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Vol. XII

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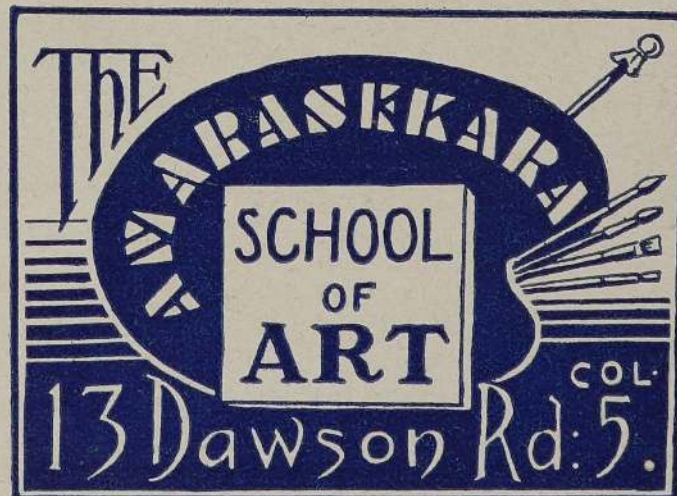
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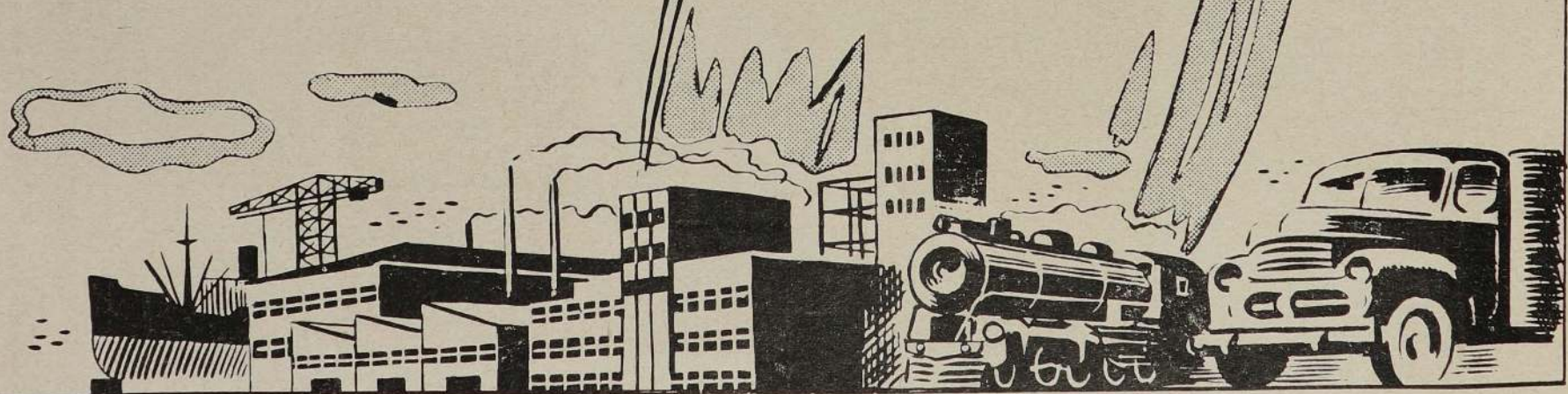
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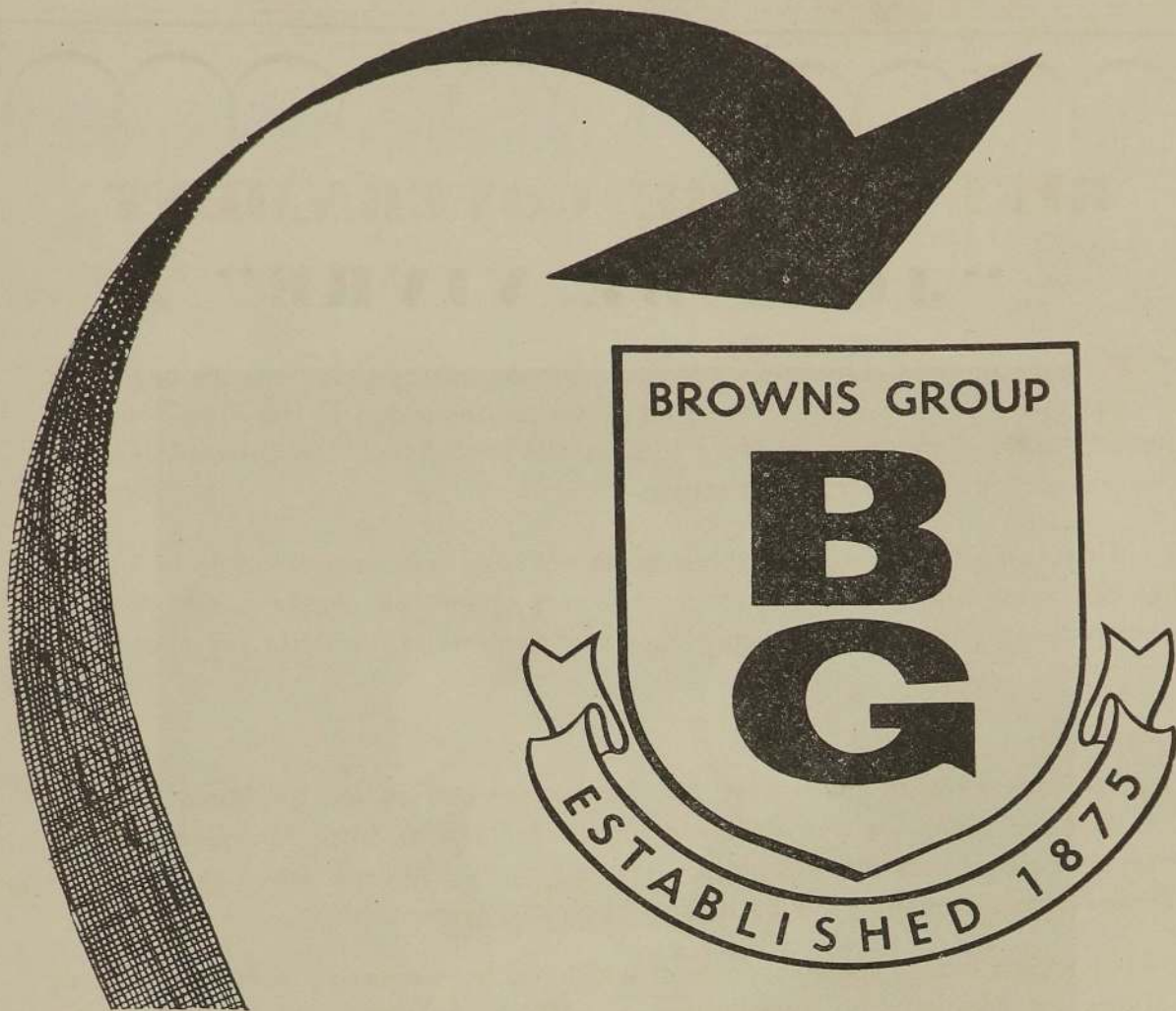
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RIFT IN THE GOVERNMENT

THE revolt in the Cabinet, which had a Gilbertian quality about it at the beginning, has taken a grave turn. The rebel ministers demanded of the Prime Minister that he get rid of the Minister of Agriculture and Food, Mr. Philip Gunewardena, or they would not attend Cabinet meetings.

They complained that he dubbed some of them reactionaries while he himself was out, what with his cultivation committees under the Paddy Lands Act and multi-purpose co-operatives, to promote communism. They described themselves as socialists.

* * * *

WHAT the rebels in effect asked Mr. Bandaranaike to do was to choose between him and them. It was obviously difficult for him to drop Mr. Gunewardena since his Paddy Lands Bill was already law and he had himself taken over the Co-operative Development Bank Bill prepared by Mr. Gunewardena.

His answer was to apply the formula which had been effective before in reducing tensions—of adding to his own burden, as with the administration of the language laws and the Co-operative Bank Bill. He made a reallocation of ministers' subjects under which he assumed charge of food, co-operation and marketing, for which Mr. Gunewardena had been responsible. Another transfer was of fisheries from Mr. William de Silva, the other VLSSP minister in the Cabinet, to Mr. Gunewardena. The move appeased the rebels.

* * * *

BOTH Mr. Gunewardena and Mr. de Silva objected to the changes in their ministries and informed the Prime Minister that unless the decisions were rescinded they could not remain in the Cabinet. Mr. Bandaranaike replied that rescission was not possible and explained that no discourtesy was intended by the fact that there had been no prior consultation with them in the matter. Both of them then gave up their portfolios and crossed over to the Opposition with three other members of the Party.

The MEP coalition thus came to an end. Seven SLFP members also defected, but with some uncommitted members coming over to his side the Prime Minister intends to carry on the Government. It is plain, however, that with his precarious majority he will be compelled to go slow with the programme on which he went to the country.

THE EDITOR.

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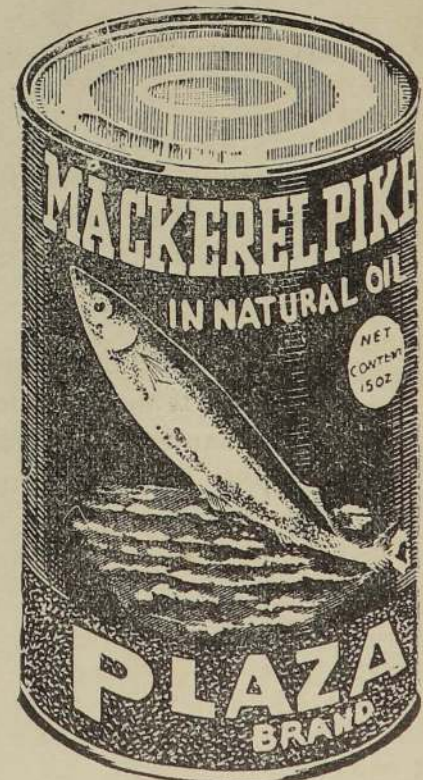
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MATTERS OF MOMENT

By BRUTUS

A PROPOSAL by the Prime Minister, Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, that the rice-producing countries should enter into a price agreement with all rice-consuming countries is one of the items that will be on the agenda of the conference of Bandung countries to be held in Colombo or Delhi at the end of this year. The conference was mooted by Mr. Bandaranaike to promote co-operation among the member-countries in the fields of agricultural production, trade and planning.

Officials of Ceylon, India, Burma, Pakistan and Indonesia will meet in Colombo on May 25th to draw up a tentative agenda for a conference of leaders of the Colombo powers to be held in Colombo in October. The leaders' conference in turn will finalise the agenda for the Asian-African conference.

* * *

A STATEMENT by the American Embassy in Colombo contradicting a report that the American rubber industry had urged the Government to sell rubber out of its stockpile had an immediately favourable reaction on the market.

The statement assured the Government and the rubber trade in Ceylon that there was no official move to reduce America's Rs. 4,000 million stockpile in order to bring down the high world rubber prices. It was also reported that, in accordance with the Congressional legislation which set up the stockpile, the Ceylon Government was told that the U.S. was committed not to undertake any disposal which might cause serious economic disruption. In the event of a disposal plan being approved, it would be announced at least six months prior to implementation.

* * *

FIRST fruit of President Tito's visit to Ceylon last January is an agreement signed in Belgrade early this month under which Yugoslavia will grant Ceylon credit of the value of £5½ million for the purchase of ships and industrial and transport equipment.

The agreement was signed for Ceylon by Mr. Maitripala Senanayake, Minister of Transport and Works, who led the Ceylon delegation, and

for Yugoslavia by Mr. L. Jubo Babic, Chairman of the Foreign Trade Committee. The credit agreement was included in a trade protocol which provides for extension and promotion of economic relations between the two countries. Ceylon will also be given warehouse facilities at the Yugoslav port of Rijeka for goods in transit to and from Europe. Details of the credit agreement are to be worked out later. An agreement on scientific and technical co-operation was also signed.

* * *

WITH the progress of the work of the Delimitation Commission, the pattern of representation in the new Parliament is beginning to emerge. The Commission is, according to the Chairman, Mr. Walter Thalgodapitiya, District Judge of Kandy, going on the principle that constituencies should be carved out on the basis of community of interests. In the result Muslims all over the Island and depressed

classes in the North and South are likely to be satisfactorily represented in the next House of Representatives. A strong plea for the representation of Burghers has been made by the L.S.S.P.

It is already established that Colombo, which has three seats at present, will have seven seats, distributed as follows: Colombo North—one; Colombo Central—four; Cinnamon Gardens—one; Colombo South—one. There is the possibility, therefore, of a Catholic being returned for Colombo North and a Muslim and a Burgher for Colombo Central.

The other members of the Commission are Mr. M. A. S. Marikar, proctor of Kandy, and Mr. G. Crossette Thambiah, retired district judge.

* * *

JUDICIAL and other remedies against the illegal exercise or abuse of administrative authority was the theme of a United Nations seminar that was held in the University at Peradeniya this month. Almost all the Asian countries and Australia and New Zealand were represented



—Times

The Governor-General, Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, signing the Visitors' Book at a party given by Mr. Netanel Lorch, Charge d'affaires of the Israel Legation in Ceylon, to mark the 11th anniversary of Israel's Independence.

MATTERS OF MOMENT

at the seminar, which was opened by the Prime Minister, and presided over by Mr. R. S. S. Gunawardena, Ceylon's Ambassador to the U.S.A., who is Chairman of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights.

* * *

THE report adopted at the end of the seminar said, *inter alia*, that it was the general view that judicial review was a vital and essential safeguard against the illegal exercise or abuse of administrative authority in common law countries, because an independent judiciary was able to judge matters brought before it free from political or other bias. The majority of the participants were opposed to extending review by the courts to include review of the merits of an administrative decision, as they did not think that the courts were the proper forum for judging the merits of administrative decisions. It was generally felt that this aspect was better placed in the hands of some higher administrative authority or of some administrative tribunal.

Summing up it was thought that the seminar would make some real contribution towards the preservation of the dignity of man in times, conditions and areas which put to the real test the principles embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

* * *

FOUNDATIONS have been laid for ministerial-level talks between the Maldives and Britain by the Legal Adviser to the Maldivian Government, Mr. K. C. Nadarajah, in his negotiations with officials of the Commonwealth Relations Office.

On his return from London, Mr. Nadarajah reported that the following questions will be discussed by a Maldivian ministerial delegation with the British Government: Development of the sterling balances of the Maldives; Crown Agents in London to continue handling Maldivian Government purchases in the West; Lease of Gan Island for the R.A.F. staging post—reduction of the period from 100 years to 30 years proposed by the U.K. and to 15 years proposed by the Maldivian Government; rental for Gan Island—U.K. offer of £2,000 a year as against the Maldivian demand of £100,000; offer of economic aid by U.K.

Mr. Nadarajah's mission to London followed deadlock of the talks between the Maldives and Britain in Colombo at diplomatic level and a reported breakaway of three of the atolls from the Maldivian Government. With regard to the latter, allegations were made against Major W. W. A. Phillips, the former Ceylon planter, who was liaison officer with the R.A.F. Major Phillips has since been relieved of the post at his own request and has returned to Ceylon.

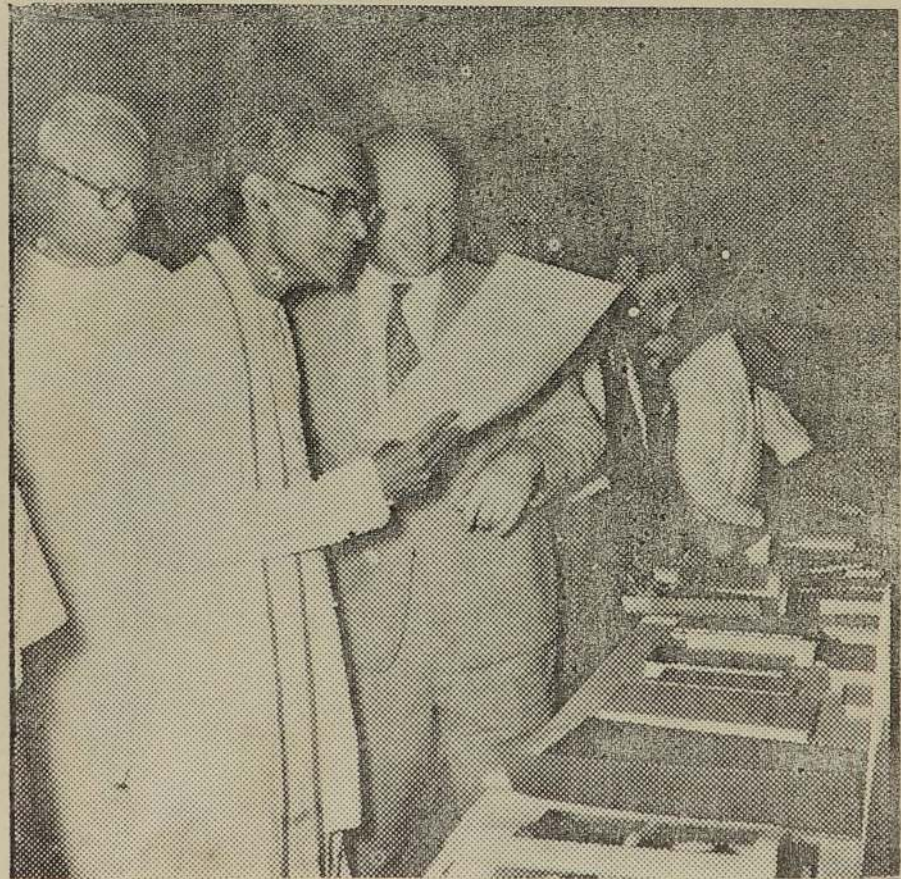
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THE idea of a Development Savings Bank put forward by Mr. C. Loganathan, General Manager of the Bank of Ceylon, is reported to have been widely acclaimed by prominent economists attending the International Chamber of Commerce Congress in Washington. The plan was intended by Mr. Loganathan for countries in South-East Asia, but it is said that in Washington general opinion was that it could be applied equally effectively in the highly developed West.

The objective of his plan Mr. Loganathan describes as to create the required environment for greater production and economic development by giving the working classes, both in the public and private sector, a real sense of participation in the means of production. The people as a whole, though initially a small percentage of a population, would have the incentive to work, earn, save and invest to help themselves and thereby help the society of which they form an integral part. For greater productivity the alternative was state regimentation of labour and other related factors, which are repugnant to freedom.

* * *

THE replica in Ceylon of Rabindranath Tagore's Shantiniketan, Sri Palee, Horana, celebrated its silver jubilee on May 8th. Founded by Mr. Wilmot A. Perera and Mrs. Perera, themselves sometime pupils of Shantiniketan, the institution was given its name by the Poet himself.



—Times

The Prime Minister at the Exhibition of Soviet Books, which he opened at the Art Gallery, Colombo. With him is Mr. V. G. Yakovlev, Soviet Ambassador in Ceylon. The Exhibition is sponsored by the U.S.S.R. Embassy and the Ministry of Local Government and Cultural Affairs.

MATTERS OF MOMENT

Chief guest at the celebrations was Dr. Humayun Kabir, India's Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs. He made a donation of Rs. 1,000 to Sri Palee. The Prime Minister unveiled a portrait of Tagore to mark the occasion.

* * *

FOUNDATION stones for the Tamil University were laid in Trincomalee on May 10. It is proposed initially to prepare students for the degrees of the University of London what time the university itself takes shape.

Speaking on the occasion, which was attended by Tamil leaders of diverse political views and also, as guests, by representatives of the Christian and Buddhist clergy, Prof. A. W. Mailvaganam, President of the Tamil University Council, said that the Government had relegated the Tamils to such a position of inferiority that they had been compelled to look to themselves for their educational and cultural salvation. Prof. A. Sinnatamby said the university would be a temple of learning open to everyone, regardless of race or creed, and to which professors and lecturers would render service at the sacrifice of personal gain.

The General Manager of Catholic Schools in the Batticaloa district promised all support to the movement. Other speakers were Prof. A. K. Chanmugam, Prof. E. J. Eliezer, Mr. S. Thondaman (President of the Ceylon Workers' Congress) and Mr. Mohamed Ali, M.P., and Mr. N. R. Rajavarothiam, M.P. The visitors were given a reception by the urban council led by the Chairman, Mr. C. Neminathan.

* * *

THE Ceylon Planters' Society last year continued to pursue its aim of securing as provision for retirement for its members seven-twelfths of their final remuneration after 35 years' service.

While they had failed to persuade "the other side" to accept this principle, the Chairman, Mr. W. J. Childerstone, reported at the annual general meeting at Badulla last Saturday, partial success had been achieved on the question of inclusion of dearness allowance in provident fund contributions without any decrease in rates. That is, the

agency committee would recommend this to their principals for application where there was a shortfall. It had also been agreed, he said, that for pre-war entrants the provision of a capital sum to provide £1,000 pension (approximately Rs. 1,100 a month) was not unreasonable if an individual after 35 years was in receipt of a basic salary of Rs. 1,700 a month.

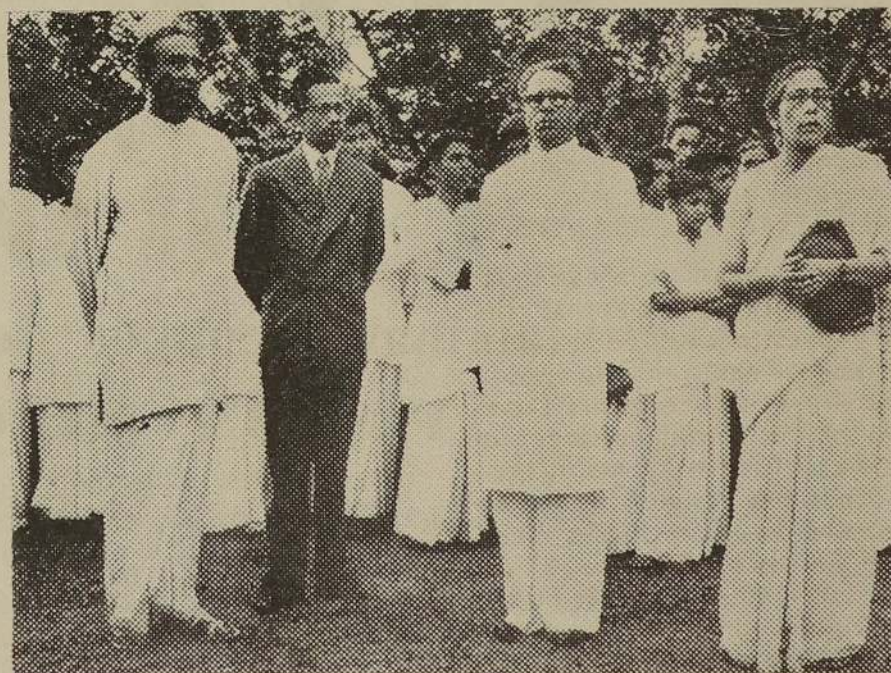
Mr. Childerstone, who was re-elected Chairman, denounced "creper factories" and described an agreement that had been reached whereby premiums would no longer be accepted and all apprentices would be paid an allowance with a job guaranteed after a successful completion of training. Any violation of the agreement, he suggested, should be met by forfeiture of membership in the Society. On the question of technical education, an interesting idea mooted by him was a sort of general certificate of planting, after an examination on basic agriculture, which would entitle the successful candidates to a special bonus. Alluding to indiscipline and violence on estates, he appealed to trade union leaders to sink their differences and bring estate workers under the umbrella of a single union.

THE claim was made for the new Tea Tax and Control of Export Bill by the Government spokesman in the Senate, Mr. C. Wijesinghe, Minister of Nationalised Services and Road Transport, that it was designed to encourage the production of good tea. The Bill introduces an *ad valorem* tax and brings to an end the Government subsidy for low-priced tea, which was admittedly seriously abused. Having been already passed by the House of Representatives, with the passing of the third reading in the Senate last week the Bill will become law on receiving the Governor-General's assent.

Under the new law teas auctioned in London will be taxed at the London prices and teas for other overseas markets at the prices realised at the Colombo auctions. All tea will be subject to a fixed export duty of 35 cents per lb. and a maximum sales tax of 70 cents. Tea which fetched over Rs. 3.25 a lb. would not be taxed.

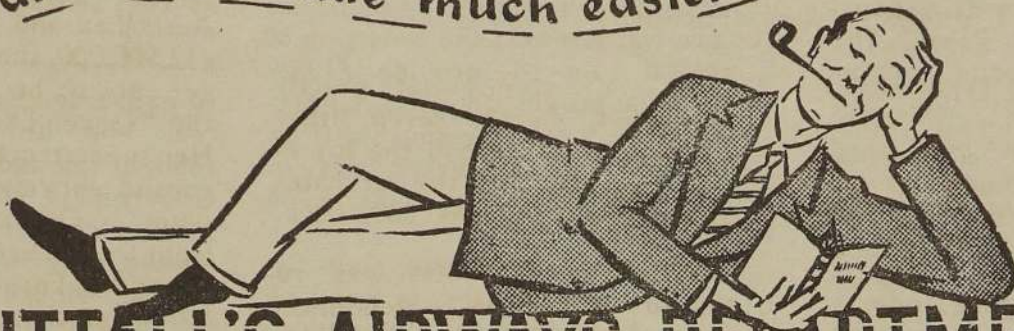
It is feared in trade circles that the effect of the tax will be that the price of tea abroad will rise. On the other hand, it is claimed that Government stands to lose Rs. 13 million.

(Continued on page 19)



—Times
Dr. Humayun Kabir, India's Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (second from right) and Mrs. Kabir (extreme right) at the silver jubilee of Sri Palee, Horana. On the right are Mr. Wilmot A. Perera, the founder, and Mr. W. D. M. Fernando, Principal of the institution.

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SOMETHING TO SHOUT ABOUT

By ERNEST CHISHOLM THOMSON

(Fortnightly Review Special)

BBRITAIN'S National Dairymen's Association has been complaining about the muffled movements of the men who deliver the household milk. They say modern milkcarts, rubber-tyred and battery-driven, are so silent that the average milkman has been and gone before the housewife can catch him with extra orders for butter, eggs and cream.

I record this as the only instance in my recollection of not enough noise being made in the United Kingdom. Hubbub and commotion are our cheerful daily companions, and most of us accept them as indicating the vigour of an island race. Silence, as in the milkmen's case, is thought of as uncanny like the hush between thunderclaps. Noise means life.

Of noise there is certainly no lack in Britain just now. By the time this is printed, the Chancellor of the Exchequer will have presented his annual Budget in Parliament—a Budget which was heralded by loud prophecies of a bumper year for the United Kingdom. Government White Papers, including the "Economic Survey", are optimistic on industrial expansion, an impressive rise in production, and the likelihood of ever-increasing sales abroad.

* * *

Uncanny Pre-Vision

THE intricacies of Budget calculations—they touch us all personally in the delicate matter of Income Tax—fascinate the average layman even when beyond his fathoming. How accurate are the Chancellor's forecasts of Government revenue and expenditure for a whole year?

I have been reading the answers to this and other Budget questions in the Treasury's latest "Bulletin for Industry".

With most people's taxable incomes rising steadily in the past ten years, revenue as a rule exceeded the forecast. In only two years since 1948 were receipts below the Budget estimate. In one year—

1953/54—they turned out exactly as estimated. In the seven other years the Chancellor had the joy of seeing them run over the estimates by an average of £158,000,000.

Expenditure, of course, can fly in the face of estimates, as many of us know from personal experience. In four years out of the past ten, according to the "Treasury Bulletin", the Government spent less than the original estimate by amounts ranging from £66,000,000 to £217,000,000. In the other six years, outgoings overran the estimate by between £15,000,000 and £200,000,000. Yet, despite these astronomical figures, the net over-spending for ten whole years was only £2,000,000—less than many a single private fortune.

Such uncanny pre-vision is worth making a noise about.

Maiden Voyages

AND not only in the financial sphere is some trumpet-blowing called for this month. There was much sounding of sirens the other morning in Britain's most famous inland port, Manchester, when two new British-built ships sailed off together on their maiden voyages. Making for Chicago was the "Manchester Faith", 6,000 tons, carrying dollar-earning cargo of 3,000 tons ranging from safety pins to heavy machinery. She is the first British ship specially designed for the St. Lawrence Seaway which Queen Elizabeth II, with President Eisenhower, is to open officially in July.

Her companion ship, the new 9,200-ton Manchester Miller, also working on Manchester Lines' Atlantic service, was making for Montreal. British ports harbour every sort of ship, but I doubt whether any vessel resembling "Manchester Miller" has ever been seen in them. She has no funnel, no mast recognisable as such, and no bridge. Her control room, far forward, has panels of switches and lights like the cockpit of an airliner. And, like an airliner, she has automatic steering mechanism. Her large open deck above the cargo can be used for a helicopter

landings or as a miniature golf course for the crew.

Another out-of-the ordinary piece of shipping news is about work begun on the new Orient liner "Oriana" (40,000 tons), intended for the Australian and Pacific run. Costing £12,500,000, she is the biggest passenger ship to be built in Britain since the "Queen Elizabeth" (86,673 tons). Her superstructure of five decks will consist entirely of all-welded aluminium. "Oriana" will be launched from the Vickers-Armstrong yard at Barrow-in-Furness in September, a few months before a sister ship to be named "Canberra".

* * *

This Is London

MEANWHILE I hear that 25 more London guide-lecturers have passed the examination of the British Travel and Holidays Association to cope with this year's rush of overseas guests.

They must not only know their London, but satisfy the Association of their practical commonsense and good-humoured ability to put guests at ease and smooth out difficulties.

From the Questions and Answers for the written examination I learnt, among many other things that the church of All Hallows, near the Tower of London, contains the stone altar used by King Richard I on his Palestine crusade over 750 years ago; and that in Kensington Palace you can see the actual robes worn by Queen Victoria at her Coronation in 1837.

DURING a dollar-earning cruise next year the Cunard liner, "Caronia", will again call at Colombo, it is announced in London. It will be the seventh world cruise the green-hulled "Caronia" (34,172 tons) has made. Leaving New York on February 5, she will visit 18 ports in 15 countries on a 95-day voyage.

First port of call will be Trinidad. She will steam on to Rio de Janeiro, cross the south Atlantic to Cape Town, Durban and Zanzibar and then visit Bombay and Colombo. Later the vessel will call at Singapore, Bangkok, Manila, Hong Kong, Kobe, Yokohama, Honolulu, Long Beach (California) and Acapulco (Mexico).

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CEYLON CELEBRITIES

The Rev. G. A. H. Arndt

Sub-Warden of St. Thomas' College

TWENTY-SEVEN years ago there passed away the Rev. G. A. H. Arndt, Sub-Warden of St. Thomas' College, one of the greatest Headmasters produced in Ceylon. The impressive and reverent demonstration to his memory at his funeral at the General Cemetery, Kanatte, was a *monumentum aere perennius*. It was an eloquent and striking tribute to the memory of a great personality, who had lived in retirement for 26 years, by many who had only heard of him. Mr. Arndt was a born Schoolmaster and his striking strength of character and immense influence as a disciplinarian had a marked effect on generations of Thomians who passed through his *regime*.

* * *

THE Rev. G. A. H. Arndt joined St. Thomas' College, the great nursery of almost every member of the Arndt family for over eighty years, in the year 1872. He had for those days a brilliant career, which culminated in his obtaining his M.A. degree at the Calcutta University, where he won the Cobden Gold Medal for History. In 1878, he joined the Staff of St. Thomas' College and was ordained Deacon in 1882. In 1883 he was appointed Headmaster of the College, a post in which he moulded the characters and shaped the destinies of many distinguished Thomians. In 1896, he was appointed Sub-Warden, the first Ceylonese to be elevated to so high a post in the educational world.

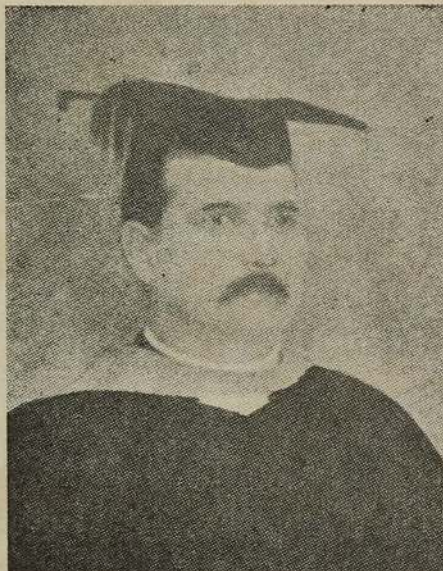
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IN his private life Mr. Arndt lived a life of great simplicity, and he never spared himself in his work. In 1906 his health failed

him, owing to the strenuous life he had lived for 28 years, during which time he had laboured without a holiday. In December of that year his retirement from the Staff of St. Thomas' College came as a great shock to all who knew him, and it was a source of much disappointment to him, as he knew no other life than that at St. Thomas', and he never got over his severance from the place he loved so well. After a few years of Parish work, he lived in retirement for twenty years in Negombo.

* * *

MR. Arndt never liked ostentation and his chief characteristic was the humility of true greatness. In this respect, he was like his friend and school-mate, the late Mr. Justice H. L. Wendt. He had no



The Rev. G. A. H. Arndt

interests outside St. Thomas', and even in his last years he listened to anything about his old School with great interest. At his funeral, the early part of the burial service was taken by the late Dr. G. B. Ekanayake, one of his earliest pupils at the Cathedral, with which he was connected for 40 years, and where his beautiful melodious voice enriched the Choral Services at a time when the Cathedral choir was one of the best in the East. Mr. Arndt was Precentor of the Cathedral and led the singing.

* * *

THE trusted and faithful adviser of many Wardens, Mr. Arndt went on as a fixture while Wardens came and went. Warden Miller, Warden Read, Warden Buck and Warden Stone each in turn went to him in any time of difficulty.

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Mr. Arndt's greatness was reflected in his own family, which produced some of the most distinguished Thomians of all time. His eldest son, George, who recently celebrated his Golden Jubilee as a Priest, had a brilliant career, winning the University Scholarship in Classics in 1903. After obtaining a Classical degree at Cambridge he read for Holy Orders at Cuddesdon, Oxford, and followed his father's vocation. He was working at the Parish of St. John the Divine in Camberwell, near the Oval, when he was summoned home owing to his father's serious illness in 1907.

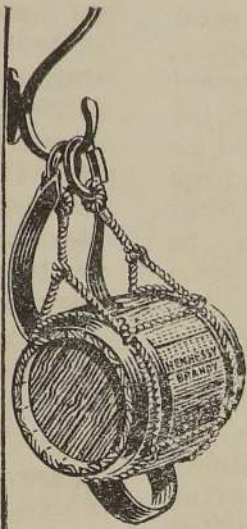
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ANOTHER son, Lawrence, won the University Scholarship in 1906, and after getting a First Class in the Bar Final, passed a most brilliant examination for the Indian Civil Service, scoring the most marks obtained up to that time by a Ceylon student. Lawrence Arndt also distinguished himself on the Cricket field and was one of the finest all-rounders produced by St. Thomas'. He captained St. Thomas' against Royal and did much to lead his side to victory in 1905. Another son, Leonard, was equally distinguished as a scholar. He attained as great heights as his two brothers, George and Lawrence, but missed the University Scholarship the year the late Canon Lucien Jansz won it. Four of the Rev. G. A. H. Arndt's sons, George, Ernest, Lawrence and Leonard, played in the St. Thomas' College Cricket XI at a time when the Mutwal College carried all before them. A grandson, son of Leonard Arndt, L. A. H. Arndt, is on the teaching staff at St. Thomas', Mount Lavinia.

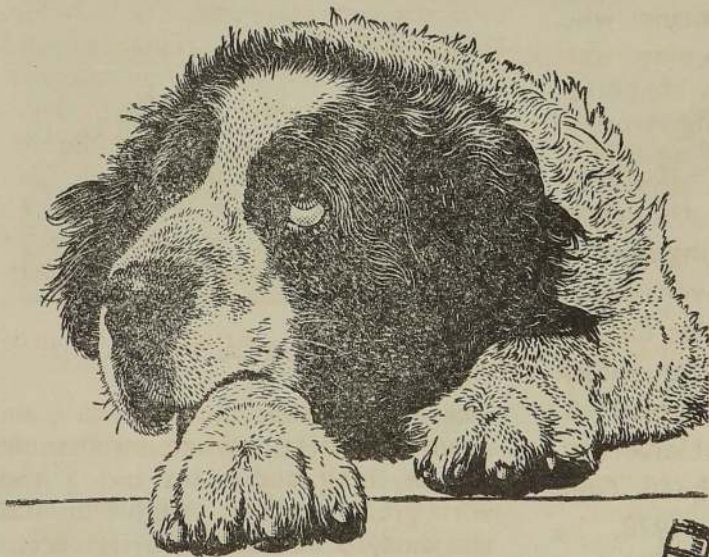
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THE Arndt family were steeped in Thomian tradition and it was therefore appropriate that Warden R. S. de Saram, representing a new generation of Thomians, and his boys should have taken a prominent part in the last rites and paid their last humble tribute to the memory of one who for sixty years had been an out and out Thomian. It was an eloquent tribute not merely to the Rev. G. A. H. Arndt's memory but to the strong tie that binds St. Thomas' and its sons, no matter of what time or age.

(Continued on page 32)



IS THERE A HENNESSY IN THE HOUSE?



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A POLITICAL NOTEBOOK

—By CROSS-BENCHER—

WHEN several ministers kept away from the weekly Cabinet meeting on May 6th and at night attended a conference at Queen's House with the Governor-General and the Prime Minister, it seemed that a serious crisis was brewing. Dramatic developments were awaited when the Cabinet meeting last week was called off by the Prime Minister. Events moved fast thereafter, culminating early this week in the resignation of the two VLSSP ministers, Mr. Philip Gunewardena and Mr. William de Silva.

The disaffection centred on the Minister of Agriculture and Food, Mr. Philip Gunewardena. Those concerned were nine SLFP ministers led by Mr. W. Dahanayake, Minister of Education, and including two parliamentary secretaries (of the Minister of Transport, Mr. Maitripala Senanayake, who was away at Belgrade, and the Minister of Local Government, Mr. Kuruppu, who was ill), who were acting as ministers.

The complaint of the nine was that Mr. Gunewardena was going about the country criticising some of them in public, and calling them names—the worst, reactionaries. The Prime Minister issued a directive reiterating and enlarging on the code of behaviour he had previously laid down for ministers. A more serious charge made against Mr. Gunewardena was that he was laying the foundations for communism and strengthening his position by the manner in which he was working the Paddy Lands Act, the multi-purpose co-ops. scheme and other measures. These ministers described themselves as socialist and demanded that Mr. Gunewardena should be made to follow this line or be removed from the Cabinet.

* * *

ON the eve of the annual conference of his party, the SLFP, at Kurunegala, the Prime Minister announced a reallocation of departments which had the desired effect of appeasing the nine ministers. Under the new arrangement Mr. Bandaranaike himself took over from Mr. Gunewardena the departments of food, co-operation and marketing and transferred fisheries from Mr. William de Silva to Mr. Gunewardena, cottage industries from

the Home Ministry to Mr. de Silva, electricity from the Ministry of Transport and Works to the Ministry of Lands and Wild Life from the Minister of Lands to the Ministry of Commerce and Trade.

Mr. Gunewardena and Mr. de Silva objected to the changes and informed the Prime Minister that they could not remain in the Cabinet if he did not rescind his decisions. This Mr. Bandaranaike refused to do. The two ministers thereupon resigned from the Cabinet and went over to the Opposition. Three other members of the VLSSP crossed the floor with them. They were Mrs. Gunewardena (Mr. Philip Gunewardena's wife), Mr. Sagara Palanasooriya and Mr. D. F. Hettiaratchi. Subsequently a member of the SLFP, Mr. Lakshman Rajapakse, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Trade, also, gave up office and left the Party. Six others followed him, including two parliamentary secretaries—Mr. Nimal Karunatileke (Finance) and Mr. Hugh Fernando (Agriculture). Two Independents, Mr. R. E. Jayetilleke and Mr. A. H. Macan Markar, have joined the Government, and two or three others are likely to come over. Mr. Bandaranaike is confident he can tide over the crisis. He has time for consolidating his position when Parliament is prorogued next week.

In the meantime the issue has been raised whether Parliament should not be dissolved, considering the fact that it was the MEP that was returned to power and a significant section of the coalition has broken away from the Government. On the other hand, there is no doubt that no party is prepared to face a General Election at the moment, and that should a General Election take place no party will secure a workable majority.

* * *

THE SLFP conference came off as arranged with a great display of enthusiasm on the part of the rank and file. Mr. Bandaranaike made a re-statement of the basic policies of the party which was received with satisfaction by the public. "Politically," he said, "we are democratic, as we believe that the democratic way of life is the most suitable for

human progress. Economically we believe in the socialist approach, as we are of opinion that it is only in this way that justice can be done to the mass of the people. A third factor in our policy is our belief that cultural and religious values must be preserved and fostered. It will thus be seen that we are opposed to both communism and fascism, to capitalism and materialism. Our party stands against any attempt to impose any of these on the people of this country."

Mr. Bandaranaike also expressed appreciation of the agreements recently reached between the Employers' Federation and some trade unions of industrial workers with regard to conditions of service and "non-resort to the strike weapon in the manner in which it had been used in recent times." "If this trend can further extend," he said, "it will be of benefit not only to those concerned but also to the country generally."

One of the resolutions adopted at the conference urged the appointment of a commission to enquire into the working of the Press in Ceylon.

* * *

HIS *ballon d'essai* having had an unfavourable reception, the Prime Minister has apparently decided not to pursue the idea of a return to the executive committee system of government as applied in Ceylon under the Donoughmore Constitution. A fresh proposal put forward by him, this time jointly with Dr. N. M. Perera, Leader of the Opposition, is that under the new Republican Constitution the Prime Minister should be elected by Parliament at its first meeting, as in the case of the Speaker. The Prime Minister would thereafter choose his own Cabinet from amongst the members of Parliament.

In a memorandum they say that one of the main needs is to lay greater emphasis on the powers and responsibilities of Parliament as a whole. Thus they suggest that advisory committees be attached to each ministry should be constitutionally provided for. Another suggestion made by them is special provision for the appointment by the Speaker, after consultation with various political parties, of a foreign affairs committee which the minister in charge of the subject would be required to consult, particularly in matters of importance.

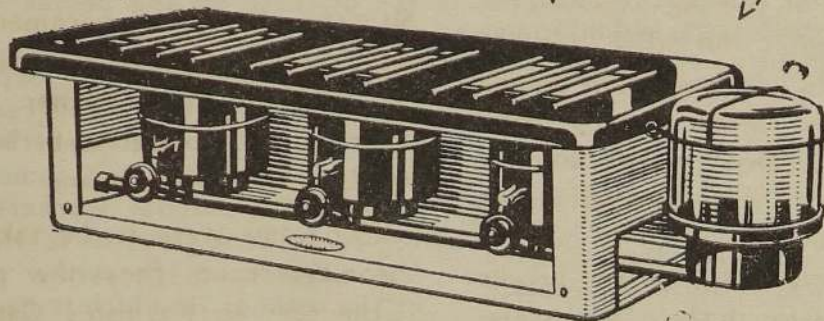
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THE PASSING SCENE

—By SPHINX—

A CAUSE celebre is in the offing. The acting Attorney-General, Mr. Douglas Jansze, having given the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Mr. Sidney de Zoysa, permission to sue the late Minister for Food and Agriculture, Mr. Philip Gunawardena, for criminal defamation, the Colombo Magistrate has ordered summons to issue on a plaint filed by the CID.

Earlier Mr. de Zoysa had applied for, and obtained, permission from the Magistrate to investigate the complaint. The evidence collected includes a tape-recording made of the speech of the Food Minister on May Day, which gave the cause for complaint, and manuscript notes of newspaper reporters who covered the meeting.

* * *

A MEMORABLE event was the opening on May 15 of the Lionel Wendt Art Gallery, which marked the second stage of the memorial to the great artist, who died 15 years ago. Appropriately, the first exhibition to be held in the gallery was by the Photographic Society of Ceylon, which Wendt helped to found. The first stage was the opening of the Lionel Wendt Theatre in 1953 and the third stage will commence soon with the building of the premises for the Photographic Society of Ceylon.

The construction of the Art Gallery was made possible by the generosity of the Asia Foundation. The Foundation's chief in Ceylon, Mr. Charles T. Fleming, formally declared the gallery open. Miss Jane Drew designed the gallery, making several visits to art galleries in Europe for the latest technique of gallery lighting which has been adopted at the Wendt gallery.

* * *

A POIGNANT reminder of the tragedy of unwanted children was the story which appeared in the

Press last week of six little waifs, ranging in ages from a few days to two years, who are being cared for at the Lady Ridgeway Hospital for Children in Colombo.

Two of the tiny tots had been left on a bench at the out-patients' department, while the other four had been brought into hospital by people who claimed to be their parents. After the children were cured of their ailments the hospital attempted to get in touch with these persons and it became clear that the people had not disclosed their real names and addresses.

An official of the hospital has said that often there are as many as ten such children at one time in the hospital. Some of them were brought in by the police who found them abandoned in the streets. These children were usually given away by the hospital authorities for adoption.

The hospital cannot be blamed if it disposes of these waifs in the only manner at its disposal, but it is doubtful if the fullest care is taken, in giving children away for adoption, to ensure that these persons are suitable in every way, particularly because it is well known that adoption is frequently abused in Ceylon.

The problem of unwanted children in Ceylon is not necessarily connected with the problem of unmarried mothers. Here it seems to be more the abject poverty of the parents rather than the social stigma which attaches to unmarried mothers which is at the root of the problem.

The extent to which poverty drives parents was illustrated in another incident, told in the press recently, of a father selling his son for Rs. 50. It does not appear that, if there is any law to prevent such sales, it was invoked in this case.

It would be wrong, I think, to conclude from these incidents, that

these parents are callous. They deserve sympathy, and pity rather than censure.

* * *

COLOMBO'S tram cars have been given a new lease of life. The Prime Minister has ordered that they should not be taken off the roads till the Colombo Municipal Council is reconstituted. (It was dissolved in December, 1957, by order of the Minister of Local Government and the City has since been administered by a Special Commissioner. New elections are expected to be held towards the end of the year).

The trams were to be taken off the single route they now ply on (Grandpass to Kayman's Gate) on June 30 of this year. There are at present eighteen battered and aged cars, sixty years old. In the heyday of trams in the city there were 53 of them.

They first appeared in Colombo streets in 1898, a private company, Messrs. Bousteads, running the service. The first run of the cars—from the Fort to Grandpass—had a distinguished load on board, the Mayor and Members of the Council and the top executives of the firm.

The fare from Fort to Grandpass was 25 cents and only the rich could afford to travel by tram!

* * *

THE Colombo Municipality took over the tram service in 1944 and the maximum fare has been reduced to 15 cents. The municipality incurred heavy annual losses in running the service, ticketless travel and dishonesty among the tram staff contributing to the losses. Finally, a few years ago, it was decided to scrap the tram service and they gave way to the trolleys which are now run on the routes the tram plied on.

It is thought that when they are finally taken off the roads, the battered cars will be broken up and sold as junk. The municipality tried once to sell the trams whole but there were no buyers.

(Continued on page 32)

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HALLOLUWA AND ITS VIHARE

By Mrs. LUCIAN DE ZILWA

MRS. de Zilwa died last year. In sending us this article her husband, Dr. Lucian de Zilwa, physician and philosopher, says he found it among his wife's papers—one of many articles she had written for her own satisfaction and put away in a drawer of her desk. Dr. de Zilwa adds:

"The description of Halloluwa, and the minute description of the Vihare, with the account of the ceremonial, etc., appear to me worth bringing to the notice of your readers. Personally, I have learnt a great deal from it that I did not know before."

Incidentally, the name of Dr. de Zilwa's house at Halloluwa is "Tree Tops".—Ed.

HALLOLUWA Road, on the right bank of the Mahaveli Ganga, is fairly well known; but Halloluwa, the village on the left bank, is less frequented. This is probably due to the difficulty of crossing the water, which has to be done in a ferry-boat. (Now there is a suspension bridge.—Ed.)

There are many rocks and rapids, and a number of islets in the river. Delightful hills, covered with trees, rise up from the water's edge. The river disappears round a bend, the curved banks of which are lined with bamboos. The tall tops of these trees, with their delicate pointed leaves, thrill to the breeze, while their stems crunch together below to a thorough enjoyment of life.

* * *

THE river at low water reveals sand, which sometimes glints in the sunlight with gold-coloured mica. Within twenty minutes the river may rise and become a roaring volume of water, rushing over the rocks with terrifying force. In its calm moods it flows gently by, and people bathe, and bask, and wash their clothes, and go away clean and happy. Halloluwa is a peaceful valley, very restful to tired nerves. The quiet is sometimes intense. There is time to think, to muse, to observe the glorious hills, the rocks, and the river; time to listen to the song of birds, and the flutter of butterflies; to hear the ploughman's voice as he tramples knee-deep in the mud, singing out to his buffaloes the notes which have been carried down to him through the ages, and will probably be sung on to the end of time.

THERE is no sound of a motor car, no rushing of wheels. The sky, in the spaces left between the trees and their leaves, is of a luminous blue, broadening on to



Katarangala Vihare

that deeper blue expanse beyond the trees and above the mountain heights. Clouds, now white, now dark and thunderous, rise up massive and marvellous from behind the mountains and out into the blue with their silver edges. The sun shines, and always you can see the tree tops.

The scene under moonlight is clear and clean, with every tree washed, and whitened, and shining. Stars throb in the tropic sky, and great shadows lead unto the deep of night. The rhythm of the murmuring river, the sighing of the wind, the sweet scent of night jungle-flowers, and the hum of innumerable insects, lull one to sleep, the peaceful sleep of a soul fed from heaven.

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Such is Halloluwa. But down the village lane with its grass road are the village folk, innately polite and proud. There are crowds of children growing up with the trees and flowers, with eyes that smile as nature smiles, who are happy in the joy of living.

* * *

THERE are three Buddhist temples in the village. And, one of these, hidden away on the mountain side is an ancient rock temple, Katarangala Rajamaha Vihare. To see it one has to ascend an old-world rock staircase made of odd-shaped granite blocks. The blocks are uneven, and the ascent becomes difficult as one gets near the top.

I once visited this temple with friends. As we neared the top of the steps we were escorted into the vihare by a priest in yellow robes. The chief priest of the vihare, Mederigama Dhammarakkhita Thero, showed us with a modest pride the treasures in his care. He unlocked a case in which were many valuable old books. He took out a very beautiful book bound in ivory, and with carved ivory handles, and a medallion-shaped jewelled clasp. This book had a coloured frontispiece of Buddha and his disciples. It had been presented to the priest king Welivita Sangha Raja, in 1747, by King Kirti Sri Rajasinha, the builder of the Maligawa in Kandy.

A silver casket (karan-duwa) shaped like a dagaba was next shown to us. The priest opened it, and we saw a crystal image of Buddha, four hundred years old, and another image of polished stone. This image had a painted head, and was said to be two thousand years old. A gold-cased casket was opened next, and it contained relics of Buddha (dhatu). The priest covered the casket with a cloth and put it away.

* * *

FROM under a cover of hand-woven and drawn-thread Kandyan cloth a hundred years old a *pirith-huya* was disclosed to view. A *pirith-huya* is said to be of use in driving away evil spirits, and for

(Continued on page 19)

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HALLOLUWA AND ITS VIHARE

blessing people and dwelling-houses, blessed by a priest and wound on ivory. The priest chants *pirith*, and, while chanting, takes the *pirith-huya*, and ties one end of the thread to the casket containing a relic. All the people who want a blessing of some sort hold the *pirith-huya* at the same time as the priest.

No one is allowed to touch the thread unless they have first purified themselves by bathing and applying *hanung-kiri-pen* (sandal wood mixed with coconut milk and water) to their bodies, and putting on clean and white clothing. While the people hold the *pirith-huya* the priest blesses them.

* * *

A LARGE box covered with a cloth was next brought forward. It contained an ancient ola book, with cover made of carved ivory, bound with silver, and fastened with a crystal clasp. This ola book was larger than the ordinary ones, being about two and a half feet long. Written on it, we were told, was the history of the 550 lives of Buddha, (*Pansiyapanas jataka pothwahanse*).

A large and ancient fan, called *Watanapota*, belongs to this temple. It is of purple velvet, and has a

thick handle of finely carved ivory. This fan was given by King Kirti Sri Rajasinha to the priest-king, *Welivita Sangha Raja*. The fan is used when preaching *bana*.

The priest now opened a door while lighting candles, and we beheld an image of Buddha made of solid gold, with eyes of sapphire. It is supposed to weigh 56 lb. This particular image belonged to a priest named *Mederigama Rewata Thero* in the *Hathara Korale*, and was presented to the priest *Mederigama Dhammarakkhita Thero* for use in this temple. There is a coloured disc of no value behind the golden image. Enclosed in the same case with the image was an ivory casket (*karanduwa*) containing relics.

* * *

IT was nearing mid-day, and the priest was bound, according to the rule of the monks, to take his meal before that hour. A neat silver bowl of rice was brought in on a tray, with little cups containing curry. There were two finger bowls, one containing hot water, and the other cold. A ceremony was performed by the priest in front of the golden image of Buddha. He poured water three times into a small bowl (*kalanchiya*) from a

silver pot with spout. This symbolised Buddha washing his hands three times before eating. The rice offering was placed in front of the image, and a bell was rung three times. The offering was then removed, and water poured again three times into the *kalanchiya* to represent Buddha washing his hands after the meal.

* * *

WE retired while the priest ate his food, and ascended still higher to the ancient rock temple, which is hewn out of a large overhanging rock. There is an immense recumbent image of Buddha inside, and some ancient paintings on the bare rock ceiling.

The priest rejoined us after a short time, and we inspected a small building, known as *Bodhi-garaya*, near a bo tree. In this building flower offerings are placed.

The rebuilding of this rock temple, we were told, was done during the reign of King Rajasinha II.

We thanked the priest for having shown us so many interesting relics of ancient times. *Mediragama Dhammarakkhita Thero* certainly takes a tremendous interest in *Katarangala Rajamaha Vihare*, hidden away among the trees on the rocky heights of *Halloluwa*.

MATTERS OF MOMENT

(Continued from page 7)

THE report on Ceylon in the United Nations Economic Survey for 1958 of Asia and the Far East contains much food for thought.

A noteworthy paragraph reads: "A considerable part of Ceylon's growth in current expenditure is devoted to primarily redistributive purposes. Food subsidies were reintroduced in 1956. Though indirectly related to increasing agricultural production, food subsidies provide rice for the Ceylonese citizen at about half of what it costs the Government. Of the savings which he thereby makes in rice outlay, a substantial portion goes into increased demand

for other imports and very little goes into economic development . . . Other instances of redistributive measures are the steady losses which Government enterprises incur in the face of trade union pressure for higher wages and of consumer insistence on lower prices on services."

A suggestion made in the report is that the Government should give up the principle of providing free health and education services regardless of the capacity to pay and transfer some activities of direct local interest to local bodies, so that the resources of the public sector could be channelled to economic development.

* * *

THE Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS) has sought traffic rights through Ceylon and a delegation from

the organization is expected in the Island at the end of this month. The position of the Government is that traffic rights are available to any country on the basis of reciprocity, so that SAS is assured of success in their negotiations.

Another delegation expected in Ceylon on a similar mission is from Italy, but in this case Ceylon already enjoys traffic rights through Rome on a temporary basis, being renewable every six months. The Italian Government does not regard the present arrangement as satisfactory as Air Ceylon is liable to encroach on custom that might accrue to Italian lines. It is likely therefore that the Italian delegation will negotiate for a permanent agreement for reciprocal rights.

(Continued on page 32)

PEOPLE

WHEN Mr. Gunasena de Soya assumes duties as High Commissioner in London, he will bring to the post unexampled knowledge and experience of external affairs. Mr. de Soya has not only been head of the "foreign ministry" for six years, but has the advantage of having been directly concerned in the shaping of foreign policy. For example, he was at Bandung and accompanied Sir John Kotelawala on many of his missions abroad, and with the M.E.P. coming into power he has participated in the great extension of diplomatic relations. Add to these, he acted as head of our High Commission in London for some time last year.

Mr. de Soya entered the Civil Service in 1926, but it was not until eight years later that he found scope for the application of his gifts. This was when he was posted to the Co-operative Department, where he was to remain for eight significant years in the history of the movement. He became Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Food in 1948 and in 1952 he was appointed Secretary of the Cabinet Planning Committee. He succeeded Sir Kanthaiah Vaithianathan as Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs and Defence.

A notable service he rendered was as Chairman of the official committee which enquired into Government's industrial and commercial undertakings.

* * *

MR. G.G. Ponnambalam, M.P., having completed 25 years as a member of the legislature, his friends and

admirers propose to have his portrait hung in the House of Representatives. They have sought the permission of the Speaker for this purpose.

Mr. Ponnambalam was first returned to the State Council in 1934 for Point Pedro, his home-town. He has been member for Jaffna in Parliament since the present Constitution was adopted. Advocate of



—Times

Mr. Gunasena de Soya

fifty-fifty representation for Tamils vis-a-vis Sinhalese, as leader of the Tamil Congress, he was nevertheless given the portfolio of Industries and Fisheries in Mr. D. S. Senanayake's Cabinet. Distinguished for his forensic ability, he is also one of the best public speakers in the country.

* * *

A VISITOR to Ceylon with a mission is Mr. Cedric Salter-sometime Daily Mail war corres-

pondent in the Island during World War II. He is here to collect material for a book on Ceylon in a series which has so far covered Spain, Portugal and Turkey. He expects to stay in the Island for a year in order to be sure he gets his facts right and to get the feel of the country.

* * *

MR. and Mrs. Anthony St. George have left for Japan on a six weeks visit.

Mr. St. George is managing-director of Autos, Ltd., Jaffna, and director of Tuckers Autodrome, who are also agents of the Bridgestone Tyre Co. of Japan. He will visit the factories of this company and also the Tokyo trade fair.

* * *

MRS. Jan Cooke (nee Caspersz), the distinguished educationist, has been appointed Principal of the new Stafford College for ladies which opened at Tillingham, Guildford Crescent, on May 4th. A private institution, it offers a comprehensive curriculum, singing, callisthenics and elocution being among the subjects in which instruction is given.

The school presently prepares students for the G.C.E. ordinary level examination and will provide facilities in time for the G.C.E. advanced in 1961. Mrs. Cooke is the wife of Mr. Jan Cooke, the well-known designer and interior decorator.

* * *

A MOST tragic death, in a car accident on the Kandy-Colombo road on a rainy night, was that of Mr. C. C. C. B. Fyers, of Delmar Group, Halgranoya, Deputy-General Manager of the Anglo-Ceylon and General Estates Co., Ltd. He was only 44.

Mr. Fyers was the son of Mr. W. W. Fyers, for many years Deputy-Conservator of Forests, Ceylon. His mother is in England. He also leaves his wife and three children, who are at present in England, and two sisters—Mrs. J. M. Patterson of Galaha and Mrs. J. B. Benison, who is also in England. Mrs. Fyers is the daughter of Mr. F. J. Dunn, a former Ceylon planter, and Mrs. Dunn, who lived until recently at Oakley Cottage, Nuwara Eliya.

Mr. Fyers was educated at Dover College. In the last war he served with the 21st East African Brigade. A keen cricketer, he will be sadly missed in planting circles and by his many friends.

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PEOPLE

MR. S. J. C. Schokman and Dr. Austin Perera, the two delegates from Ceylon, have returned after attending the Fifth Asian Y. M. C. A. Leaders' Conference in Japan. The conference was held at Tozanso, a conference site in a rural setting a few miles away from Gotemba, at the foot of Mt. Fujiyama, owned by the National Committee of the Y. M. C. A. in Japan. The conference was attended by sixty-eight delegates from the Y. M. C. As. in twelve Asian countries. Various matters connected with the Y. M. C. A. movement in these countries were considered and reports on the decisions arrived at will in due course be made to their controlling bodies.

The delegates also had the benefit of hearing addresses given by outstanding personalities, from Japan as well as from the United States. The conference ended on 26th April with a joint reception given in Tokyo to the delegates to this conference and to the second Asian Y's Men Conference, which was attended by Princess Chichibu, sister-in-law of the Emperor, and by several of the leading residents in Tokyo.

* * *

THE death occurred on Sunday, May 10th, of Mr. I. H. Wijesinghe, former Charity Commissioner of Colombo. He was 61.

Son of the Rev. W. J. Wijesinghe, vicar of St. Thomas's Church, Matara, a well-known oriental scholar, Hugh was educated at St. Thomas's College, Colombo, where he had a distinguished record and earned a reputation as a classical scholar. After graduating he entered King's College, London, from where he obtained the Teachers' Diploma of London University. Returning to Ceylon he joined the staff of Royal College and served the school as an assistant master for 25 years. He was later Principal of the Mirigama Training College. He was also for some time Principal of Anura College, Matara. At the time of his death he had been designated head of the Education Department of the new Vidyalanka University.

* * *

THE death is reported, suddenly, in England, of Nick Dewing, the C.H. and F.C. rugby three-quarter who won renown in the early fifties.

Dewing married Claire, daughter of Sir Ivor Jennings, then Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ceylon, and Lady Jennings.

* * *

THE death is reported in Australia of Mr. Walter Beven, proctor of Kandy.

Mr. Beven was head of the firm of Beven & Beven, which for two generations was one of the leading firms of solicitors up-country. He had a commanding practice in the District Court and was regarded as an authority on civil law. He and his wife left Ceylon many years ago.

Mr. Beven's brother, Dr. Harry Beven, predeceased him.

MR. R. S. S. Gunawardena, Ceylon's Ambassador in the United States, who is on a brief visit to Ceylon—he presided over the Human Rights Seminar conducted by the United Nations at Peradeniya—was guest of honour at a public dinner, at the Galle Face Hotel on Monday night. The Prime Minister, Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, the Leader of the Opposition, Dr. N. M. Perera, and the President of the Senate, Sir Cyril de Zoysa, were among those present.

Mr. Bandaranaike said that he almost wished to cancel Mr. Gunawardena's appointment and keep him by force in Ceylon because of the great talents attributed to Mr. Gunawardena. Last week Mr. Gunawardena was similarly honoured with a public dinner given by citizens of Kandy.

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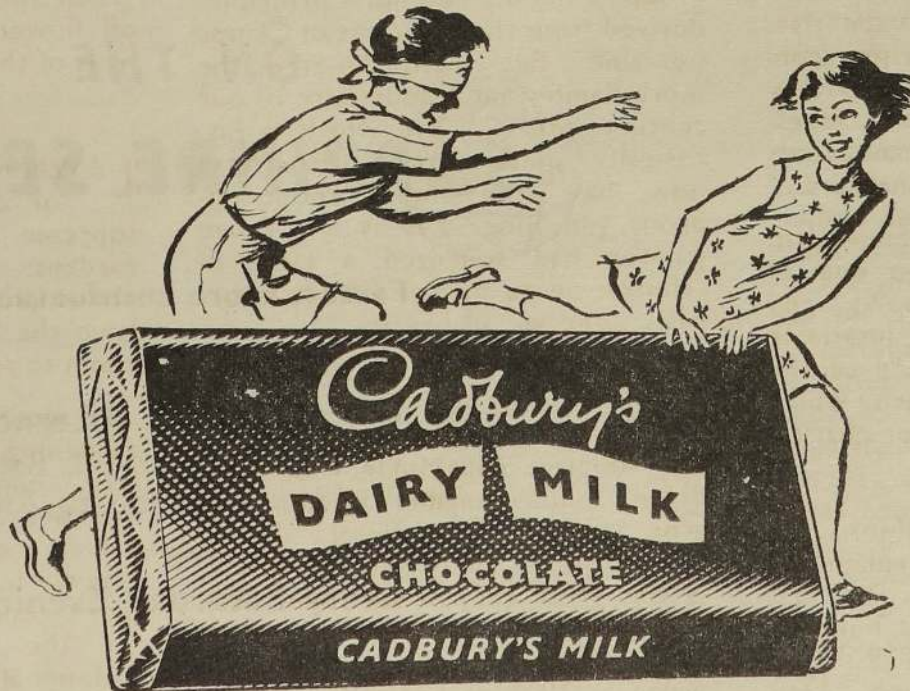
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By GEOFFREY GRIGSON

(Fortnightly Review Special)

GARDENING is the English popular art, which cuts across divisions of wealth and class. The Saturday issues of every London newspaper (which will be read hundreds of miles from London) are full of gardening advertisements—usually emphasizing flowers more than vegetables.

Flowers are big business and small. One of the big seed houses in its catalogue for this year advertises seeds of more than 4,000 species and varieties, from tree to annual. On the radio gardening is as necessary as politics or religion, and the Englishman looks upon the great public gardens at Kew, on the outskirts of London, not as a world headquarters of botanical study, but as a special, perennial show maintained for the benefit of his own flower beds.

* * *

THE Royal Horticultural Society maintains its own gardens, tests new plants for the English gardener, and provides him, year after year, with his special spring festival, his Floralia, in the shape of the Chelsea Flower Show, in May. Cars, ancient, new, cheap, extremely expensive, then converge upon Chelsea from the remotest counties. The new species, the new florists' varieties, are chastely inspected by thousands upon thousands of keen amateurs.

Later on this Chelsea Show will be imitated from end to end of Britain in village flower shows; and through the season the insatiable amateur will make a round of the notable gardens of the rich, which are opened at week-ends for charity.

* * *

HIPPOLYTE Taine, I think, put his finger on the explanation of the Englishman's popular art, when he visited England a hundred years ago this year, in 1859. England's greenness abashed him. There was a constant exchange, to his eyes, of rain and mist between damp earth and damp heaven; trees, hedges, meadows—everywhere was green, in all of which he marked the flowers, from roses to rhododendrons, from palace to cottage.

He walked from Kew Gardens to Hampton Court, in early June, observed great horse-chestnut trees (still the favourite flowering tree in Great Britain) in billows of white and pink, observed the wistaria hanging on the houses, observed the lawns set with thickets of rhododendrons "as tall as two men".

The rhododendrons were out, and the effect of their colour against the green seemed to him so prodigal and magnificent as to be almost—he does not say "unnatural" but "outside nature".

* * *

"NATURAL" gardening, in fact—colour "naturally" grouped in islands or lines of colour among oceans of green—is both the vice and merit of English gardening in this century. At Stourhead, in Wiltshire, there remains (now a national property) one of the last of the great landscape gardens of the eighteenth century. Temples, grottoes, bridges—they are all there, grey and calm, reflected in the lake, spread in open vistas, and embowered among deciduous trees, which are grouped and divided upon principles derived from the paintings of Claude Lorraine. But among the trees the more flamboyant colour-taste of our century inserts a dye which is historically quite wrong: Stourhead now has innumerable rhododendrons. In June it is as if a Fauve painter had squeezed a table of crimson on to one of Claude's surfaces; and we all like it.

* * *

FROM China, the Himalayas, America, Asia Minor, rhododendrons unquestionably remain the acme of English floral desire. Surrey, in its sandy and acid parts, is the great county for them near London, Cornwall is thick with their blossoms in the damper and warmer West of England. Rhododendrons would be universal if it were not for great areas of chalk which keep them out of many counties. In spirit rhododendrons go with our love of the "herbaceous border", the long bee-loud extent of gaudy perennials, which our gardeners round or soon after the

turn of the century justified by an appeal to Impressionist painting—in particular to Monet. "Natural" gardening and the herbaceous border dealt a blow to bedding-out in formal patterns. That wonderful extravagance, still performed in France with such autumnal bravura, now claims its last few English practitioners among experts of the town garden or the town mixture of park with garden.

* * *

HIPPOLYTE Taine remarked quite rightly how the English were given to nature. Green is nature's primal colour, after all; and as early as the seventeenth century an English poet speaks in a famous poem of gardens, and of the mind

Annihilating all that's made

To a green thought in a green shade.

One particular greenness never will be expelled from the English garden. The lawn. To the English landscape gardener of the eighteenth century "lawn" was a glade among trees, cropped with the scythe. The rest of his landscape garden has now sloughed away, and the "lawn" remains, in a different sense. Large or small, town or country, every English garden insists upon its lawn, level, soft, short-cropped, invincibly green throughout the year, setting off flowering shrubs or the perennials of the herbaceous border.

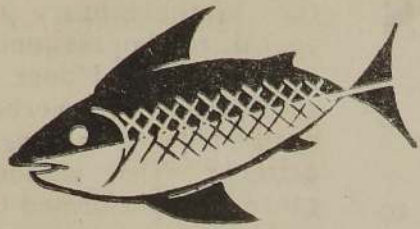
* * *

LAWN-mowers, pushed by hand or driven by petrol, are the supreme instrument of English gardens. And the lawn has some philosophic justification. On his lawn the Englishman strolls and has room to think.

I would say that "natural" gardening, all the same, begins to be less emphasized. New florists' varieties (for instance, of lupins, dahlias, chrysanthemums, gladioli) may not lessen; but there is annually more concern for the species, and for the plant as an individual. Colour alone as an element in a colour composition is not so important.

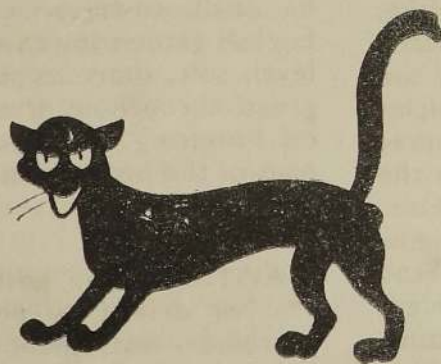
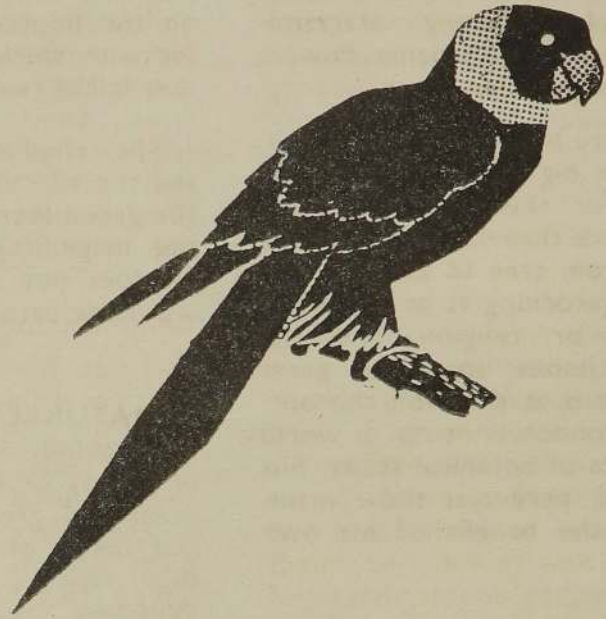
In roses, for example, taste for some years has been turning from those blossoms of our day which look as if they were cut and moulded

(Continued on page 32)



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WITH THE DAWN CAME ENLIGHTENMENT

By EUREKA

TO millions of Buddhists the world over, the month of May is what December is to Christians. It is the month in which Gautama Buddha attained Enlightenment and started a religion based on a new conception of life and death, which symbolises the spiritual evolution and transformation of a very large section of the human race.

Just over 2,500 years ago, India, in common with many other parts of the eastern world, was in a state of ferment. Internecine wars and a welter of clashing ideologies were making the people drift aimlessly, filling their minds with a wild surmise about the mysteries of life and death. They yearned for a spiritual leader to guide them and teach them how to rid their minds of all the assailing doubts about this world and the next.

* * *

The Upheaval

THE time was ripe for a spiritual upheaval and for a leader who could rise far above his fellow-men and guide them amid the encircling gloom. The upheaval came suddenly in the twenty-ninth year of the life of a prince who had been living luxuriously in Kapilavastu, his birth-place in Nepal. He belonged to the Sakya clan and lived in his father's palace with his princess and their little son. He was Prince Siddhartha, son of King Suddhodana and Queen Maya.

Up to that time Prince Siddhartha knew nothing of the world outside and longed to know what was happening outside his father's palace. He questioned members of his entourage and learned from them that thousands of people beyond the palace gates were in the grip of poverty and disease. This put the prince into a deep meditation, and the desire to see for himself what was really happening in the throbbing city stirred strongly within him.

One day he awoke at the crack of dawn, tiptoed towards the palace mews and ordered Channa, his charioteer, to get his favourite horse Kantaka ready soon. The order was

obeyed without demur and the prince was soon out of the palace precincts with Channa following him. As the dawn waxed, he saw various aspects of life new to him and hundreds of people moving about the streets with care-worn faces. There was not a streak of happiness to be seen anywhere, but only care, anxiety and suffering. Prince Siddhartha's heart sank within him.

* * *

Renunciation

AT last, when he had seen enough, he dismounted, divested himself of his costly attire and put on the yellow robe of renunciation. He then ordered Channa to take back to the palace all his princely trappings and to inform the king, his father, that he had renounced the world and would not rest until he had attained Enlightenment. Channa once more obeyed without question.

From that time the prince was known as Samana Gautama—an ascetic in search of the Highest Truth. For six years he roamed the wilderness, and in the course of his wanderings arrived at the market place of Senani in Uruvala, where he spent many days in deep meditation. People in the surrounding areas heard of his ascetic practices and thousands came to him for his "darshan". He became so emaciated by his fasting that he was unable to walk.

After further meditation he decided to find some other way to achieve his objective. He hit upon a middle path between the extremes of self-indulgence and self-mortification. When he had regained sufficient strength he resumed his wanderings and eventually reached Gaya, where, under the shade of a spreading bo-tree, he sat cross-legged and vowed never to depart thence until he had consummated his self-imposed task.

For days his mind was assailed by all sorts of temptations, but nothing seemed to disturb his trance. Then as the dawn of the full moon day of Vaisakha broke over Gaya, the Highest Truth stood revealed before

him in all its multifarious aspects and implications.

* * *

Enlightenment

THE Buddha had at long last attained Enlightenment, the Samma Sambuddhahood. This great event has been enshrined in matchless verse by Edwin Arnold in "The Light of Asia":

Yea! and so holy was the influence
Of that high Dawn which came
with victory
That, far and near, in homes of
men there spread
An unknown peace. The slayer
hid his knife;
The robber laid his plunder back;
the shroff
Counted full tale of coins; all evil
hearts
Grew gentle, kind hearts gentler,
as the balm
Of that divine Daybreak lightened
Earth.
Kings at fierce war called truce; the
sick men leaped
Laughing from beds of pain; the
dying smiled
As though they knew that happy
Morn was sprung
From fountains farther than the
utmost East.

After his Enlightenment, the Lord Buddha spent forty-five years preaching and elucidating the doctrines and truths revealed to him. All this preaching was centred round the Four Noble Truths, namely, Truth of Sorrow; Truth of the Cause of Sorrow; Truth of the Cessation of Sorrow and the Truth to the Path leading to the Cessation of Sorrow. The fourth is the chief Truth leading to the Noble Eightfold Path—Right Doctrine, Right Purpose, Right Discourse, Right Behaviour, Right Purity, Right Thought, Right Loneliness, Right Rapture.

* * *

Nirvana

SORROW, or Dukkha, is the central point of the Four Noble Truths. Dukkha exists in the very care of earthly life; it manifests itself as links in a long chain of sufferings and tribulations, and may be either mental or physical. It emphasises the fact that there can be no real happiness in a world of impermanence. The path leading to this cessation of sorrow is the first lap in the gruelling struggle towards Nirvana. These were the cardinal points in the doctrines of the Enlightened One.

(Continued on page 32)

LARGER THAN LIFE

—By KENNETH HOPKINS—

(Fortnightly Review Special)

IT is characteristic of English literature to produce, from time to time, strange, impressive, isolated figures that do not fit easily into the contemporary scene. Such were Robert Burton, Walter Savage Landor, Charles M. Doughty; and such a figure today, like a gaunt monolith among the literary pebbles, is John Cowper Powys. Only now—more than sixty years after his name first appeared on a title-page—is the astonishing genius of this writer beginning to be widely recognised, and in this, his eighty-sixth year, a collection of his private letters makes one of the most impressive publications of the summer season. It may well be that this volume

(Letters of John Cowper Powys to Louis Wilkinson, 1935–1956. Macdonald, 30s.) will be read as long as there are readers for the letters of Gray, Walpole, Cowper, Keats, Byron—and all the other classic English letter writers. These letters of Powys are like no others that have been published in English; they are headstrong, headlong, tumbling cataracts of words, a great bubbling largess of wisdom, satire, wit, perversity, prejudice, and knockabout fun. They make a large, solid book: a formidable book to take up, an impossible one to put down. How did they come to be written?

* * *

JOHN Cowper Powys is the eldest of three celebrated brothers, all of whom have written notable books; and he is the last survivor of them. For some thirty years he was an itinerant lecturer

in English in the United States, and during that time he began to write his huge, sprawling, seemingly formless but in fact extremely closely-fashioned novels; and also works of philosophical commentary and criticism. About 1930 he gradually gave up lecturing and a year or two later returned to settle first in the southern English county of Dorset, and later in North Wales. It was now that he published his remarkable *Autobiography* (1934) and the novels which have established his reputation, in particular *A Glastonbury Romance*.

* * *

DURING all these years his closest friend and confidant was Louis Wilkinson. Like Powys, Louis Wilkinson was for many years a lecturer in the United States; he is also a novelist, critic, and biographer, but in his work and in his character a marked contrast to Powys. Wilkinson's novels (some of which appeared under the pen-name "Louis Marlow") are urbane, witty, sophisticated, dealing usually with marital and extra-marital relationships among the "upper classes"—excellent novels, and undervalued. Louis Wilkinson himself is Powys's opposite: a man of the world, a connoisseur of wine and cigars, accomplished in all the arts of gracious living. This contrast is important, for without it there could have been no letters such as these. When Powys is teased by the lack of a "a particular kind of collarstud" in his wild Welsh retreat, it is Wilkinson who finds it (or causes it to be found) in the byways of the metropolis. "I have never known," (Powys says) "what sort of herring it referred to, whether salt or scraped or disembowelled or vinegared, or with or without its bones—I refer to *Kipper*." Even this humble delicacy Wilkinson can discourse upon and name to go with it the appropriate wine. It is a sad loss for the reader that the present volume was too bulky to admit Louis Wilkinson's part in the correspondence. Perhaps that may be published later.

* * *

EVEN the one side makes a prodigious feast, and a wholly satisfying one. There is much more here than matter about kippers and collar-studs. This old man of the mountains is very well aware of what goes on in the big world below, and he comments freely on politics, literature, and the whole puzzling business of being alive.



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CEYLON CHILDREN'S SUCCESS

AT THE ROYAL ACADEMY,
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—By "LYRICUS"—

THE Children's Royal Academy Exhibition was declared open by the Queen Mother at the Guildhall, London, on April 18th. Ceylon was very much in the news owing to a painting titled "A Hindu Procession" by a child of 12—Iona Jayasundera—having been "inspected by the Queen Mother". Only 12 pictures at this exhibition have gained this distinction of having their pictures "inspected by the Queen Mother" and indicated in the Award List by the initials "Q.M."

Ceylon had entered more paintings at this 64th R.A. Exhibition than any other country outside the United Kingdom. The papers reported that nearly 200 entries were received from Ceylon, and of these the only two Silver Stars and 4 Bronze

Stars—the highest awards for overseas competitors—were carried off by young artists from the Amarasekara School of Art. They also have been awarded 7 book prizes, 51 Highly Commended and 66 First Class Commendations; children from 5 to 11 years have received credit awards, First Class Commendations and many Highly Commended.

Four paintings only from Ceylon had the added distinction of having their pictures hung on the line. These were "A Hindu Procession" by Iona Jayasundera, "The Balloon Man" by Jagath Siriwardena (13), "The Floods, 1957" by Sherie Cader (14), and "Abandoned Tank" by Kumar Pereira (14), all from the Amarasekara "School of Art, Colombo.

The Secretary congratulating the Principal of the Amarasekara School of Art, Gate Mudaliyar A. C. G. S. Amarasekara, had written that "the number of Silver and Bronze Stars and other Prizes and Awards gained by your school is an achievement of which any school might be proud, not only for artistic gifts of the pupils but also for the excellence of training they receive. Marked indi-

viduality is shown in the work: there is good feeling for picture making and the painting is fresh and sensitive."

* * *

"*Quo Vadimus*" is the title of a painting by Miss Audray Lloyd-Jones hung at the Royal Society of British Artists. About her work Cambridge Daily News says: "If only to see one picture 'Quo Vadimus,' which has aroused great interest, a visit to the Lichfield Galleries would be justified . . . The intensity of "Quo Vadimus" makes it the outstanding picture in the exhibition. Miss Lloyd-Jones's work has been selected for showing in all the Municipal Galleries in England. Miss Lloyd-Jones studied art under Mudaliyar Amarasekara during the War years in Cambridge and her first success at the Royal Institute, London, was achieved under his tuition."

Writing to her teacher of her continued success she says: "without you I could have had no success at all. I often think of your great kindness and patience in helping and teaching me."

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A SPORTS CAUSERIE

By "ITINERANT"

RACING

THE return of racing to headquarters after a spell of over two months, saw poor fields out for the opening day of the Monsoon meeting and the CTC was only able to arrange a six-event card.

Unless the Club takes quick action, by supporting the scheme for a stud farm which has already been put forward, or by helping prospective owners to import new thoroughbreds, the sport of kings is doomed.

A poor attendance too revealed that much of the glamour of this great sport has passed away and with only two first favourites obliging, punters took a beating.

* * *

THE Monsoon Cup (6 furs.) the feature event of the day, saw the hot favourite Kubaishan beaten by the 6 to 1 chance Madhhar al Rafedain after a rousing finish, in which the camera was used to decide the final placings.

Rusty Bar scored his initial success, when he made hacks of his four rivals in the Mihintale Plate (7 furs.), while Golden Rise scored after a long interval.

* * *

SIR Donatus Victoria's Mas'ud al Khair capably handled by Jayawardene made amends for his Nuwara Eliya lapse, by winning the Chavakachcheri Plate (7 furs.) rather comfortably from Hilal Ahmad and Arusha.

Games Court (Court Martial—Geifang Belle) and Al Tayeb also caught the judge's eye.

* * *

TRAINER Mehdi Hussein won his second trophy race for the meet, when his wife's Sunny Caprice (Gunadasa) scored a thrilling victory over Flying Sorcerer in the Stewards' Cup (1 mile) on the second day.

Two objections marred the day's racing, the first against Cobscar winner of the Dutugemunu Stakes (6 furs.) for crossing was over-ruled, but the second against Zaer who won the Warakapola Plate (1¼ miles) was upheld and the race awarded to Adhid al Qassif.

Ibn Mirdas scored a stylish victory in the Kalmunai Plate (1 mile) to earn promotion to Class I and now becomes a live contender for Arab Classic in August.

A BATTLE ROYAL

A C.R. and F.C.—Havelocks rucker clash is always a hard-fought, tense match and this year's first encounter, at Longden Place, was no exception. It was, if anything, more tense than usual as a result of 2 C.R. players crossing over to the Havelocks, and playing against their old club, and the standard of rucker quite naturally suffered.

The C.R. margin of victory—8-3—is no fair indication of their superiority as a team, particularly of their back division. It was here that the C.R. scored, and they would probably have scored very much more had they used their speedy three-quarters more often.

The game got off to a hectic start and in no time Havelocks were awarded a penalty 30 yards or so from the C.R. goal. Anghie has often kicked correct from further out and from more difficult angles, but this time the occasion and, perhaps, a few unfortunate comments from the crowd proved too much for him. He sliced his kick wide off the mark and the Havelocks had missed a glorious chance of snatching a lead, a lead which might have made all the difference to their play.

Soon after, the C.R. inside three-quarter Rambukwella broke through and passed to Atwell who touched down near the corner flag. And at

once the woeful lack of speed of the Havelocks back division was laid bare. Almeida made a good conversion and it looked as if the C.R. would pile up a big score.

The Havelocks, however, fought back and their nippy forwards drove play back into C.R. territory where Conrad Ephraums, pouncing on a defensive lapse, scored an opportunist try. Anghie missed an easy conversion, the ball hitting the wrong side of the left upright.

The rest of the game was dominated by the C.R. who played far better as a team, but they could not score till late in the second half when Atwell collected a most injudicious kick by Dias, the Havelocks scrum-half, and outran two defenders to score his second try which went unconverted.

In the final analysis, the deciding factor was the speed of the C.R. back division and to a lesser extent the line-out play of Cader and R. Ingleton. Until the Havelocks find a faster set of three-quarters, all the tenacious work of their forwards will prove of no avail.

* * *

AT Darrawella, Kandy beat Dickoya by 9 points to 8, de Hoedt converting the deciding penalty a few minutes from time after Dickoya had led 8-3 at half time.

Kandy scored first when de Hoedt converted a penalty in the fourth minute. Tissera touched down and McRae converted to give Dickoya the lead which was increased when McRae converted a penalty.



—Times

A C.R. and F.C. player closes in as Drieberg makes a dash for the ball during the Clifford Cup rucker match at Longden Place on Saturday, 9th May, which the C.R. and F.C. won 8-3.

A SPORTS CAUSERIE

De Hoedt put over two more penalties in the second half—the second a few minutes from time—and Kandy had won a thrilling match.

Uva gave a disappointing display at Badulla, beating KV 16-6 in a scrappy game.

* * *

C. H. and F. C. BEAT HAVELOCKS

TWO brilliant tries in the closing minutes gave CH and FC victory over the Havelocks by 12 points to 6 at the Racecourse and once again the Havelocks back division had let them down.

Their forwards fought hard for 50 minutes and held the home team, but a good run by Peglar saw Harrison touch down and, soon after, Spark clinched the issue when he went through on his own.

At Badulla, Dimbula beat Uva 11-6 in a key match in the up-country section of the Clifford Cup, Gauder, Cameron, Bean and Bousfield figuring prominently for the winners.

* * *

' VARSITY SURPRISE C. R.

THE University, who have had a poor hockey season, sprang a surprise on the Andriesz Shield league leaders, the CR and FC, beating them 1-0 at Reid Avenue. This shock win leaves the table very open.

CR lead with 16 points from 10 games, BRC lie second with 15 points from 10 games, Tamils are best placed with 13 points from 7 games and Havelocks are fourth with 12 points from 9 games.

United Youngsters, who lead the Pioneer Shield table (B Div.), failed to make certain of the shield when they drew 1-1 with Aquinas on the Ceylonese Ladies' Grounds.

Youngsters Shine

TWO youngsters came into prominence at the last motor racing meet to be held at Katukurunda. R. de Kretser on a Ducati, despite a nasty spill in the 350 c.c. Clubmen's event of the Ceylon Motor Cycle club, went on to win the 250 c.c. clubmen's event from his brother, Warwick, and K. de Silva in an MGA had a winning debut in the event for racing and sports cars up to 1,600 c.c., beating a more experienced driver in Rauff.

Zacky Dean, who won the 500 c.c. racing class for motor cycles, also clocked the fastest lap for the day. His brother, Rally, won the 350 c.c. racing class from J. Thomas and B. Mirando, but it was Mirando who caught the eye with a brilliant display of cornering on a less powerful bike.

Other motor cyclists to do well were Chandra de Costa, winner of the 250 c.c. racing class, and C. Redlich, winner of the 500 c.c. clubmen's event astride a Triumph Tiger 100.

H. McPherson was the pick of the racing drivers, winning the event for sports and racing cars (unlimited) over 10 laps in his 28-year-old Riley and clocking the fastest time for the day.

* * *

FOR the first time in recent years, a Jaffna Schools cricket team played a Colombo Schools team and emerged victorious by 67 runs.

This match was arranged to mark the presentation of the "Times of Ceylon Schools' cricketer of the year" contest and was played on the matting wicket at St. Peter's College on Saturday.

The Jaffna boys showed that they are quite a capable side, for after hitting up 192 runs, Seevaratnam getting a bright 77, they dismissed the "cream" of the Colombo Schools for only 125.

* * *

AFTER the match, Mr. Donovan Andree presented the handsome challenge cup donated by him, to E. Lorenz Pereira of Royal, who was voted the "Schools' cricketer of the Year".

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NEW CAR NEWS

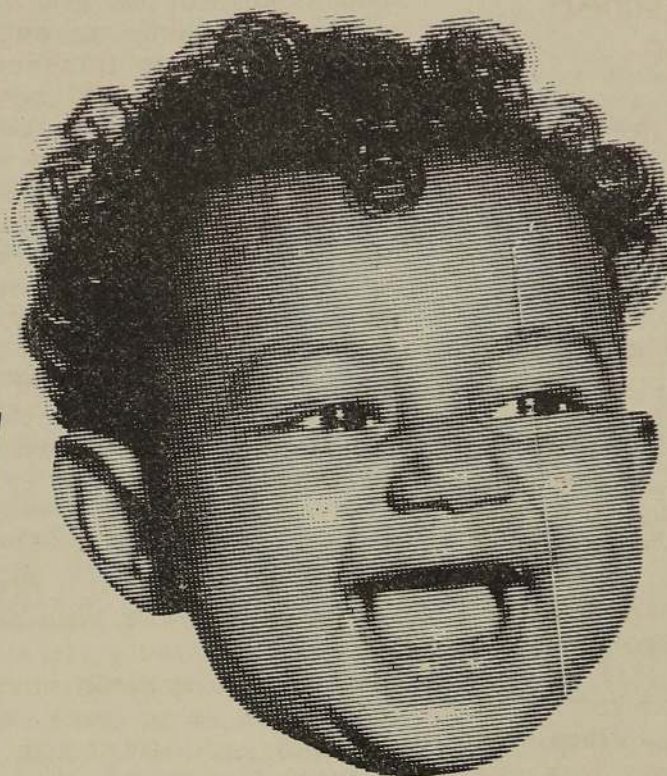
— By J. P. O. —

THE Vauxhall-Friary. In collaboration with Friary Motors, Ltd., the Vauxhall Company will shortly be marketing a new station wagon, to be called the Vauxhall-Friary. It will be built on the 6-cylinder Velox unit and have a maximum luggage carrying capacity of 52 cubic feet, when the rear seat is folded out of the way. There are four side doors and one behind, the latter opening upwards and out of the way. The side windows of the Friary present rather a shambles, some leaning one way and some the other. Perhaps later models will display better symmetry. With its powerful engine and ample carrying capacity the Friary should be popular in Ceylon as a dual purpose estate/saloon car.

The Ceylon Society for the Prevention of Accidents, or CeSPA as it is popularly known, continues its good work of educating people to be "safety conscious". This takes many forms such as, Child Safety, Industrial Safety and Road Safety. A feature of the latter is the conduct of a Permanent Safe Driving Competition. It is open to professional drivers only, and they have to be entered by their employers (the fee being Rs. 2/- per person). At the completion of each accident-free year of driving the competitor is awarded a certificate by CeSPA. The employer is responsible, and it is left to his integrity to report any blameworthy accident in which his driver has been involved. At the end of 5 accident-free years of driving the competitor receives a CeSPA medal, and goes on for the next five years earning certificates as before until the 10th year, when he receives an even more imposing medal—and so the permanent competition progresses. One accident, and the record is erased.

In addition to encouraging safe driving, the awards a competitor receives serve him as a valuable testimonial for future employment. At present several fleet owners (including the Ceylon Transport Board) have entered drivers. There is nothing against a private individual entering his driver. In order to help CeSPA with this splendid scheme for better driving, I would like to see all owners of motor vehicles entering their drivers. Full details and all the appropriate forms will be sent immediately, on application to the Hon. Secretary, CeSPA, P. O. Box No. 290, Colombo.

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A WOMAN'S DIARY

IN DEFENCE OF THE CEYLON WOMAN

—By ANNE—

THE way some people talk, you'd think that Ceylon women are among the most backward and the most useless in the world. It is so easy to pick on a segment and generalise to the detraction of the whole. Look at the odious term, "Colombo 7 Cutie" thought up by some bright journalist and ever since on the lips of every street orator as a term of the deepest opprobrium. All the good work performed through the years by public-spirited women from Cinnamon Gardens is overlooked, and the foibles of a few are spotlighted out of all proportion until it would seem that all that is stupid and worthless is epitomized in the Colombo 7 woman. When the singer, Tony Brent, was here and the newspapers reported his being deluged by telephone calls from girls, a responsible Sinhalese newspaper promptly came out with an editorial attacking the "Kurunduwatte Ganu" who chased foreign Tony Brent and neglected our own Ananda Samarakone and Sunil Shanta!

* * *

SIMILARLY, from time to time, you hear condemnation of the idle lives Ceylon women lead, of how they have servants at their beck and call and leave the upbringing of their children to ayahs. This line of talk always makes me laugh. The vast majority of Ceylonese mothers toil and spin for their families with little thought for themselves and their own comfort—and I don't mean working-class women only, but by far the greater number of middle-class women as well. All around me I see women who cook and sew and wash and polish and stand in queues day after day, year after year; who deny themselves new clothes and cosmetics and entertainment and whose greatest pleasure is in seeing their children grow up happy and strong and with the best possible education. Because their lives are so unspectacular, they never hit the headlines, but they are certainly heroines in their own right.

OPPOSITE our house, for example, is a young woman who, with her family of three, lives in a recon-verted garage which is most inadequate for their needs. Her eldest child stays with his grandmother, coming home only at week-ends, because there just isn't room for him. They cannot find a roomier house or apartment at a reasonable rent. She spends the day on her feet, serving behind a shop counter, but her tiny house is beautifully kept, her children neatly dressed and herself smart and energetic. On Sunday mornings I watch her turning out mattresses and pillows and, armed with broom and duster, giving her small domain a thorough cleaning-out. She is always bright and cheerful.

* * *

NEXT door to us is a real good neighbour who, with only the help of one young servant-boy, looks after a spacious house and garden. She is up early morning and is busy until late at night, going marketing, going to the co-op, cooking the meals, feeding her chickens, tending her precious plants, visiting daily her aged mother, who lives close by. She has seven sons, and when I first met her I pitied her because her husband has dissociated himself from the claims of family-life in order to devote himself to religion. How wrong I was! A deeply religious woman herself, my neighbour fully approves of her husband's decision. She has no self-pity, but smilingly bears her family's burdens on her capable shoulders. I am constantly indebted to her for fruit from her garden, fresh eggs from her hens and other constant acts of kindness.

* * *

THEN there is the redoubtable Emmie, who also brings up her family single-handed because her husband is stationed far away and the children go to schools in Colombo. Emmie and her four children occupy a small apartment comprising a large room (which she has cleverly divided into kitchen and bedroom), a bathroom and a balcony. She sews all the children's clothes, she does the marketing and cooking, she trudges to the Pettah in search of school books for the children, she copes with their homework and family illnesses—and she is the jolliest company imaginable. She can relax a little at holiday time,

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when, with a great sigh of relief, the whole family says a temporary good-bye to their cramped living quarters and make for her husband's more comfortable home outstation.

* * *

LILIAN married at seventeen and at thirty-four is the mother of a sixteen-year-old son and four younger children, with No. 6 due quite soon. She holds a responsible post in a mercantile firm, is studying for her Chartered Secretary's examination, imports day-old chicks from abroad and does quite a satisfactory poultry-business, sews all the children's clothes and is an excellent cook. She also finds time to have fun with her children and enjoys having guests drop in unexpectedly for Sunday lunch!

Then there is my Aunt Phillipa, who, although unmarried, leads a very full existence. She works in an office and keeps house with three other bachelor-women. A keen gardener, she always finds time to keep her flower-beds trim and blooming. Most of her spare time is spent in visiting the sick and cheering the afflicted. She never forgets a birthday or an anniversary, as her numerous nieces and nephews and their still more numerous children have good cause to know. Clever with her fingers, she turns out the most delectable gifts for them. And if a niece is having a hard time without servants, Aunt Phillipa will turn up on Sunday to offer to do the cooking or the washing. She always reminds me of R. L. Stevenson's lines :

"Chief of the aunts, not only I
But all your dozen of nurslings
cry:

'What did the other children
do?

And what were childhood,
wanting you?'"

* * *

AND all over Ceylon are grandmothers—I can think of so many—who do not sit with folded hands in their old age, but who are such a blessing to their children and grandchildren. They keep house for married daughters who have to go to work, they are a tower of strength in times of family illness, they keep the grand-children to enable young parents to have a holiday, they come to the rescue when servants desert.

(Continued on page 32)

GETTING ALONG WITH LIFE

By E. C. THOMSON

(Special to the Ceylon Fortnightly Review)

MR. and Mrs. Downham of Nottingham, in the English Midlands, spread smiles of gladness round Britain's breakfast tables the other day. Their happy faces beamed out from a newspaper portrait taken up on the morning of their 75th wedding anniversary. They were married on April 16, 1884. Now, both 98, they are, I take it, supreme examples of that ability to "get along with life" which, according to our holiday statisticians, is a trait in the national character appealing strongly to visitors from abroad.

Seventy-five years ago the Downhams left the church by horse-drawn carriage. To-day, I have no doubt, they would take for granted the new British helicopter taxi services. Or why not a hovercraft? The next page to their picture featured a new British revolutionary saucer-shaped hovercraft due for operational trials in June. What a honeymoon trip it would have given them if intended in 1884!

* * *

No More Stunt

DRIVEN by a 450-horse-power engine, the Saunders-Roe hovercraft skims along the sea's surface about six feet (two metres) up on an air cushion created by fans. Nor is it a mere test pilot's stunt. Britain's National Research Development Corporation foresees hovercraft travel on air-liner scale.

From the days of the one-horse cab, Mr. and Mrs. Downham had been getting along together for quarter of a century, and had seen the advent of the motor car, before the first Engineering and Marine Exhibition was held in London in 1909. And though marvellous at the time, what a different affair that must have been compared with the spectacular display of automation, welding and nuclear techniques I saw at the 1959 edition at Olympia in London, in April.

ENGLISH FLOWERS AND GARDENS

(Continued from page 23)

by a cheap designer from thin sheets of soft plastic, to the older shrub roses. The English gardener will now talk with excitement of the old striped Rosa Mundi, of planting an old moss rose or a Souvenir de la Malmaison.

As for new species from all over the world, our Atlantic climate does make the English garden a surprisingly good host. Mild winters more than compensate for rain or clouds across the sun. And this is true even as far north as Scotland. Sea is a warm surrounding blanket, and nowhere in Britain can a garden be more than sixty miles from its influence.

A WOMAN'S DIARY

(Continued from page 31)

I know of one who took on six children (one a baby of seven months), to enable her daughter to accompany her husband abroad. This same old lady sews all the clothes for seven grandchildren.

As I see it, Ceylon is full of countless women like these, few I have mentioned. We have our share of the frivolous and the useless, no doubt—which country does not? But taken as a whole, the average Ceylon woman is worth writing about!

CEYLON CELEBRITIES

(Continued from page 11)

The Rev. G. A. H. Arndt was Honorary Secretary of the Old Boys' Association for over twenty years and the gathering of old Thomians that assembled at the graveside, seemed to stir many memories of the past. The funeral was on a Sunday evening, on a beautiful October day in 1932, and the last hymn sung, the silent crowds who wended their way home were greeted with Church bells of various Churches, which seemed to join in wafting their sad message of farewell to the memory of a great, but simple life, well lived and well loved.

WITH THE DAWN CAME ENLIGHTENMENT

(Continued from page 25)

The Lord Buddha continued his preaching and gathered round him thousands of disciples. When finally he felt that his task had been accomplished to his heart's desire, he made his way to the town of Kusinara, where he passed unto Nirvana "where the Silence lives."

THE PASSING SCENE

(Continued from page 15)

One man wanted to buy a tram to live in it but the municipality refused to deliver it at his parking lot. There were no rails to the spot!

Commented the Chief Engineer of the Transport Department of the municipality, on receiving the Prime Minister's order: "Old soldiers never die." And a tramyard foreman patted the oldest of the bone-shakers affectionately, saying "she's good for another ten years."

MATTERS OF MOMENT

(Continued from page 19)

THE Soviet Union is to hold an industrial and trade exhibition in Colombo shortly. The site chosen is in Vihara Maha Devi (Victoria) Park. A Russian architect is due in Colombo next month to plan the lay-out of the pavilion and ancillary buildings.

Besides commodities, the latest developments in science and technology will be on show. Aspects of Russian life and art will also be displayed. Highlights of the exhibition will be replicas of the Sputniks and a portable TV station. The exhibition will last a month.

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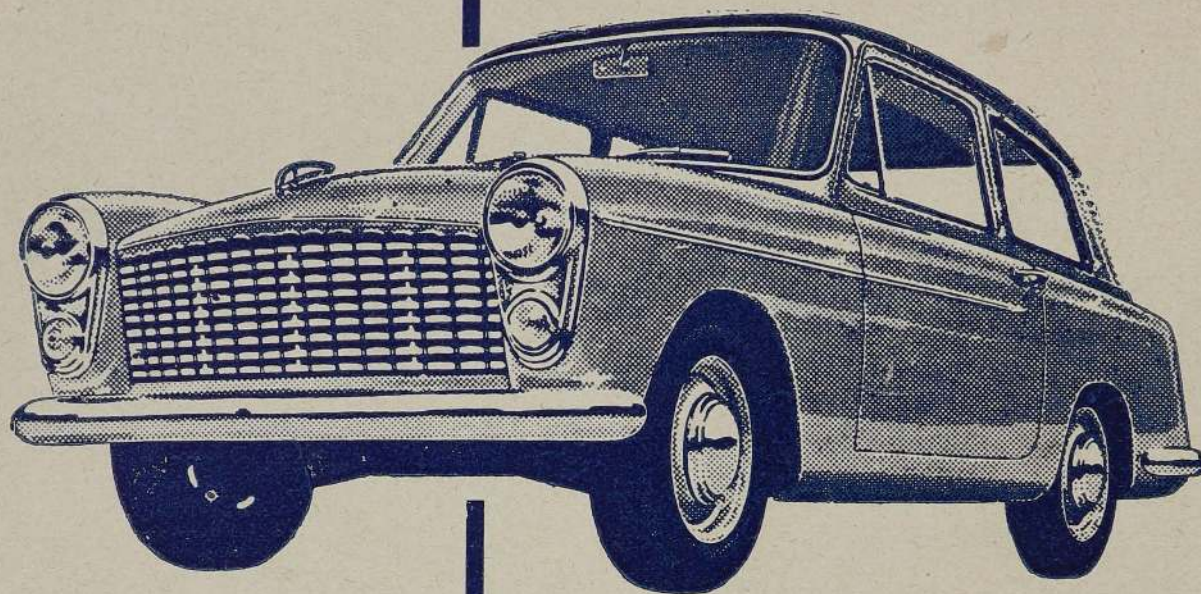
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