate, the self-same classes would be subject to the new taxes. In many cases they would pay more than the 70 or 75 per cent this category now paid.

Replying to criticism that the Income Tax Department was inadequately staffed and paid, Mr. de Zoysa announced that it was intended to strengthen the organization and the question of increased remuneration was also being gone into. Two experts from New Zealand had already arrived, he said, and there would be more coming from Australia, India and England. He also disclosed that the Income Tax department would exhibit lists of income-tax payers in order to round up tax dodgers. Already a fair amount of information was coming in, he said.

\* \* \*

THE revolt in Tibet and the events flowing from it constituted an internal matter of the Chinese Government, was the attitude taken by the Prime Minister in a statement he made in Parliament in answer to a question by the Leader of the Opposition. He said he did not know, from the statement made by the Dalai Lama, the events leading to the revolt, except that the Chinese, according to him, had not followed the terms of the agreement between China and Tibet. On the other hand, the Chinese said that

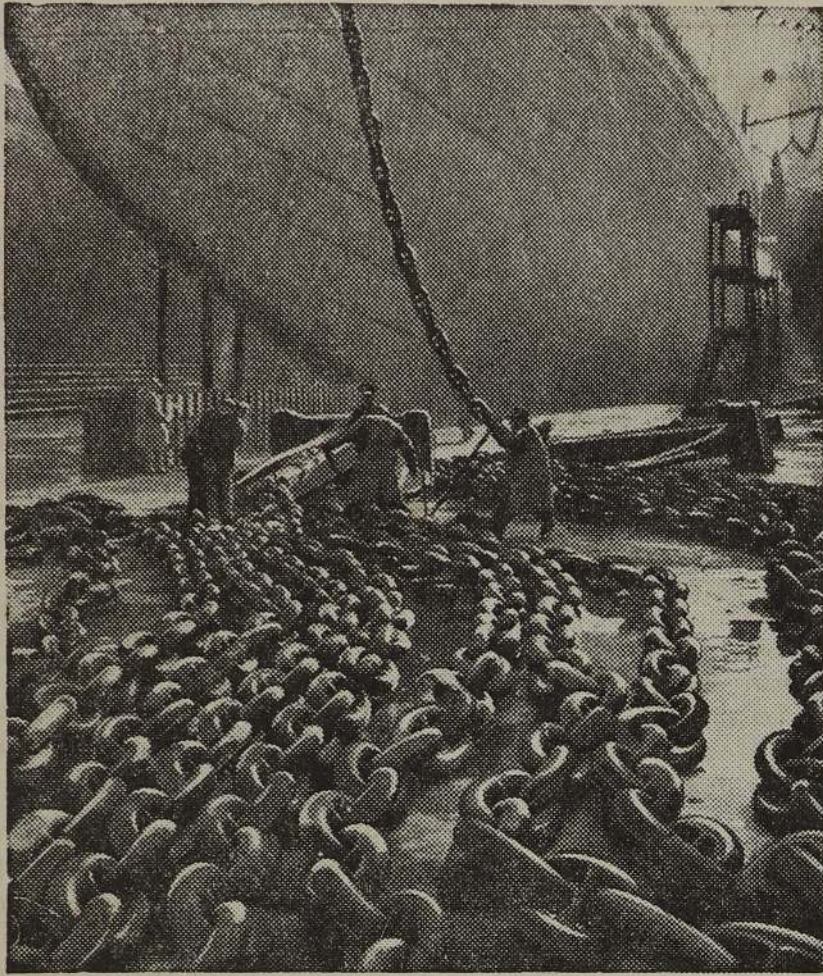
certain interests which were being eroded into were behind the revolt. "I can't pass judgment on this," Mr. Bandaranaike declared.

He did not know where the breach of the agreement lay, he said, and added that it was difficult to resist the conclusion that it was purely an internal affair of China's. It was to be hoped that some satisfactory settlement would be reached where, with the continuance of Chinese suzerainty, the people of Tibet would be allowed to follow their way of life.

Referring to the incident at the Chinese embassy in which some Buddhist monks were concerned, Mr. Bandaranaike pointed out that the deputation had gone there after the Embassy had finished work for the day. The Ambassador had informed him, he said, that he was always prepared to meet the bhikkhus and discuss the situation with them, but the bhikkhus had passed resolutions even before having any discussion. The Government did not like any discourtesy shown to citizens of this country, particularly to bhikkhus, but in this instance the bhikkhus had adopted wrong procedure in attempting to submit a document direct to the Ambassador. There was no discourtesy intended towards the bhikkhus.

\* \* \*

AT the annual conference of the United National Party the President, Mr. Dudley Senanayake, condemned in no uncertain terms the idea of the Prime Minister of going back to the executive committee system of government, "which we as a country discarded emphatically after fifteen years of trial". He said: "If one were to think of a system of government which would enable unprincipled opportunism motivated by a desire to fill the seats of office without any attachment to party policies or principles, if one were to think of a system giving the maximum scope for bribery and corruption, then I say that the executive system is ideal." Commenting on Mr. Bandaranaike's opinion that the Cabinet form of government is not suited to this country, he said the truth is that it is not suited to "a group of unprincipled opportunists in the shape of the present regime". He claimed that the system had been worked satisfactorily by the UNP during its eight years in office.



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## THE PASSING SCENE

By "SPHINX"

THE third anniversary of the signing of the Ceylon-American Economic and Technical Programme Agreement was marked by a luncheon at the Grand Oriental Hotel, Colombo, on April 28. Those present included the Prime Minister, Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, the Finance Minister, Mr. Stanley de Zoysa, Mr. J. L. Roach, Director of the United States Operations Mission in Ceylon, and Mr. R. Burr Smith, Deputy Chief of Mission.

The agreement was signed on behalf of Ceylon three years ago by Mr. de Zoysa and has brought Ceylon Rs. 208,803,000, out of a total of Rs. 500 million in foreign aid between 1956-59. The U.S. aid covers a wide range of development including land development, agriculture, transport, industry, natural science research, education, in addition to ad hoc assistance such as was given during the December, 1957, floods.

In the speeches which followed a toast, proposed by the Prime Minister, to "Co-operation and friendship between our two countries, the U.S.A. and Ceylon", Mr. Bandaranaike said that among the friends of Ceylon who had come to the country's assistance to some extent, the U.S. was easily the most important.

\* \* \*

THE Finance Minister, Mr. Stanley de Zoysa, said that it was not sufficient to thank the U.S. and its agencies for aid received by Ceylon. It was fit and proper to address their minds to the philosophy of thinking behind the aid Ceylon received. We received aid from both ends of the world, from the western democracies and from Russia and China. It was hardly the occasion to consider what probably lay behind the aid from Russia and China but it would not be improper to contemplate on that occasion on the nature of U.S. aid.

There were two aspects to this aid—the first was financial. The prosperity of each country necessarily added to the prosperity of all. The more important aspect, however, was the political philosophy behind U.S. aid. There was a certain way of life and a certain way of thinking to which we in Ceylon were accustomed—the democratic way of life. The older democracies could

not help seeing the danger if the young democracies, particularly in the South-East Asian and African regions, did not measure up to the challenge of the times.

Mr. de Zoysa said it was equally the duty of the democracies to show an awareness of the reasons which prompted the bigger democracies to come to their aid. It was hardly proper to continue to receive aid and not show an awareness of the basis on which the aid was given. That awareness should manifest itself in a real, positive, and dynamic course of action for which there was now a need if the democratic way of life was to be preserved.

He added: "The time has come for us to be seriously aware of the threat that faces us and our way of life and to take determined action to protect that way of life. I believe that there are people among us—and you, sir, (turning to the Prime Minister) are one of those—who will put forward the greatest effort to preserve the democratic freedoms which we cherish. It is in this way we can show that in Ceylon at least this aid has not been wasted."

Mr. Roach said he would consider

the assistance given by the U.S. useless if, after the specialised persons sent out to Ceylon to help in various projects left, there were no persons in Ceylon who had benefited from the training. It was the development of skill and training of persons that was most important to U.S.O.M.

Mr. Burr Smith said that U.S. aid had no strings attached and it was not conceived or directed at interfering in Ceylon's domestic life or the process of selecting and choosing a pattern which would fulfil the particular demands of the Ceylonese people. He recalled that the original offer of U.S. aid three years ago was made to one government, and the agreement signed by another succeeding to power after a popular election.

\* \* \*

MR. Bandaranaike also chose the occasion to explain why he had called for an economic conference of under-developed countries of Asia towards the end of this year. The four main problems which the conference would have to deal with were, first, the persistence in these countries of the earlier colonial type of economy. They were primarily agricultural producing countries and their economy could not be stable unless they have assurance of stability within certain reasonable limits.

(Continued on page 36)



—Times

Mr N. E. Weerasooria, Q.C., lighting an oil lamp to inaugurate the Visakha Vidyalaya Teachers' Guild. The patron of the Guild is Mrs. S. G. Pulimood, Principal of the School, and the president Miss Chandra de Zoysa.

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# DELFT-ISLAND OF HORSES

— By KENNETH SOMANADER —

(Fortnightly Review Special)

ABOUT 18 miles to the south-west of Jaffna lies the island of Delft. It is seven miles long and five miles broad, and is one of the largest of the islands lying around the Jaffna Peninsula. Launches for Delft leave from Kayts, to which island one has to cross over by ferry from Karainagar on the mainland. Karainagar is about 16 miles away from Jaffna Town.

In the early days of the nineteenth century, wild elephants which were caught in kraals in Kurunegala and other parts in the south were marched to Karainagar, crossed over to Kayts, and then shipped from Kayts harbour to Coromandel and Bengal in specially-constructed "elephant-ships."

Shortly after the Delft-bound launch has left Kayts, it passes Ham-en-Hiel, an old Portuguese fortress built on a coral reef arising out of the water by Antonio de Amaral de Menezes, a former Governor of Jaffna. This little "water fort" was so-called because the outline of Ceylon resembles that of a ham and the structure occupied the position of its shank or heel.

\* \* \*

AN hour later, the launch touches Nainativu (also referred to as Nagadipa). This island is only about four miles in circumference. It has a Hindu temple, a Buddhist temple and a mosque, and Christian work is also done there. It is estimated that more than three thousand Buddhist pilgrims visit the island annually, for it is here that the Buddha landed, it is believed, when he visited Ceylon the second time to stop a war which was beginning between the Naga King Mahodara and his nephew, Culodara, over the ownership of a gem-set throne. Buddha stopped the war, it is said, by spreading darkness over the battlefield. He then

restored light to them, and when he had preached to them the doctrine of Peace, the two Nagas compounded their quarrel, and gave the disputed throne to him as a gift.

After a half-hour halt at Nainativu, the launch continues on its two-hour run to Delft, an island almost midway between India and Ceylon. Delft is entirely surrounded by a coral reef which stretches for many miles. It is recorded that, in days gone by, as many as sixty ships were wrecked annually on this coast. The casualties were so frequent that, in the 12th century A.D., Parakrama Bahu promulgated an edict concerning the disposal of the wrecks, and had the edict carved on stone. Delft possesses no natural harbour but a small and secure one was formed by blasting the coral reef.

\* \* \*

NOT far from the Delft pier is a small building which serves as a guest-house. The charge is very nominal, about 50 cents a day, in fact, exclusive of meals. To whatever class or tribe they belong, the people of Delft are all very hospitable, and some of them even feel hurt when one does not accept an invitation to a meal.

Delft's biggest attraction is the Horse Plains, which is a four-mile trek from the guest-house. One

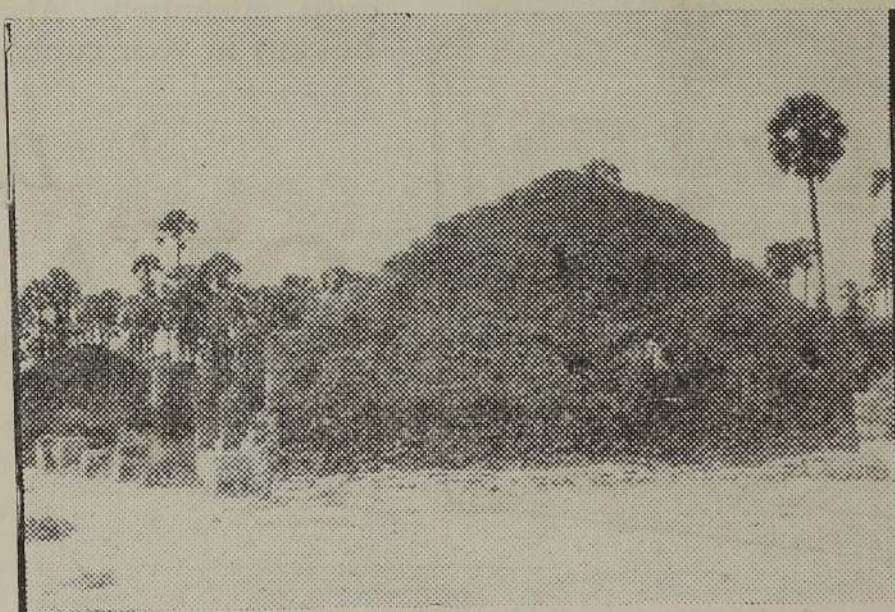
can, of course, hire a hackery to get there. The Dutch used Delft to breed horses. A number of fine Arabian mares was introduced, and crossed with horses that had been taken there earlier by the Portuguese. The expensive stud thus produced was disposed of, from time to time, on the continent. A grant of this island was made in 1803 to Colonel Barbut, who had made arrangements to maintain the establishment on a large scale, but he died soon afterwards, and the island reverted to the British Government.

\* \* \*

THE British maintained an expensive establishment on Delft, with a large staff to run it. A Mr. Sansoni was designated Superintendent of the Stud at Delft, on a monthly salary of 390 rix-dollars, 4 fanams and 2 pice. The appointment took effect on February 20th, 1812, but in July Mr. Sansoni was relieved of his duties when (owing to the financial straits that the country was in) the Governor, the Rt. Hon. John Wilson, decided to suppress superfluous appointments.

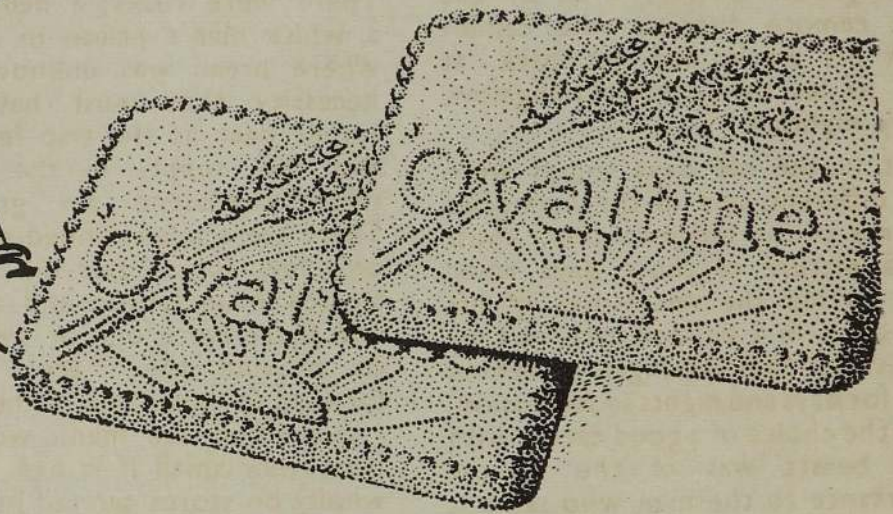
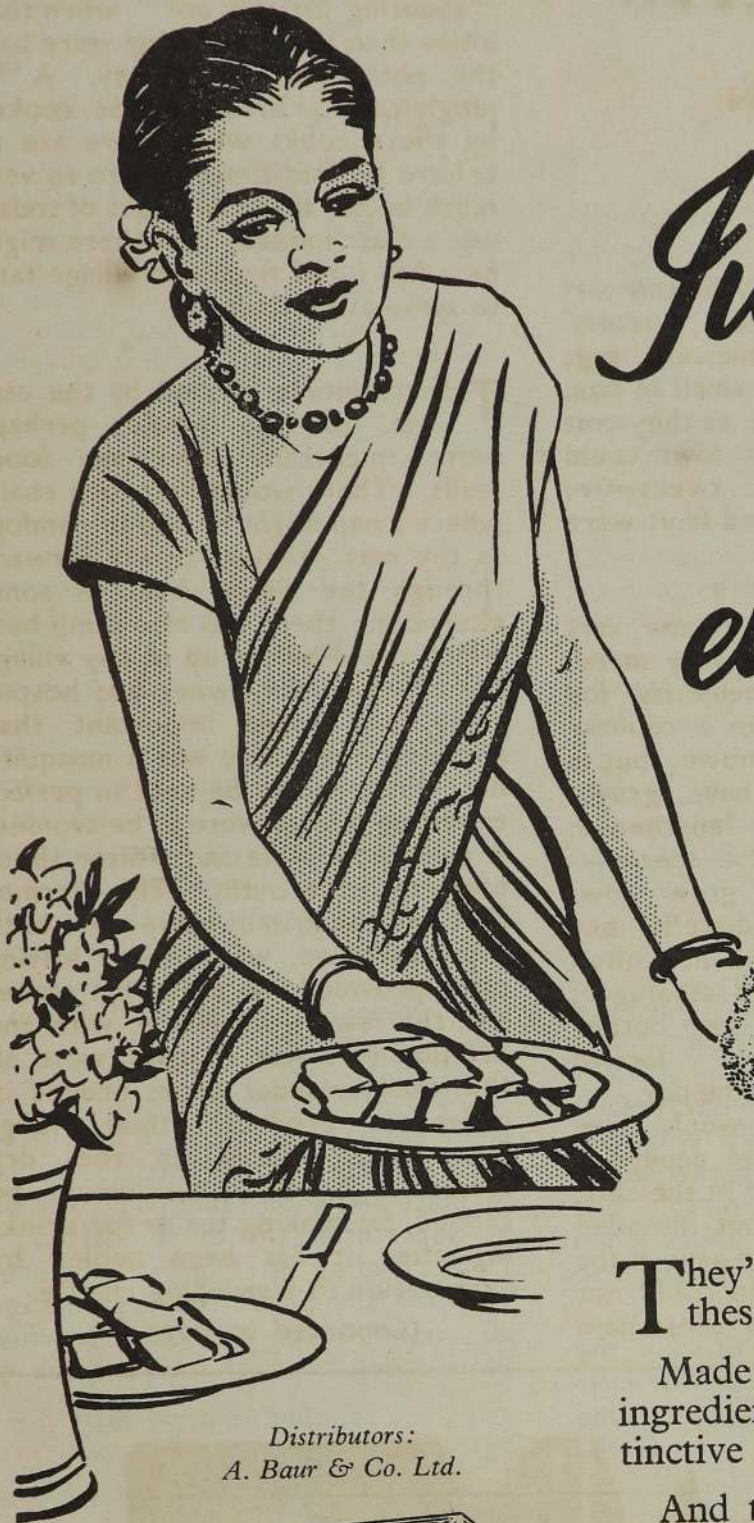
Edward Nolan, who was already in Delft in another capacity, thus came to be appointed to look after the stud. He brought it to a wonderful state and soon came to be known as Superintendent of the Island of Delft, dealing with great efficiency with the island's judicial, customs and all administrative duties. When Nolan took over, the main stock of

(Continued on page 36)



Remains of some of Nolan's stables in Delft.

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# IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS

## WHEN OFFICIALS TRAVELLED IN BULLOCK CARTS

By K. H.

IT is to be doubted if there are many Government Officials in Ceylon to-day who will ever find it necessary, in the ordinary course of their work, to spend a night without a bungalow roof above their heads. The keen shots among them may sometimes pass moonlit hours seated, gun in hand, anticipating an elephant or leopard. But now that motors have shortened distances, there is probably no District Engineer or Irrigation Officer, even in the most remote district, who cannot finish his work, and get back, at least to his own circuit bungalow, before nightfall.

But in the old days things were very different, and in the memories of some of the old men there must live a picture of those days when they carried the necessities of life with them in a bullock cart, as they left civilisation and bungalows behind them for days and nights in succession. Then the choice of a good carter with good beasts was of the utmost importance to the man who set out to do his job in the jungle where all distances were measured in the pace of bulls. Certainly he might possess a pony, with which he could explore ruin or inspect tank which lay off the main track; but it was on the bulls that he depended to a large extent for his comforts and his commissariat—matters of no mean importance at the end of a long day's work.

\* \* \*

A GOVERNMENT Agent, or a man who had to cover long distance, might have two carts; one to precede him and to prepare for his arrival, one to follow bringing the things packed after he had left his last camp. The hire of each carter with his cart and bulls would be about Rs. 30/- to Rs. 45/- per month, which would include the food for the bulls, or at least such fraction of it as the carter, being an adept at the job, could not "scrounge" from the villagers, who usually had straw, poonac or paddy husks to dispose of. From then the carter would also obtain vegetables to augment the pieces of dried fish

that hung on the sides of the cart as material for the famed "carters' curries". For the master, eggs would be bought, very small in size, but of a price to match, as they cost but one cent each; a fowl could be bought for about twenty-five cents, and vegetables and fruit were usually free gifts.

\* \* \*

THE stores carried in the cart were therefore not very many. There were rusks; a necessity for a white man's palate in a country where bread was unknown, but a necessity that must have grown rather dear as the trip lengthened, and the supply in the specially-lidded kerosene tin grew low. There were a few tinned-stuffs, but only few, for salaries did not often stretch to tin lobster and asparagus; and there were one or two bottles to provide the "toot" looked forward to at the end of the day.

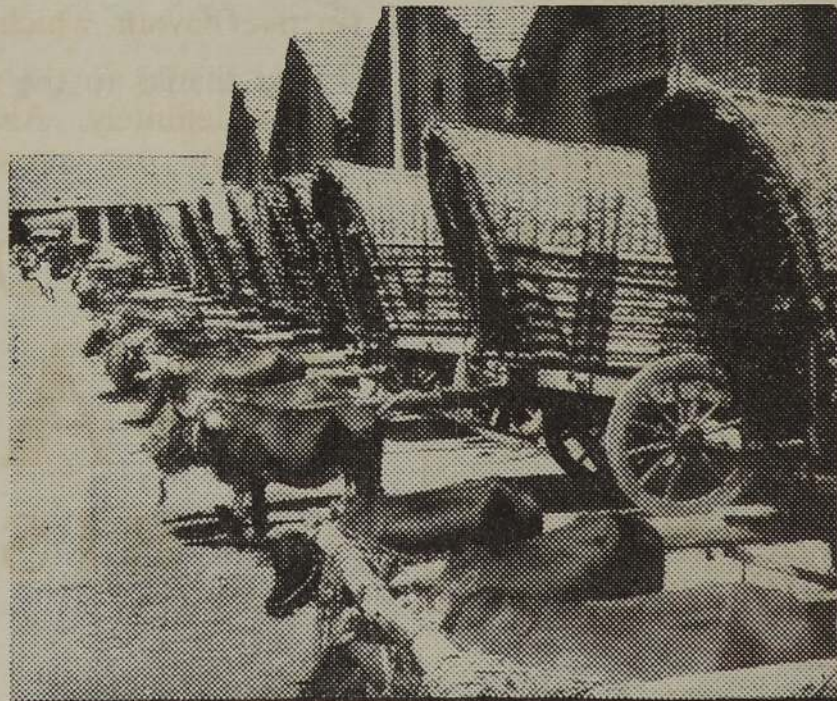
But often the menu would have been very small if it had depended wholly on stores carried in the cart, which, after all, were not intended to do more than fill those gaps in the larder for which the gun could not provide; and the men of those days

must have felt an added thrill in "shooting for the pot" when they knew that, if the shooting were bad, the pot would be empty. A fat jungle-cock or brace of snipe, cooked by those cooks who, if we are to believe the old-timers, were so very much better than the cooks of today, was a feast indeed; and there might be a fish lured from the village tank to serve as first course.

\* \* \*

THE furniture carried by the cart was, on the whole, perhaps more important than the food-stuffs. There would be a long chair, where a nap might be had in comfort as the cart creaked slowly forward through the sleepy heat of some afternoon; there was also camp bed, which could be set up in any village hut of which the owner was hospitable; and more important than anything else, there was a mosquito net, which had to be kept in perfect condition if fever were to be avoided. A collapsible table and a filter about completed the outfit. The thermos flask and the primus stove were both then unknown, when every halting place provided the three flat stones and the few sticks which, with the addition of a few chatties, were all that those wonder cooks needed in order to produce their long-remembered meals. In the dry season a jar of water would be carried, for making tea or for drinking after it has been cooled by evaporation in a swinging chattie.

(Continued on page 23)



Few bullock carts are now to be seen in Colombo, though they are still found in large numbers in the outstations. —Times

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## IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS

THE rate of progress was, of course, very slow; from eight to ten miles a day was a good average, though at night the bulls might do seventeen. But of all means of travel there can be none which offers to a man blessed with the heaven-sent gift of curiosity, a better opportunity to become acquainted with the manners and customs of the villagers.

H. Parker, whose book, "Ancient Ceylon", is a treasury of facts relating to the old-time life of the Island, is said to have obtained much of its information through his pleasant habit of picking up some old greybeard whom he saw trudging along the road; and, as they jogged onward together in the cart, drawing from him by skilful question some scrap of ancient lore, which, even at that date, lived on only in the old peoples' memories. Nor would it have been very difficult to obtain; for the villager of the wilds is always possessed of the courtesy of perfect good-breeding, and was ever on the friendliest terms with the officials who occasionally invaded his solitudes.

\* \* \*

ALSO in no part of Ceylon were the ancient customs more carefully preserved than in the wilds of the North Central Province; indeed racial purity and tradition were guarded with such zeal that, did any girl forget them sufficiently to take as her partner a man of another caste, say a Low-country cattle-dealer who came up to fetch some of the herds growing fat on the pastures round Minneriya, not only she but her whole family would bear the punishment for her disgrace.

The Lakama, who was head of the village, would first shame them by forbidding the local dhoby to wash for them, and they would be outcast from all village festivities and ceremonies until a fine had been paid of twenty to forty pieces of silver, given to the village in recompense for the lost honour of one of its daughters; after which, the man who had offended might, if he so wished, be adopted into the community.

But still the law of caste was very rigid; and a Low-country man, whatever his wealth, would not be

offered a mat to sit on when he entered a house, and, if he wished to drink, he had to gather a leaf or cup his hand for his host to pour water into them. His touch must defile no drinking vessel belonging to the family.

Round every village, carefully kept clear by the united efforts of the community, working under the orders of the Gansabawa, stretched the "Tissbamba". The name means literally "forty fathoms", and is given to the space of that depth, cleared from the jungle, which stretched from the houses to the barrier fence beyond which lay the trees. The idea was, of course, to protect the houses and their owners from stealthy attacks by the jungle beasts; but even the Tissbamba was not always effective, as a certain Irrigation official found when he was awakened one moonlit night by the barking of all the village dogs, and looked out to see the entire pack of pariahs causing considerable annoyance to an elephant. He had crossed the "Tissbamba", hoping to sample the contents of the village gardens, but he so much disliked his welcome, that he was soon in retreat, with dozens of curs yapping at his ponderous heels.

\* \* \*

THE routine followed in the official visit did not vary very much. At dawn breakfast would be served; then, taking a cold curry with him, the Master would probably ride out to his work, be it to inspect a bund, to see that no Government satinwood was being surreptitiously felled, or to study the half-obliterated inscription on the sluice of some ruined tank. Meantime the cart would be packed and would set out on its slow way to the next village, where the headman, having received notice of the visit, would have made arrangements to lodge the official either in his own house or possibly in the Gansabawa court house.

In a rather earlier day, he would also have arranged that the place so honoured should be decorated with the white cloths of ceremony. And such sticklers for this mark of respect were some of the oldest generation, that there is an account that away back in the seventies,

Sir John Dickson walked out in annoyance from some village hut, where the cloths having been carelessly arranged, one wooden beam had been left visible. By the eighties, this custom had fallen into disuse, except on the occasion of some visit of special ceremony made by a Government Agent; but the house chosen for any official's stay would be specially cleaned, and he would receive a sincere welcome. For the ancient virtue of hospitality still flourished; and to such an extent were the person and goods of a guest regarded as sacred that one Irrigation officer, returning to a village which he had left several months previously, was solemnly presented with the thin remains of a cake of soap which he had left behind, but which had been carefully kept by the Vidhane, lest its disappearance should bring on the villagers the terrible stigma of dishonesty as regarded the possessions of a guest.

\* \* \*

ALL help would therefore be given to the carter, who, on arrival, would unharness his bulls, and to the boy, who would get busy preparing bath and dinner against the time when his master rode in late in the afternoon. And after a bath, a change and a good meal, a hard-working man was usually ready to appreciate the comfort of a long chair placed outside, while the light of afterglow or rising moon showed above the tree tops that shut in the little clearing in the wilderness, and the elders of the village would come on the invitation of their guest to squat around and entertain him with the gossip of the tiny place, with tales of encounter with bear or elephant, or with queer, half-forgotten legends that had been handed down to them by their fathers, who, in the same place, had lived much the same sort of life as that which still went quietly on under the green shadows of the jungle.

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# THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ANZAC DAY

By DELORAINE FERDINAND

(Fortnightly Review Special)

IN the early dawn of April the twenty-fifth a small assemblage gathers each year at the foot of the Cenotaph in Victoria Park. For the most part they comprise nationals of Australia and New Zealand residing in the Island, a few senior Service personnel and a sprinkling of the general public. Here all join in a ceremony, simple and brief, yet one which bears all the solemnity and significance of any great national event in history.

Few in Ceylon are aware of any importance in the day—April the 25th. But to Australians and New Zealanders this anniversary is observed as Anzac Day and is one which these countries recall with proud sorrow—a day of memory and commemoration. It was on this day, in the year 1915 that forces of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (from its initial letters known as the “Anzac Corps”) landed under heavy enemy fire on the peninsula of Gallipoli, in Turkey. It was an occasion when for the first time these two young nations united to share a mutual responsibility in world affairs. Although far distant from the theatre of war in Europe, these Southern countries had sent some thousands of their men halfway round the world to take their places with other forces opposed to Germany and her allies.

\* \* \*

BRITAIN, with the Commonwealth to back her up, went to war in August, 1914. With barely one year of fighting behind them, the War Office in London planned a major operation—“to bombard and take the Gallipoli Peninsula with Constantinople as its objective.” If this pocket of resistance commanded by the Turks was to be reduced by the operation, the War Office believed it could be a means by which the war would be shortened.

Anzac troops at the time were training intensely in the deserts of North Africa. They, together with a few British and Indian formations, were to comprise the fighting force of this important campaign. A flotilla of ships was to set out at dusk of

April 24th from Lemnos in the Mediterranean. Under cover of the inky blackness of the night the ships were to make for the toe of the Dardanelles. When within sight of the conspicuous rocky headland they were to disgorge their human cargoes on to smaller barges and little rowing boats.

\* \* \*

SO arrived that memorable Sunday morning of April 25th, 1915. In the silent crowded boats the tension was extreme. A little past 4 a.m. the first dinghy with Anzac troops grated on the shingle of Turkish shore—and almost instantly a shot rang out from the headland above. Then there broke out a constant fire which mounted and grew to a continuous rattle of death.

For eight months this theatre of war was to the fighting men of the Anzac Corps and their allies an inferno of bursting shells, of falling men, of blood and sweat and tears as historical records have described and highlighted. With little or no water, under a tropical sun, racked by fevers and other privations, and always under the constant observation and fire of the Turks, the Anzac forces held on to the peninsula. There were never enough troops available to defeat the Turks. At last came the Balkan winter, more trying even than the Balkan summer. Life became intolerable in the trenches and a general retreat was ordered. The Gallipoli adventure seemed to have accomplished nothing, except in leaving to the world an example of unequalled heroism. With proud sorrow Australia and New Zealand commemorate this historic event. From the year 1920, the day of that first landing has been observed as “Anzac Day.”

\* \* \*

LITTLE more than a generation later, however, the world was cast into a further catastrophe. Once more the Anzac troops made common cause—and then, yet again in the year 1950, in the struggle in Korea, these troops stood side by side.

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So it is that as the years have passed, Anzac Day has broadened out in its connotation. No longer is its commemoration bound to the narrow confines of a particular event or battle in history. Though the day of April the 25th is still set apart as a national anniversary, it has no special bearing to the landing at Gallipoli in 1915. For Anzac perpetuates the associates of all forces in the wars of this century. To those who marched in battle fields all over the globe and returned to their native land in peace, and to the many who died and whose remains lie scattered in distant places—Anzac Day is tribute. It is a day kept apart, where a nation honours its fighting men.

\* \* \*

IN every Australian state and in New Zealand, April 25th is observed as a solemn holiday. Dawn Services are held in memory of that time and moment on April 25th, 1915, when the forces of Australia and New Zealand joined together and first received their “baptism of fire.” But at this dawn ceremony veterans of all World Wars and campaigns kneel side by side remembering his own battles and lost comrades.

Later in the day a larger and grander celebration takes place in all cities and towns in every Australian state. “Old and young, some in uniform and some in civilian clothes—all who took part in any campaign since that day in 1915, join in a march past and parade.” These veterans form up in their original fighting units, to march in columns through streets lined by cheering crowds. Somewhere in the parade will be the blind and disabled veterans, ex-service women who also went to the scenes of fighting. All these who today share in the Anzac celebrations could not have been born when the original landing at Gallipoli took place—yet they are proud of all that went before and their rich heritage. Together the veterans finally assemble for another service of remembrance at their city’s war memorial where they are joined by massed bands and a large concourse of citizens.

\* \* \*

THOUGH during the last War there were fairly large concentrations of Anzac troops in Ceylon, the fact that the War Memorial which used to be on Galle Face Green was removed as a precaution of the

(Continued on page 35)

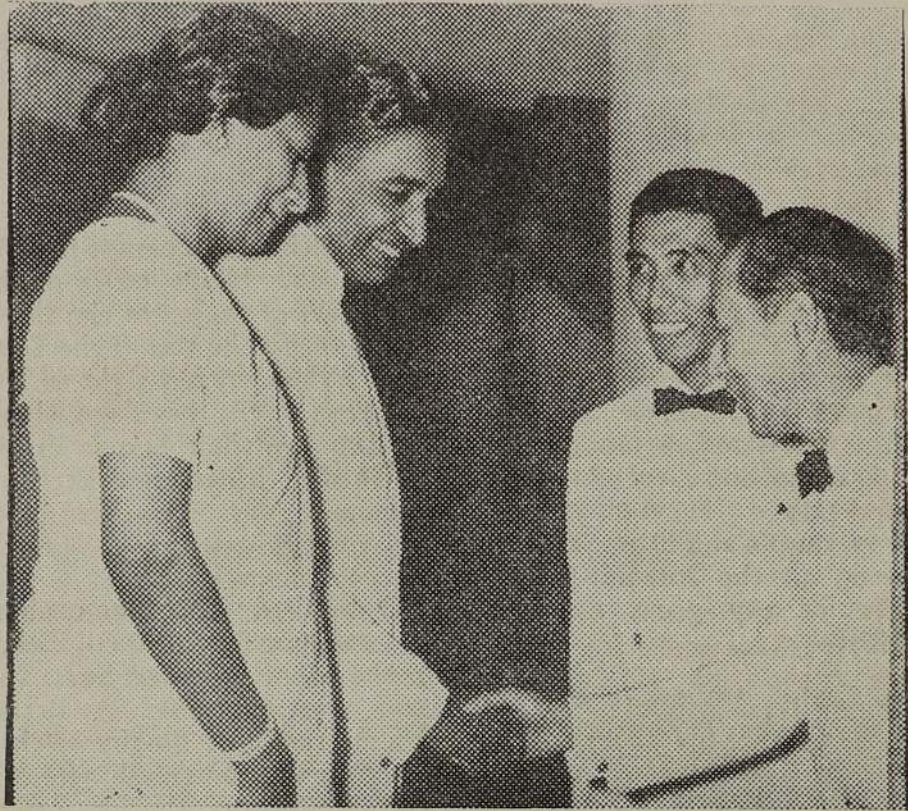
## PEOPLE

ALTHOUGH it is many years since he left the Island, Sir Thomas Villiers evidently follows events in Ceylon with no little interest. In a recent letter to us graciously acknowledging a reference to him in this journal, he comments: "It seems to me unfortunate that the present Finance Minister is so keen on reducing the standard of living. How his father would have chortled with joy at his present proposals for taxation!" The allusion is to Mr. Francis de Zoysa, K.C., who was a contemporary of Sir Thomas in the political sphere and a severe critic of the government of the day.

The article on the Ceylon railways we reproduced has also stirred Sir Thomas's memory. Referring to the picture of Sensation Rock that illustrated it, he writes: "Does the writer remember the days when the track used to go outside the rock, to the left of the present track? On one occasion when there had been a slip on the railway, we were conveyed by trolley round that bend, and one realised then why it was called Sensation Rock, for there is no doubt that it vibrated. The re-cutting of the original track came only just in time." Sir Thomas seems to think the author of the article is a railway official, possibly confusing the name with that of Mr. J. E. S. Bodger. Mr. J. D. Borger is a Ceylonese journalist. The Railway has not a single European on the staff now.

\* \* \*

SIR Thomas also recalls plans for the development of the railway in his time. Sir Robert Chalmers,



—Times  
The acting Inspector-General of Police, Mr. M. W. F. Abeykoon, and Mrs. Abeykoon at a party given by the Ambassador for Japan in Ceylon, Mr Akira Matsui, and Mrs. Matsui on 29th April, on the occasion of the birthday of the Emperor of Japan.

who was Governor forty-five years ago, had a scheme, he says, for continuing the Galle Railway through Batticaloa to Trincomalee, "which would have enabled some fine stretches of country to be opened up and developed." He does not say why it was dropped; probably the first world war was one of the reasons.

An interesting disclosure made by Sir Thomas is a suggestion that villagers in the North-Western province and in certain other areas should be able to take their minor produce to the station, where the

station master would pay them an agreed price and send the produce to Colombo to be sorted and sold. "Unfortunately," he writes, "the railway authorities turned the proposal down because they felt that there would be complaints of fraud against their staff, which is probably exactly what would have happened. So easy to complain of short weight and prices lower than the amount sanctioned. On the other hand, it would have given the railway staff at those stations some work to do"! He adds though that a similar scheme was introduced into Nigeria, and was the cause of a great increase in the wealth of the country.

In a passing reference to Mr. G. P. Greene, perhaps the most famous General Manager of the Railway, Sir Thomas relates a story current at the time of his appointment "that two Greenses had applied and they had got mixed up so that the wrong Greene happened to be appointed and not the Greene selected by the Committee!" He asserts though that G. P. Greene, whom he describes as a charming person, did his job well.

\* \* \*

LADY Evelyn de Soysa, wife of Sir Wilfred de Soysa and a prominent social and religious worker, has been appointed to the

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## PEOPLE

Senate to fill the vacancy created by the recent death of Senator D. J. Senaratne. Lady de Soysa has been in the forefront of the activities of the Lanka Mahila Samiti and is President of the Colombo Y.W.C.A. She has won the Gold Medal for the best social service worker awarded in memory of the late Mrs. Alice Kotelawala, mother of Sir John Kotelawala, former Prime Minister.

Lady de Soysa was also President of the Ceylon Women's Association in the United Kingdom and was a Vice-President of the Associated Countrywomen of the World.

\* \* \*

MR. B. W. J. Anthony and Mr. D. G. P. Ranasinghe of the Automobile Association of Ceylon and Mr. C. E. Jayawardene of the Ceylon Motor Sports Club will be the Ceylon representatives among those of six million motorists from all parts of the Commonwealth who will meet in London from June 7 to 13 to consider the formation of a Federation of Commonwealth Motoring Associations and Clubs which will ensure reciprocal motoring services throughout the Commonwealth.

Topics for discussion include trends in international touring, road safety, technical and engineering services, development of traffic engineering in Commonwealth countries and the role of motoring organisations in national road development plans. Delegates will also discuss ways and means of assisting the expansion of small motoring organisations in the Commonwealth and how to create such bodies in territories where none exists.

\* \* \*

A POPULAR and familiar figure in the Fort, and more particularly in Port and Shipping circles, will soon be missed when Dr. Eric Schokman, Jr., who has been with Drs. Schokman and Foenander for some years, leaves the Island with his wife and three little children to take up an assignment in Worcester, Massachusetts, U.S.A. He will also be missed in golfing circles, being a member of both the Royal Colombo and Havelock Golf Clubs. When he first took to golf after having performed with much success at Cricket, Lawn Tennis and Hockey, Dr. Schokman made rapid strides, and found a regular place in the first team of the H.G.C. He also more than justified his entry on the occasions he competed for the Ceylon Amateur Championship.

As a member of St. Peter's cricket team in his younger days he shone as a batsman of the dashing type and was a prolific run-getter. He played occasionally for the B.R.C. and Colts after his school days but did not take to the game seriously. He certainly had the makings of a class batsman. He also met with considerable success at lawn tennis and carried all before him at one of the annual Easter meets at Bandarawela several years ago. He was also a more than useful hockey back.

Dr. and Mrs. Schokman will be leaving for America next week carrying with them the good wishes of their large circles of friends for their future welfare.

\* \* \*

MR. T. K. Anderson, who was with the Colombo Commercial Co., Ltd., for over a quarter of a century and retired some years ago, is now living in Pitfodels, Cults, Aberdeenshire, where he must have unlimited opportunities of indulging in his

favourite pastime of golf. In his early years he gave promise of turning out a capable exponent of the Royal and Ancient Game and during the period he was at Edinburgh University he gained much prominence and developed into a first-class player. He arrived in the Island in the late nineteen-twenties to take up work as an Assistant in the Agricultural Analyst's Department and in later years succeeded to the post of Agricultural Analyst of the Company.

At a time when Ceylon counted a number of golfers of class, Anderson quickly forged his way to win the Amateur Golf Championship of Ceylon on the Ridgeway Course, in 1930, defeating G. Findlay by the wide margin of 9 up and 8. The following year he was runner-up to W. S. Burnett, but regained the title at Nuwara Eliya, where he had his revenge on Burnett, whom he defeated after a gruelling match by 2 up and 1.

(Continued on page 35)



'Meet me at the Club'

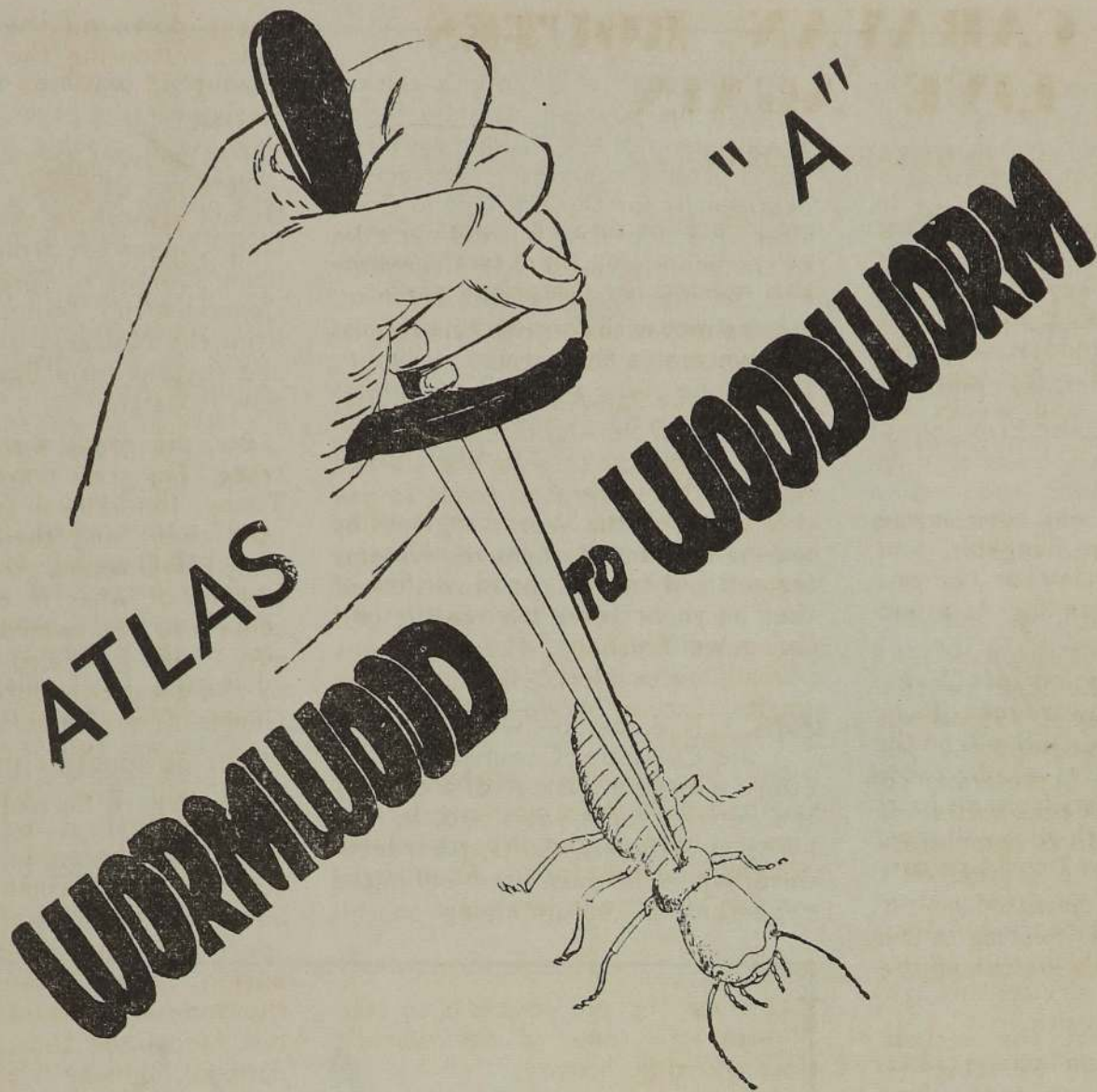
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# THE CARAVAN ROUTES LIVE AGAIN

— By ELISABETH ORTIZ —

ASIA'S ancient caravan routes that once linked the vast continent from Iraq and Turkey through to Thailand and Cambodia, are to come to life again as a modern highway network, taking days for journeys that meant weeks, and weeks for journeys that once took weary, dangerous months.

This bold project was born at the end of the year in Bangkok, and fathered by the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East.

More precisely, the idea for this highway project came in 1955 when the Highway Sub-committee of ECAFE asked the Secretariat to make a study of the possibilities of developing highway links over international borders. The Secretariat's working paper was discussed at last November's Bangkok meeting of the Sub-committee, which welcomed the paper.

It was agreed that the earliest possible action should be taken to link by road all the countries between Vietnam and Iran. It was decided that the best way to tackle this was by dividing the enormous area into three zones, each with an expert working group, scheduled to meet in 1960 when practical plans can be submitted, and work can proceed.

\* \* \*

THE first working group will meet in Bangkok. Its area covers the road network of Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Malaya and Burma. The second group will meet in Delhi. Its area will cover Burma's western connections, East Pakistan, India, Ceylon, Nepal and connections to West Pakistan. The third group will meet in Lahore and cover West Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran.

It will be the job of these working groups to decide exact routes to be followed and standards to be adopted, to figure out priorities for the construction of new roads and the rehabilitation of old ones, and deal with any other problems coming up.

Because Asia still has this network of ancient roads, some of them in use further back than 100 B.C., the first priority will be given to linking up the existing systems, which

are in fact the caravan routes of antiquity, and raising them to the standards needed for motorized traffic.

It is this that makes the Asian Highway project so fascinating.

When the Pan-American Highway, which runs from Alaska to Argentina, almost from pole to pole, was started in 1931, there were no roads to use as a basis for the work. Mountains had to be hacked through, swamps drained and forests cut down. And after all these years the road is still not quite finished. There remains a small, uncompleted stretch in the jungles that lie between Costa Rica and Panama.

The Pan-American Highway will have taken 30 years or more by the time it is finished, but experts believe that the vital links for the Asian Highway can be made in five years.

\* \* \*

TO trace the old routes is to step back into some of the world's most exciting history.

Marco Polo came this way, but he was a late comer for all that he journeyed back in the 13th century.

When Salmanasar I was King of Assyria, from 1280 to 1265 B.C., there were already lengthy trade routes, since nobles at his court wore ornaments with the lapis lazuli of Afghanistan.

By 1000 B.C., the caravan routes were well established and by 200 A.D. were linking the Roman Empire and China for the import of silks and jade and other exotic goods. The famous Silks Road ran from Chungking through Burma and North India on to Delhi, then to Teheran and Baghdad, or branched north to Samarkand, then west across the Caspian Sea and through Tiflis to the Black Sea, despite the enormous hazards of travel.

Not only were the distances vast, but there were huge dusty plains to cross and deserts where death was always at the elbow of the traders. There were turbulent rivers to be forced and mountain ranges to be crossed, some so high that even the passes were at altitudes dangerous to man. And in addition to these natural hazards, there was the hazard of other men. Robber bands would

sweep down on the unwieldy caravans, murdering the travellers and making off with the rich cargo they carried.

The caravans carried an extremely wide range of goods. There was tin from Cornwall in the south of England, copper ore from Spain, timber from Northern Europe, iron from Central Africa, Iran and India, spices from the Moluccas, silks from China and cottons from Egypt and what is now Pakistan.

But the roads were not only for trade. The great travellers like Hien Tsiang, Ibn-i-Hakal and Marco Polo used them, and their writings, the early travel books, give us an intimate picture of what it meant to make these long and hazardous land journeys. They were also the routes used by the great conquerors, Alexander, Gengis Khan, Tamerlane.

It is obvious that the highway network will give a big impetus to inter-regional as well as overseas trade, and to trade between the contiguous continents of Europe and Asia by the faster, cheaper transport of goods and their wider distribution. It will mean a great deal to the land-locked countries of Afghanistan, Nepal and Laos, since an international highway is a means of their gaining indirect access to the sea.

For the international highway to work efficiently it will be necessary to simplify Customs formalities and border procedures since goods could be passing through five countries before reaching their destination.

\* \* \*

THE world's petroleum companies should look on the project with great interest since this development must inevitably lead to increased consumption of motor fuels in Asia. Chains of service stations will have to be built, and some sort of modern equivalent of the old serais, the inns on the caravan routes.

Samlors, bullock carts, rickshaws and camel carts will either have to take to alternate routes or disappear as a form of transport. They will not be able to co-exist with high-speed truck traffic. This may make roads of Asia less picturesque, but it will make them safer and more efficient.

A new tourism could spring up as people who have streaked across Asia by jet plane decide they want to know more about the territory they have flown over without seeing.

(Continued on page 36)

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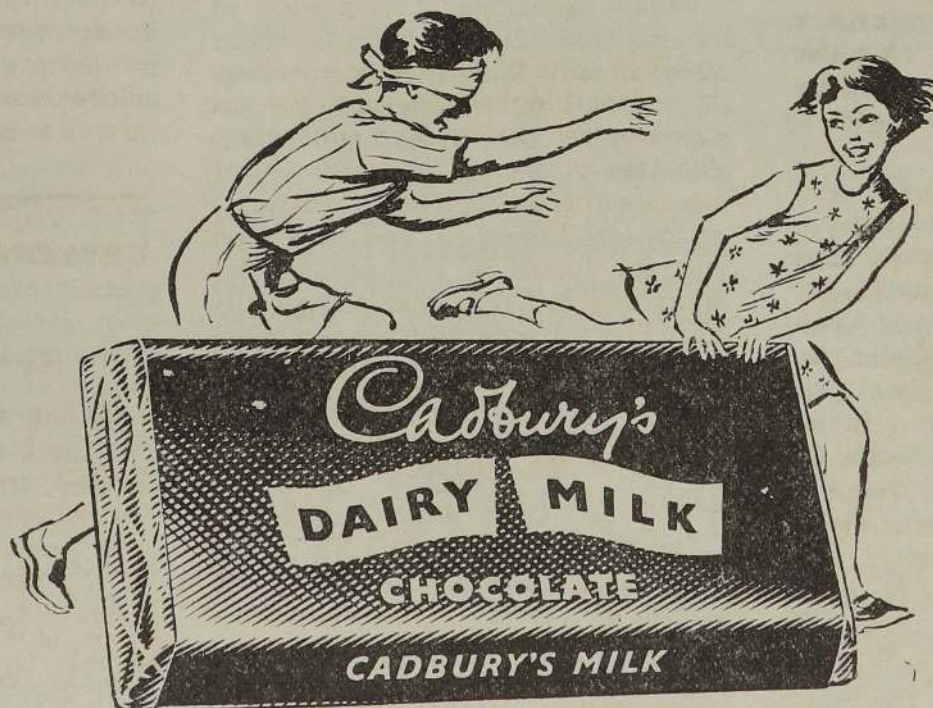
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# MUSIC

## PUCCINI

—By PETER HEYWORTH—

(*Music Critic for the London Observer*)

THE number of outstanding musical biographies remains surprisingly few. But Mosco Carner's new study of Puccini certainly earns a place in this select band, for it not only provides a full account of Puccini's life, but also a singularly penetrating examination both of his complicated personality and his art.

A full-scale consideration of Puccini was overdue. For rather more than half a century his operas have held a unique and as yet undiminished fascination for the large public. On the other hand, critical opinion has for the most part remained aloof from this music, as though its very success made it somehow indecent and unworthy of serious study. But the fact remains that Puccini provided at least five works that are to be found in the repertory of almost all opera houses, and that is something that can only be said of Mozart, Verdi, Wagner and perhaps of Gluck and Strauss.

\* \* \*

YET as soon as one mentions Puccini in the same breath as these great figures, his position among them appears equivocal. Dr. Carner puts the crucial question very clearly:

"Here was an operatic composer endowed with a sense of the theatre that may rightly claim the epithet "stupendous", equipped with a technical *savoir faire* that with growing maturity attained sovereign mastery; born with a most original gift for lyrical melody that . . . made his finest inspirations common musical property; dominating the opera houses of the world with five of the twelve works he wrote and thus qualifying for inclusion in the company of Mozart, Wagner, Verdi and Strauss. Puccini, it would appear, possessed all the prerequisites for a supreme musical dramatist—why was it not given to him to achieve this stature?"

\* \* \*

DR. Carner's answer to this question is clear. Puccini never attains real greatness because

"compared with the microcosm created by the greatest musical dramatists, his orbit is limited—limited in subject-matter, range of characters and musical depth . . . He possessed burning intensity but no profundity and no spirituality."

That, it seems to me, is a sound and balanced judgment of Puccini's stature. But what makes Dr. Carner's study of exceptional interest, is that this assessment is only his point of departure for an examination of why Puccini's musical range falls so far short of his prodigious abilities. This quest leads Dr. Carner into Freudian territory, and his conclusion, put baldly, is that Puccini suffered from an unresolved mother complex.

In England, at any rate, the introduction into biography of Freudian analysis is generally greeted with a chorus of sceptical groans; and not, I must confess, quite without reason, for if these complexes have their roots so deep in the unconscious that it is often difficult for a psychiatrist to unearth them with the patient before him on a couch, then by what right can a layman write with confidence of the complexes of a character long dead, whom he never even met? Certainly manipulation of Freudian terminology has in recent years provided the basis for a great deal of specious psychological speculation.

\* \* \*

BUT in spite of this there is, I think, something to be said for the cautious use of Freudian concepts in the case of a creative artist, if only because the act of artistic creation is so closely linked to, and dependent on, the forces of the unconscious. What makes Dr. Carner's suggestion that Puccini suffered from a mother-fixation so convincing is that the evidence in its favour is not dependent on knowledge of intimate details of the composer's childhood (about which Dr. Carner, like most biographers, knows relatively little), but on the operas themselves.

Put very briefly, his argument is this: a man with a mother fixation is liable to guilt feelings in his love relationships, as these carry an unconscious association with incest. Throughout Puccini's operas there runs like an *idée fixe* the association of love with death (and hence with punishment). Dr. Carner argues that the ubiquity of this theme suggests a compulsive choice, that this compulsion stems from an

association of love with guilt, and thus with punishment and death. From this association also stems the fact that Puccini's heroines are all in some way or other "unworthy" or of dubious virtue, and thus "deserve" punishment.

\* \* \*

NO doubt at this point someone will raise the question of Turandot. How, they will ask, can a character like the frigid princess be put into the same category as Puccini's amorous innocents like Mimi and Butterfly? Yet it is precisely here that Dr. Carner produces his trump card. He claims that Turandot represents the mother-image itself and suggests that Puccini's last opera was a heroic attempt to bring his unconscious fixation into the open. Nothing provides more eloquent evidence in favour of this than the curious fact that, though he struggled for almost two years with the crucial love duet in the third act, Puccini never finished it, and what we have of it today is curiously uncertain and hesitant in effect.

Dr. Carner's biography is, of course, much more than a Freudian tract, and I have singled out this aspect of his study only because it seems to me original, well-substantiated and of peculiar interest. But the book as a whole is informed by an impressive breadth of learning, soundness of judgment and a shrewdness of insight that is musical as well as psychological.

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## CEYLON CELLIST'S DEBUT

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(Continued from page 13)

Rohan de Saram has been soloist for the National Youth Orchestra in Britain and has appeared twice for Sir Robert Mayer's youth concerts and twice for Ernest Read's concerts at the Royal Albert Hall. After his performance in 1956 the magazine, "Music," said: "I have left to the last the Haydn cello concerto because during its performance one forgot that this was a youth organisation and felt one was listening to really superb solo cello playing. Rohan de Saram, a 16-year-old boy, played with wonderful tone, firm and strong. His timing was admirable and his musicianship remarkable. It was a masterly achievement."

## A SPORTS CAUSERIE

By "ITINERANT"

### New Rugby Star

THE C. H. & F. C. swamped K.V. by 46 points to 3 at the Colombo Racecourse in a terribly one-sided game when the Clifford Cup rugby season got under way on April 25th.

Although the opposition was poor, one man stood out as one of the finest inside three-quarters we have seen in Ceylon for a long time. This was R. Peglar reputed to have played in good company in England, who impressed with some hard, straight running and fine body swerve.

He outshone Spark, C.H.'s best three-quarter last season, and inspired Harrison on the wing to give his best display in tournament rugby. The pity of it is that he may not be in Ceylon for long.

The strength of the C.H. back division may be gauged from the fact that representative player Trevor Gordon had to be dropped.

As for the match itself, C.H. scored almost as they pleased in the second-half as the valiant K.V. defence wore itself out. Sawdy, in the pack, Leefe at scrum half, Tait (stand off) who scored one nice try and, of course, Peglar, stood out as the C.H. & F.C.'s best players, while veteran Claire Roeloffsz at full back with some good kicks to touch under pressure, Trewin, the Captain, who fought hard in the pack, and Summers, who put over a penalty from near the half-way line, stood out for K.V.

\* \* \*

### C.R. & F.C.

C.R. & F.C., the champions, beat Kandy by 17 points to 3 at Nittawela, but Kandy virtually played only 14 men as M. Ratwatte, at back, was a passenger after sustaining an injury in the first five minutes, and Ceylon hooker, F. Kreltszheim, was not playing.

Almeida, back in the C.R. after playing for Uva last season, scored one brilliant try; Paiva, Cader and Norman Gunawardena as usual stood out, but C.R. are going to miss place-kicker Anghie this year. They lost 14 points in penalties and two conversions.

Anghie, however, playing for Havelocks against Dimbula at Radella, seemed to have an off-day missing

over half a dozen penalties though none of them was easy.

Havelocks, who led 6-3 at half-time, were beaten 13-6 when they allowed Carder and Bean to score snap tries in the second-half.

Havelocks were without Sumanasekera and Alan Henricus who may be compelled to play for their respective Services in the Affiliated Club's competition.

Uva beat Dickoya by 19 points to 6 at Badulla, but Dickoya, who we are having difficulty in raising a team, made Uva fight all the way. McRae, Wijetunga, Odayar and H. Ratwatte



—Times

R. Peglar

Colombo's new Rugby Star

played well for Dickoya while the Moneypenny brothers, Boyd Moss, Garnier and G. Wright were the pick of the Uva side.

\* \* \*

### A close win

THE second week of tournament rugby saw the C. H. and F. C. scrape through by 5 points to nil against Uva at Badulla. But had Uva turned two penalties to account the result might well have been different.

Handicapped by a slippery ball the C.H. threes failed to click and Peglar was a disappointment. But the halves combination of Leefe and Tait did some good work and it was through these two that the C.H. scored their winning points.

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Tait touched down off a pass from Leefe and Leefe made no mistake with the conversion.

Uva fought hard, particularly their pack, with hooker Boyd-Moss, Scobie and Vitarne prominent. The halves combination of Garnier and G. Wright also played well.

At Radella, Dimbula won fairly easily by 19 points to 3 against Dickoya after leading by 6 points to 3 at half time.

Larry Schokman, on the wing, scored two unconverted tries for Dimbula in the first half and David Wright went over for Dickoya, this try, too, being unconverted.

Dimbula asserted themselves in the second half, but it was only late in the game that they increased their lead. First Bousfield put over a penalty, then Mike Thacker and T. B. Pilapitiya scored tries which Bousfield converted.

K.V. held Kandy to a 3-nil lead up to half-time at Taldua, but wilted in the second half when Kandy's clever back division got going.

First D. Madugalle sold the dummy and scored an unconverted try; then M. Panditharatne went over for de Hoedt to convert; Somasunderam then scored his second try and finally Vernon Gopal also went over, both tries being unconverted.

The tussle for supremacy in the Up-Country section of the Clifford Cup promises to be fairly close as Uva, Kandy and Dimbula are very evenly matched.

\* \* \*

### Motor Sports

AN unfortunate occurrence marred the circuit race meet held by the Ceylon Motor Sports Club at Katukurunda.

Chandra Madanayake's Fiat 1100 was impounded by the stewards after he had won two events for stock cars following an objection lodged by three other competitors.

The club committee later announced disqualification of the car on the ground that it was non-standard.

The meet itself was a dull one, old favourites like Rally Dean and Ignatius taking the honours in the motor cycle events and K. Rustomjee and G. C. Johnston in the events for racing car. Newcomers of note were C. Redlich on a Tiger Triumph and J. Rutnam (Norton 88), who both clocked the fastest lap for motor cycles.

## A SPORTS CAUSERIE

## BURDETT TROPHY GOLF

THE annual contest for the Burdett Trophy played on the Nuwara Eliya Course last week—the 47th between Royal Colombo and Nuwara Eliya—proved most interesting, the visitors winning by seven matches to five. A sensation was created in the afternoon's play when "Pin" Fernando, the Ceylon Champion, was beaten by young Edward de Dombal after a gruelling match by 2 up and 1. It was a remarkable achievement for this youngster, still in his teens, to vanquish so redoubtable an opponent as Fernando, but de Dombal has been coming on a lot since his last appearance in the Ceylon Championship at Nuwara Eliya, when he gave promise of developing into a finished golfer capable of winning the Ceylon title in the not too distant future.

De Dombal was by no means overawed in meeting Fernando as he clearly showed in the early stages of the match. He played with his accustomed steadiness.

At the 7th de Dombal's 2nd fell into the bunker on the right. He exploded the ball, hit the pocket and stayed out. He won the hole, however.

Turning for home, de Dombal was 1 up.

Fernando fought back. He won the 10th and 13th but lost the 14th and halved the 15th and the game stood all square.

De Dombal then played grand golf, and won the next two holes, winning the 17th in a birdie to win the match 2 and 1.

\* \* \*

THE match between Scott and Moss (R.C.G.C.) was a ding dong battle all the way. Moss clinched the issue on the 18th.

F. J. de Saram and N. D. G. Greene of the R.C.G.C. won their matches very easily against P. N. Bartholomeusz and P. S. Gray respectively.

R. L. Ilankoon had the measure of his opponent M. J. Robinson. He was dormie, halved the next hole and won 3 and 2.

The next two singles were won by N'Eliya, Moberly beating Weerasinghe and Swain beating Richardson. Both won on the 16th.

IN the morning's play Colombo led three to one in the Foursomes. "Pin" Fernando and Moss had to go all the way to defeat J. B. McLachlan, a former Ceylon champion, and R. I. H. Scott on the last green by 1 up. The other three Foursomes were equally well contested, ending on the 18th green.

De Dombal and P. N. Bartholomeusz beat R. A. G. McMichen and Greene; F. J. de Saram and Robinson beat C. M. G. Moberly and R. L. Ilankoon (N. E.) and R. Weerasinghe and A. Richardson (R. C. G. C.) beat R. C. P. Adams and G. B. Swain, 2 up.



—Times

E. Lorenz Pereira, the Royal College all-rounder, was elected "School Cricketer of the year 1959", in the contest organised by "The Times of Ceylon". He wins the Donovan Andree Challenge Cup.

## C. R. &amp; F. C. Lead at Hockey

THE C.R. and F.C. lead the Andriesz Shield table with 15 points from 8 games and share with the Tamil Union the distinction of being unbeaten so far.

The Tamils beat the star-studded Havelocks team 1-0 at the Oval and would have won by a bigger margin with more finish in the ring. But they displayed good teamwork in contrast to the Havelocks forwards who hung on to the ball.

The Havelocks were also beaten by the C.R. & F.C. and had a good slice of luck in their win over the B. R. C.

Forty-six players have been invited to a coaching camp which will be conducted by the Indian, Gian Singh.

## NEW CAR NEWS

— By J. P. O. —

READERS may be interested to know that, in future, the Standard Motor Company has decided to call all their cars by the trade name "Triumph". In a short while, therefore, the well-known Standard, which has continued almost as long as the motor industry itself, will cease to exist.

*Triumph "Herald"*.—The latest model to be announced by the Standard Motor Company is called, in accordance with our paragraph above, the Triumph "Herald". At long last a British manufacturer has brought out a really up-to-the-minute small car. They have finally taken the plunge and equipped the "Herald" with independent suspension at the rear, as well as at the front. Two body types are offered, one a saloon and the other a fixed top coupe, both two door models. The styling which is extremely attractive is by Michelotti, who is presumably an Italian. It seems the fashion among British manufacturers to invite continental designers to plan their car body styles.

The technically minded will note that there is a return to separate chassis construction in this model, the whole vehicle consisting of seven units in all, which make for easy replacement in case of damage—not always convenient in chassis-cum-body construction. Large windows all round provide excellent visibility (but also lets in too much sun in the tropics). The saloon version is a four seater, while the coupe seats two with a platform at the rear. The latter version is mildly tuned for speed, having twin carburettors, and a compression ratio of 8.5 to 1 which, the makers claim, give it a top speed of 80 miles per hour. Power is supplied, in both cases, by the 948 c.c. overhead valve engine presently fitted to the Standard "10" saloon.

Interesting body details are that the entire front portion of the car hinges at the front and opens up "in toto", providing maximum accessibility to engine, front suspension and brakes. Steering is by rack and pinion with a collapsible steering column as a safety measure in case of accidents. An almost unbelievable turning lock, of a mere 25 feet diameter, will make parking so easy that it will encourage even more people to shop in the Fort!

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## PEOPLE

**POPE** John XXIII has conferred the honour of Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St. Sylvester on Mr. H. A. J. Hulugalle, Ambassador for Ceylon in Italy, who represented Ceylon as special envoy at the coronation of the Pope. The insignia of honour was formally presented to Mr. Hulugalle by Mgr. James R. Knox, Papal Nuncio for India and Ceylon, on April 19, at a party he gave for the occasion at the College Propaganda Fidei in the presence of Ceylon students at the college and others, including the Rector. Mr. Hulugalle, who relinquishes his post shortly, will be succeeded by Sir Arthur Ranasinha, presently Governor of the Central Bank.

\* \* \*

**MR.** A. P. Jayasuriya, Home Minister, leads a parliamentary delegation which is now visiting Britain under the auspices of the U.K. branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

Their programme includes visits to Stratford-on-Avon; Oxford, Edinburgh. They will be shown over Eton College and attend the Royal Horse Show at Windsor. In London, besides meeting Ministers and M.P.'s of all parties, they will see the film "Gigi" and attend a performance of the musical "My Fair Lady" and of the ballet "The Sleeping Beauty" at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

\* \* \*

**MR.** T. Rajadurai, C.C.S., will head the new department already set up to administer the *ad valorem* duties on tea, and his designation will be Commissioner of Tea Exports. He has taken charge of the department as Commissioner-designate, which appointment will become permanent as soon as the legislation has obtained the approval of the Senate and receives the Governor-General's assent.

\* \* \*

**MR.** E. C. S. Paul, Director of Industries and Chairman of the National Textile Corporation, Mr. D. E. V. Dissanayake, Co-Director of the Corporation, Mr. K. V. Iyer, Textile Consultant, Mr. S. S. Raina, Project Engineer, form the Ceylon delegation to Peking to negotiate a Chinese offer of machinery capable of producing ten million yards dress material a year.

The proposed mill is to be set up at Veyangoda and will have 600 automatic looms and 25,000 spindles, and the quality of the material to be produced is expected to equal some of the better grades now imported to Ceylon. The mill is expected to go into production in 1961, when the government will introduce restrictions upon the import of foreign textiles.

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**MR.** Sydney Nathanielsz, formerly of Ceylon, has been appointed to the editorial staff of one of the big Fleet Street Press agencies, Keystone. He is a son of the late Rev. C. E. V. Nathanielsz.

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**MRS.** Lorraine Abeysekera, wife of the First Secretary at the Ceylon High Commission in London, was among Commonwealth artists who gave a charity concert in London on April 22 to raise funds for the overseas committee of the Church of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square. She sang Elizabethan and Spanish songs and an aria by Rossini. Another Ceylon performer was Sugana Dev from Colombo, who played two flute solos.

\* \* \*

**MRS.** Vandersmagt, wife of Col. J. G. Vandersmagt, left for England by B.O.A.C. plane on 30th April, on a short holiday. She will be visiting her daughter, Mrs. John B. Lovis, wife of Dr. Lovis at Headingley, Leeds. Dr. Lovis is a lecturer at Leeds University.

\* \* \*

**MR.** K. Nagenthiran of Messrs. Turquand, Youngs & Co. has been successful in the Final Examination of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries held in December, 1958, and has been awarded the Prize in Accountancy, a prize given for the best performance at the examination.

\* \* \*

**MR.** E. T. Savundranayagam, an engineer with Shell Co., has left to attend a Methods Planning (Specialists) Course at Slough, England. During the course, he will undergo training in the principles and practices of productivity and efficiency management, including a study of the methods of increasing utilisation of manpower, money, materials and machinery. He will also visit factories in the U.K. as a part of his course. This is his second trip abroad on training, his first being in 1957, when he spent a short period with Burmah-Shell in Bombay.

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## ANZAC DAY

(Continued from page 25)

time, probably accounted for the absence of any Anzac celebrations. It was many years afterwards that this memorial tower was reassembled in one corner of Victoria Park. Thus it was only in 1953 that Anzac Day came to be observed in the Island. This was through the initial enthusiasm of the High Commissioner for Australia at the time, Mr. A. R. Cutler, V.C., a veteran of World War II himself, and a fine example of his country's fighting men. A small group of about 100 people attended this "Dawn Service," and the Archdeacon A. J. Kendall Baker officiated on that occasion.

The morning of April 25th this year broke cool and clear. A few stars paled as the grey light of dawn brightened to a blush pink in the Eastern sky. At 5.15 a.m. a small knot of no more than 30 people were gathered at the cenotaph. The service commenced with the singing of that well-known hymn, "O God our Help in Ages Past" after which the Reverend W. E. Beale led the group in prayer. The reading of the Anzac Dedication—a *sine qua non* in the ceremony, followed the laying of the symbolic red poppy wreaths by the present High Commissioner for Australia in Ceylon, a representative for New Zealand, and a member of the Association of the Comrades of the Great War (Ceylon).

\* \* \*

**ALL** around the day was brightening. In the trees above the birds were awakening. Two C.L.I. Buglers sounded the Last Post and when the shrill clear notes of their bugles ceased, all those present paid reverence to the dead in quiet silence. In their hearts they recalled the words of the Anzac Dedication—couched in such simple but beautiful lines:—"At this hour upon this day, Anzac received its baptism of fire and became one of the immortal names in history. We who are gathered here think of the comrades who went out with us to the battlefields of the Great War but did not return. We feel them still near us in the spirit. We wish to be worthy of their great sacrifice. Let us therefore once more dedicate ourselves to the service of the ideals for which they died. As the dawn is even now about to pierce the night so let their memory inspire us to work for the coming of new light into the dark places of the world."

## THE GARAVAN ROUTES

(Continued from page 29)

It has been said that the peoples of ancient Burma knew more about their neighbours the Khmers than modern Burmese know about Cambodia today. Certainly the people of Afghanistan know comparatively little of their neighbours in South-East Asia, probably less than their trading ancestors who wandered across the face of the continent in journeys they measured in years. In this second half of the twentieth century, the age of jet aircraft and man-made planets plunging round the sun, this is a contradiction that should be resolved.

But the inevitable question of money comes up. Because of a shortage of funds and particularly a shortage of foreign exchange, ECAFE's Executive-Secretary has already been asked to explore the possibilities of raising money to meet the expenses of the three working groups, either from U.N. Technical Assistance, or from another aid Agency. In any event, UNTA will supply experts.

\* \* \*

**D**ISCUSSING the various possible methods of financing the project, the Sub-committee took note of a resolution adopted by the World Road Federation at a recent meeting urging UN assistance so that taxes on motorists, vehicles and fuels, as well as road tolls and revenues, should be used exclusively for road construction and maintenance.

All governments earmark some money for road programs, but foreign aid will be needed. There could be an overall Asian planning authority administering a big World Bank loan, or smaller loans could be made by the Bank to underwrite construction in each country. Financing could also come from international organizations like the Colombo Plan, or America's International Co-operation Agency. Whatever method is adopted, it is not likely the project will be dropped through lack of money. It is too obviously both practical and possible.

It is also a project that stirs the imagination. The very names of the towns marked on the routes are romantic. There are Samarkand and Kandahar and the Khyber Pass, names that spell enchantment. It will be a long time before the world finds these ancient routes prosaic, even though the immediate future may see them lined with service stations and bright with gasoline pumps.

—“World Veteran”

## DELFT—ISLAND OF HORSES

(Continued from page 19)

the horses ran wild on the vast Horse Plains on the south-western side of Delft, but Nolan had three sets of stables built, in Delft East, Centre and West. The stud was maintained even after Nolan left but was given up in 1870, owing to mismanagement.

Today, one sees only fragments of bricks and cement, which is all that remains of the Government Stud Stables, but horses and ponies still run about the Horse Plains in a semi-wild state.

\* \* \*

**I**T is said that Nolan reigned over the small outpost of Delft “after the fashion of an old-time Rajah,” and, for a bachelor, maintained an unusually large household. He revelled in feminine company (which bachelor will not, on a lonely island?) and had a pleasure-boat in which, on Sunday evenings, he had himself poled quietly over the still waters, as he whiled away the fleeting hours with the buxom beauties of Delft. And it is of interest that even today, from behind those walls of coral stone in Delft, many pairs of blue eyes look askance at the visitor!

Nolan, an amiable and paternal despot, looked after his subjects well; in times of famine, it is said, he fed the people at his own expense, from great cauldrons at the stables in Delft Centre. But, despite his popularity, there were those who objected to his acting like Sultan Schariar of Arabian Nights fame. These people, headed by the Maniagar, listed all his weaknesses in a Petition which they sent the Governor. The Petition, which was signed by 38 people, charged Nolan with having used his authority, as a government servant, to increase his harem, by refusing process in judicial proceedings unless the desired woman was brought; by inflicting stripes if she was not produced; with causing a girl to hang herself; misappropriating a valuable bond in a case; and oppressing people of all classes.

\* \* \*

**A** COMMISSION of Inquiry acquitted Nolan because the petitioners could not prove their case. Some of the signatories even denied their signatures or said they had signed under compulsion. The ladies (understandably!) did not appear. Nolan now counter-charged the petitioners with conspiracy and six of them, on their own admission of guilt, were committed to the Sup-

reme Court. The Government was sure, however, that his nefarious activities were sapping Nolan's efficiency as Superintendent of Delft, and he left Ceylon in 1824, taking his pension as a lump sum but leaving behind blue eyes as a legacy!

On the road that leads westward from the Delft pier stands an old fortress, which has two storeys, one underground. The fortress stands on a sand-bank close to the sea, and opinion is divided as to whether it was built by the Tamils, the Portuguese or the Dutch.

\* \* \*

**B**Y the side of the fort are four large wells, around which collect a number of buxom village beauties at several fixed hours of the day, not only to draw fresh water but also to participate in idle gossip. The water from most of the wells in the Delft is salty, and the tea or coffee that one tastes in many a home is consequently rather insipid. Fresh water reservoirs have been constructed by the Government in parts of the island. In ancient times, there was a great scarcity of water in Delft, and the Dutch had about four hundred wells dug through a body of solid rock at the south side, to obtain a good supply.

Delft is quiet and unassuming and is the ideal place if one wishes to get “away from the madding crowd”. It is difficult to think of Delft without thinking of friendly people, grassy plains where semi-wild ponies linger lazily from morn till dusk, ruined horse-stables and fortresses, fresh-water wells encircled by bathing beauties and gossiping groups, loosely-built stone walls—and blue-eyed women!

## THE PASSING SCENE

(Continued from page 17)

Second was the problem of food. Most of these countries were consumers of rice and very few were surplus rice-producing countries. Self-sufficiency in rice was a necessity even though it was an uneconomic proposition. The third was the problem of freight. The countries in the region were totally dependent on the shipping combines elsewhere for freight. Fourth, countries in this region were only at the start of industrialisation, a legacy of colonial governments. Industrial planning on a regional level was very necessary if they were not to industrialise uneconomically by competing with the west.



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