

The Ceylon Just Rightly Review

Vol. XII

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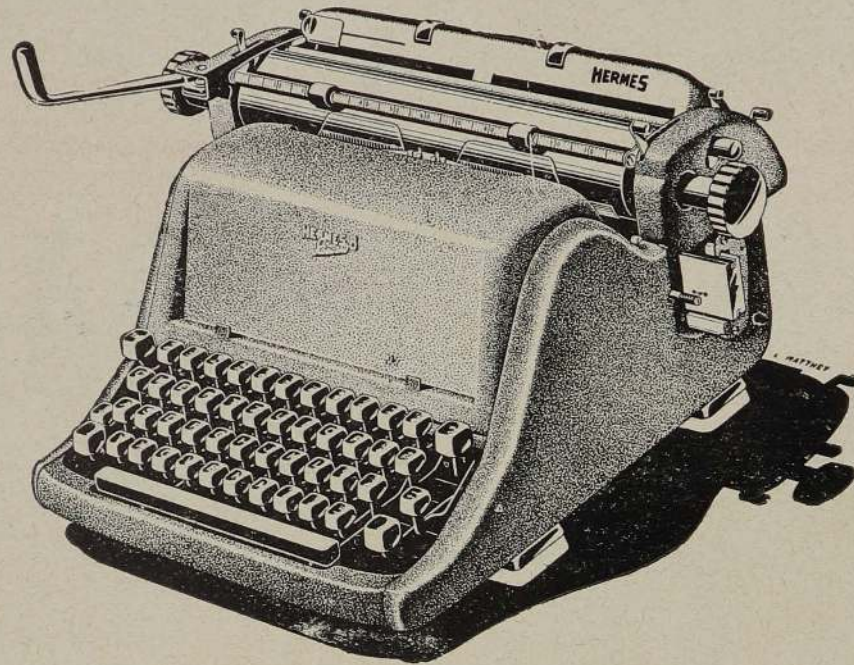
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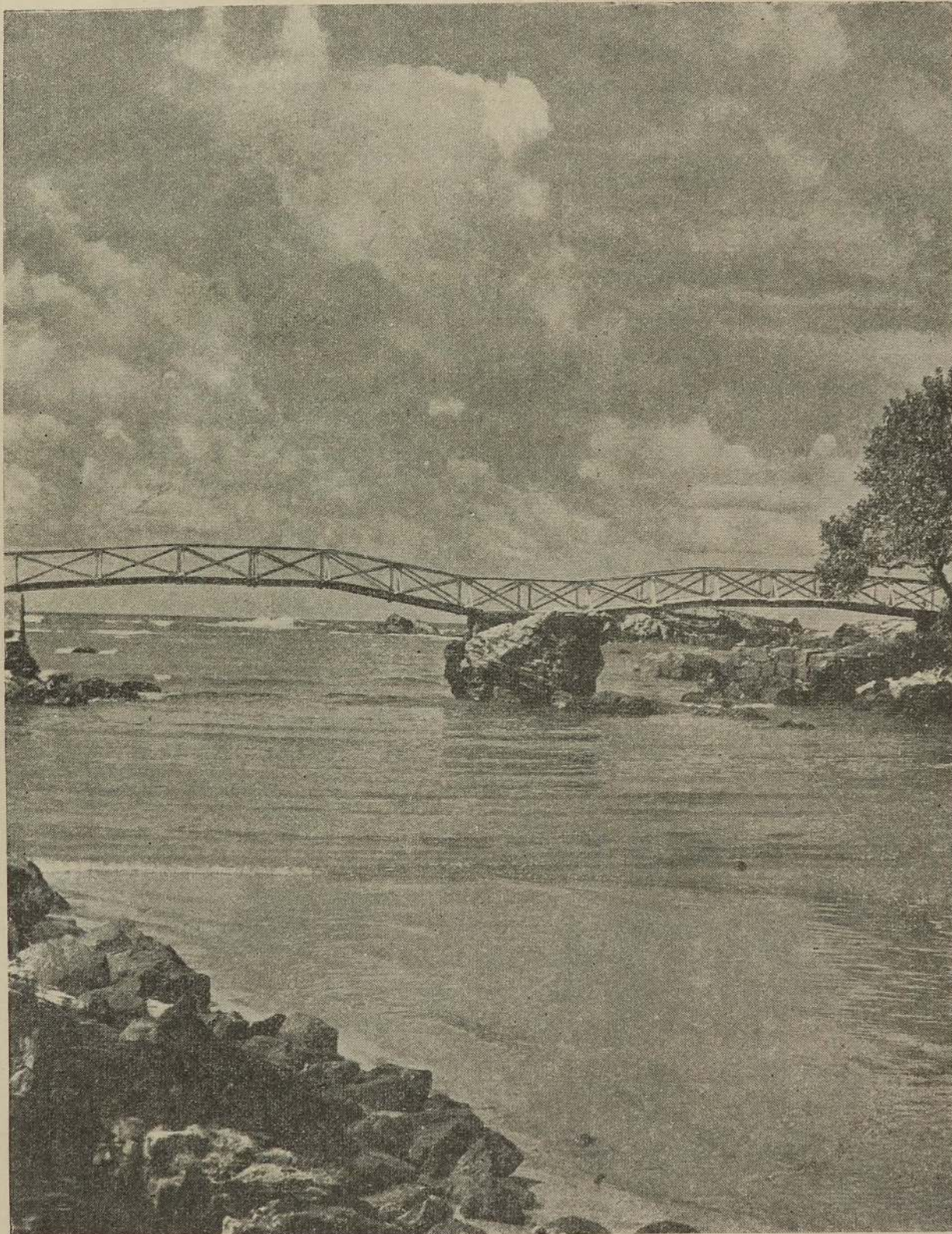
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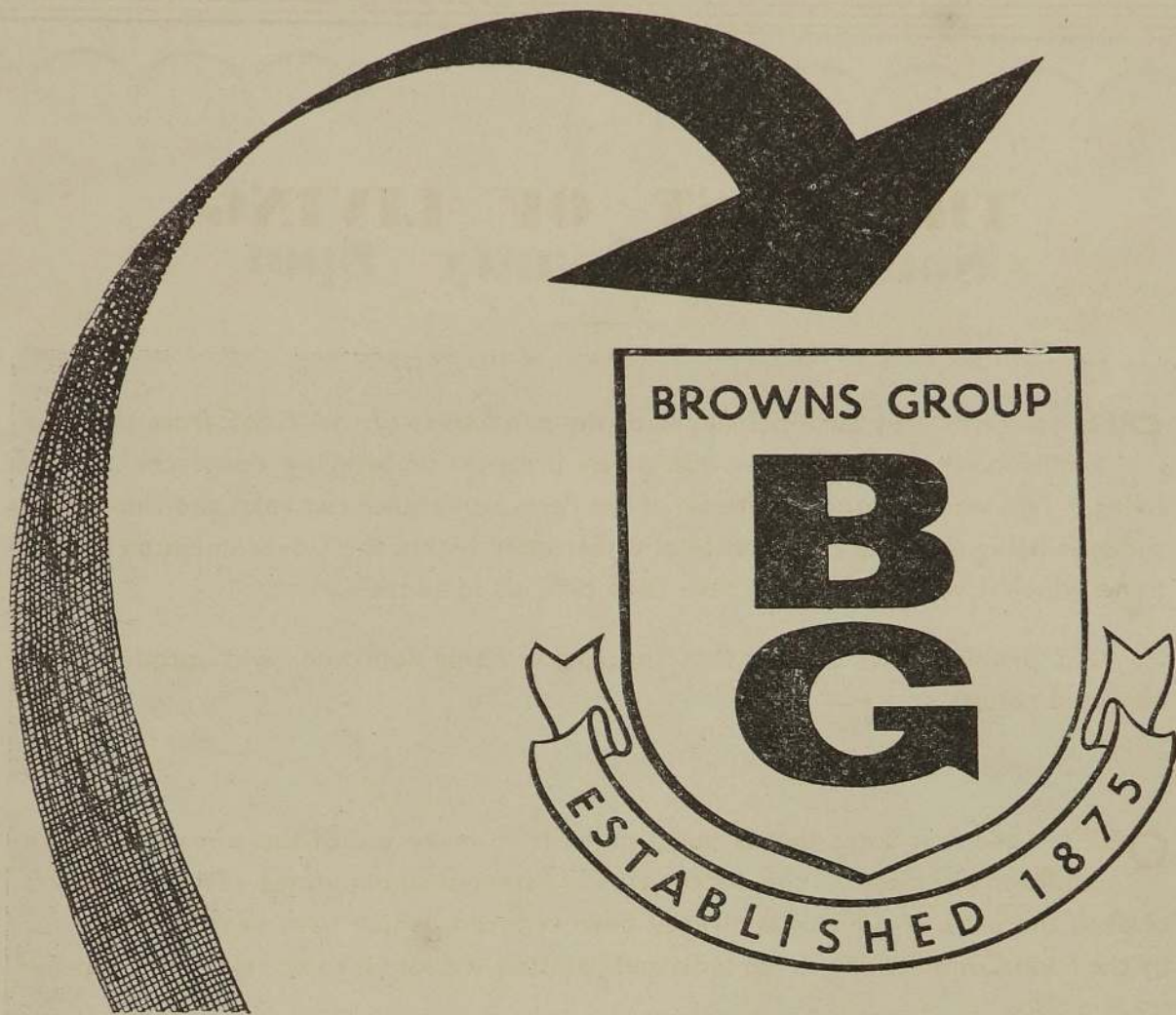
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THE COST OF LIVING

FREE to carry out SLFP policies with the breakaway of the VLSSP from the MEP coalition, the Government has given priority to bringing down the cost of living. This was the principal theme of the Party conference last year, and the opportunity is being seized of the absence of disharmony within the Government to pursue a line which it would probably have been difficult to adopt earlier.

It is problematical though that the course being followed will produce the expected results.

* * * *

ONE of the first steps that is being taken is to make use of the private trade, in addition to co-ops, in the distribution of essential commodities. Thus of imports of dhal, the price of which has already been reduced, which have been arranged for by the Food Commissioner from India and Pakistan, a quota is to be released to retail traders also.

A sample of "maldive fish" ordered from Japan is to be put on the market to test its acceptability with a view to establishing a fresh source for this scarce commodity and also reducing its price. Efforts are also being made to increase the supply of fresh fish and improve the present marketing system.

These measures will no doubt bring a little relief, but it is to be feared that they will make no significant impression on the cost of living.

* * * *

AS far as food is concerned, it is by increasing local production rather than imports, with the vagaries to which they are subject, that shortages of supply and rises in price can be avoided. But more than food it is clothing and shelter that contribute to the high cost of living. For all the efforts of the Government so far, the housing problem remains, and rents continue to be excessive. Textiles are plentiful in the market and at prices fairly within reach of everybody, but that is no reason why domestic production should not be stepped up and costs reduced.

Not by piecemeal action but by carrying out a planned programme can economic stability be achieved.

THE EDITOR

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MATTERS OF MOMENT

— By BRUTUS —

MAY 24th this year was for the first time celebrated as Commonwealth Day.

In a message on the occasion Air-Marshal Sir Victor Goddard, President of the Commonwealth Day movement, said: "Man's progress towards awareness of brotherhood has been going on, going back and going on again for thousands of years. But never before has there been so great a world-wide group of such different nations so freely associated in agreement to honour one simple, human idea—their common well-being in a kind of brotherhood. Adventurously the seed of the idea was planted as Empire. But now, behold, it is trees of Commonwealth that have grown, each of its own kind, according to its own nature and climate, each flowering and fruiting according to its own character.

"With every new example of independent nationhood there springs, or wanes and springs again, an awareness of a wide unity—a unity that is revealed in kindly brilliance by the Queen and members of her own family on their travels through many lands during this year of Commonwealth; an awareness of a spiritual flame kindled as much by their allegiance and service to us as by ours to them."

* * *

THE death of Mr. John Foster Dulles, late U.S. Secretary of State, was given great prominence in the Ceylon Press and evoked prompt sympathy from the people of Ceylon.

One newspaper which had been highly critical of his policies said editorially that no one had any doubt of his "single-minded dedication and devotion to his duty as he saw it. He served his country with love and untiring zeal, with complete integrity and passionate idealism. He faced his last painful illness with characteristic courage and serenity. His death is an immense loss to the American people, but their sorrow will be mitigated by the tributes paid to his memory by the entire world and by the sympathy of friend and political foe alike".

OFFICIALS of the "Colombo powers", minus Burma, met in Colombo last week to prepare the agenda for the economic conference of Asian and African Bandung powers proposed by the Prime Minister, Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike.

Opening the proceedings Mr. Bandaranaike disclosed that he had invited 30 countries to the conference and of them only two, Burma and Laos, considered the conference inopportune. Sudan, the Philippines and Yemen had not yet replied.



The late John Foster Dulles.

The rest had generally agreed. He recalled that the idea of the conference, which he had mooted, stemmed from the Suez crisis, which was the subject of talks among the Colombo powers at Delhi in 1956, at the instance of Mr. Nehru.

As to the matters which the conference might deal with, he mentioned the vital need for stabilisation of trade and of prices of primary products, diversification of exports, and collaboration in shipping, food production, planning and technical assistance. It would also be useful, he suggested, to explore the possibility of a regional development bank, a common policy on foreign enterprise, and the sharing of nuclear energy.

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The lack of economic stability was affecting political stability in the Asian-African region, he said, and while underdeveloped countries were grateful for the assistance given to them by others, one could not escape the conviction that it might become a "drug" and lead to undue dependence on foreign assistance. The conference was in no sense intended to create a bloc, he declared.

Mr. Y. D. Gundevia (India), Mr. Soerianata Djoemena (Indonesia) and Mr. Hussein Mirza (Pakistan) also spoke at the opening meeting.

The committee, over which Mr. Gunasena de Soya, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Defence and External Affairs presided, concluded their talks in four days. The report prepared by them, which contains a draft agenda for the economic conference, was finalised after an informal discussion with the Prime Minister. It now goes to the Prime Ministers of the Colombo Powers, who will take the final decisions regarding the holding of the conference.

* * *

WHETHER it was intended to nationalise foreign-owned estates, and if so when, was the question addressed to the Government by Mr. A. F. R. Goonewardene, the Chairman, at a general meeting of the Kurunegala Planters' Association last week.

Estate owners were in a state of suspense, he said, and that was not good for the planting industry. The situation had been brought about by ministers making conflicting statements about nationalisation. To have a stabilised economy it was essential for the Government to give the planting industry an assurance of a stable policy for at least ten years.

Referring to the people of Indian origin who have failed to secure Ceylon citizenship, Mr. Goonewardene said: "Stateless persons are not born as such but are the creatures of our legislature. For generations they have lived here. We now disown them and India will not have them. We glibly talk of human rights and freedom, but what justice or sympathy have we extend to these derelict jetsam and flotsam of humans?"

MATTERS OF MOMENT

Mr. Goonewardene paid a warm tribute to Mr. B. Mahadeva, CCS, for the efficiency with which he was working the Agricultural "Trinity"—the tea, rubber and coconut rehabilitation schemes.

* * *

RAILWAY passengers were greatly inconvenienced by curtailment of the train services on account of guards going on strike last Friday. Traffic inspectors and other officers were called upon to function as guards, but with engine drivers also reporting "sick" in large numbers the management could not provide an adequate service. The Transport Board came to the assistance of travellers by putting more buses on the road, but a proportion of commuters were hard hit by the extra expense involved.

The Guards' Union called the strike in protest against a scheme to promote ticket examiners and shunters as guards. They took the stand that, while they appreciated the necessity to give the lower ranks an opportunity to rise in the service, a minimum educational standard should be prescribed in the interest of efficiency and to avoid "corruption and nepotism".

The strike was still on as this journal went to press.

PRIVATE practice of any description by Government doctors is likely to cease in 1962, as a result of a determined stand taken by the Government Medical Officers' Association.

At the last annual general meeting of the Association it was resolved that in keeping with the resolution adopted in December, 1956, that the Association was against private practice but not against consultative practice, the medical officers who were allowed consultative practice according to their letters of appointment be allowed the privilege up to 1962, when all forms of private practice will be abolished.

An amendment that "consultative practice" be allowed to all medical officers was defeated.

Dr. Shelton Cabraal was elected President of the Association.

* * *

THE assistance given by the Government of Sweden was gratefully acknowledged when a pilot family planning project was inaugurated at a group of villages in Bandaragama, between Panadura and Horana.

Designated the Central Family Welfare Clinic, it was opened by

Mr. M. P. de Zoysa, Parliamentary Secretary, in the absence of the Minister of Health, Mrs. Vimala Wijewardene. At a public meeting which followed, presided over by the Director of Health Services, Dr. W. A. Karunaratne, Prof. J. Asplund, Chief Technical Adviser, and Mr. Y. H. Ekmark, Consul-General for Sweden, were among the speakers.

The villages covered have a population of over 13,000.

* * *

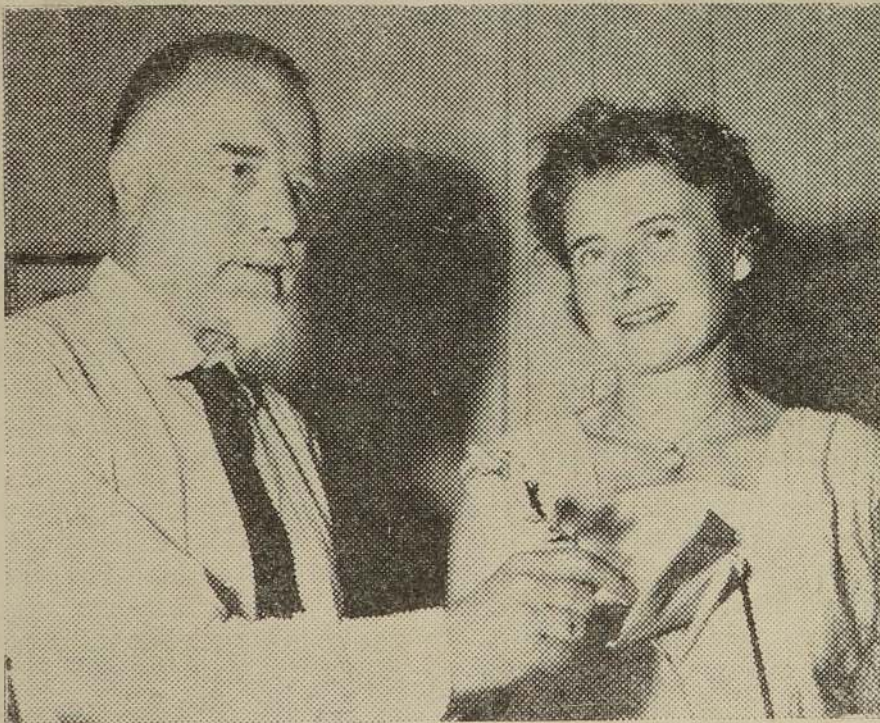
OUT of the duty of Rs. 1.47 levied on a gallon of petrol, 50 cents should be set apart by the Government for the maintenance of roads and bridges.

The suggestion was made by Dr. G. Wignaraja, the President, at the annual general meeting of the Automobile Association of Ceylon last Saturday. He congratulated the Police on the satisfactory working of the "uniflow" traffic scheme in Colombo Fort: he mentioned that the A. A. was consulted when it was launched and gave it full support. He, however, criticised the parking arrangements in the Fort, observing that an "inordinate" amount of space was reserved not only for diplomatic missions but also for trade representatives and others in the small, congested business area in the City. "Whilst we would not grudge the courtesy of one parking lot being reserved for the head of each diplomatic mission for his own use, we ask whether it is fair and equitable for such concessions to be allowed indiscriminately at the expense of motorists who contribute substantially in various ways to the national exchequer." He expressed the hope that the Special Commissioner of the Colombo Municipality would give prompt and serious consideration to the matter.

* * *

THE possibility of a change of policy as regards air transport was visualised by the Minister of Transport, Mr. Maitripala Senanayake, when he opened the talks between Ceylon and a mission from the Scandinavian governments last week on the exchange of air traffic rights.

He said that although Ceylon was a small country and its airline was only a fledgling, a policy of laissez



—Times

Herr Wilhelm Von Pochhammer, who was Consul for Germany in Ceylon from 1932 to 1935, arrived in Colombo last week with his wife on a brief visit.

Herr Von Pochhammer's first child was born in Colombo and the King of Saxony, Fredericus Augustus, came here for her christening.

MATTERS OF MOMENT

faire had been followed hitherto in granting traffic rights to foreign carriers. The protectionist policy adopted by more powerful countries might, however, compel Ceylon to reconsider its policy. He was not mindful, he added, of the necessity of small countries helping each other and standing together lest they be swamped by the airlines of large countries which controlled the major traffic markets of the world.

Announcing that Ceylon was planning to build an airport of the highest international standards in order to meet the demands of the jet age, Mr. Senanayake expressed the hope that if the talks led to an air transport service being inaugurated the Scandinavian countries would be able to give a fillip to the development of tourism in Ceylon. Eventually a bi-lateral agreement was concluded, Mr. Hans Olav, Norwegian Minister in Ceylon, signing for the Scandinavian countries.

* * *

THE Scandinavian delegation was followed by a delegation from Italy, led by the Minister of Civil Aviation, Dr. G. Bovetti, for the translation of the present temporary franchise granted to Ceylon by Italy into a full bi-lateral agreement.

At the opening of the talks Mr. Maitripala Senanayake, Minister of Transport, acknowledged that the Italian Government had been extremely fair in granting expeditiously temporary commercial rights whenever application was made by Ceylon. He also announced that Ceylon's holding in the partnership with K.L.M., which is in the ratio of 51 to 49, would shortly be changed by reducing the K.L.M. share capital to 26 per cent.

* * *

FACILITIES have been provided under the Colombo Plan to the Ceylon Transport Board for the training of three of its engineers in Britain.

They will study advanced motor engineering for 18 months in the London Transport Board depot at Chiswick. Thereafter they will spend three weeks at a smaller depot at Aldenham and then tour bus garages to see running repairs being carried out on vehicles. They will also tour Leyland Motors, A.E.C., and other large engineering and coach-building firms concerned with the

manufacture of passenger road transport. Finally they will spend some time in the provinces studying the operation of smaller municipal transport systems.

* * *

THE staff of the Nuwara Eliya Kachcheri gave a dinner at the Grand Hotel to Mr. R. H. D. Manders, Government Agent, who is retiring this month, and Mrs. Manders. Mr. Manders is the last European in the civil service.

Among the other guests at the dinner was Mr. S. C. Fernando Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs, and Mrs. Fernando. Mr. Fernando described Mr. Manders as no ordinary government servant but an institution in himself. Mr. Manders had served in every province except the Northern, and characteristically he was going to spend two weeks there to make up for the omission! He had the distinction of having spent his whole career in the kachcheri. It was no secret that he could have been a permanent secretary had he wanted to.

THE talks between Ceylon and China on the contract for this year under the rice-rubber pact were concluded last week two and a half months after they started.

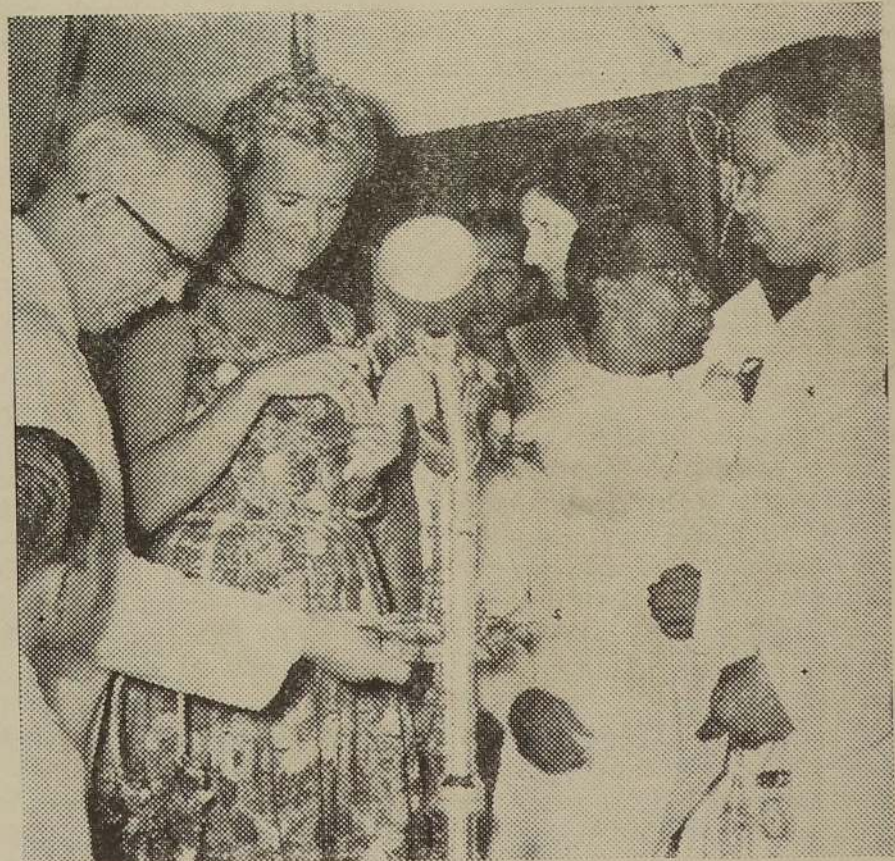
Agreement has been reached providing for the supply of 30,000 tons of sheet rubber by Ceylon in exchange for 230,000 tons of rice from China. China is reported to have agreed to pay a premium over the Singapore price for rubber to meet storage, handling and other charges.

The agreement will be signed shortly.

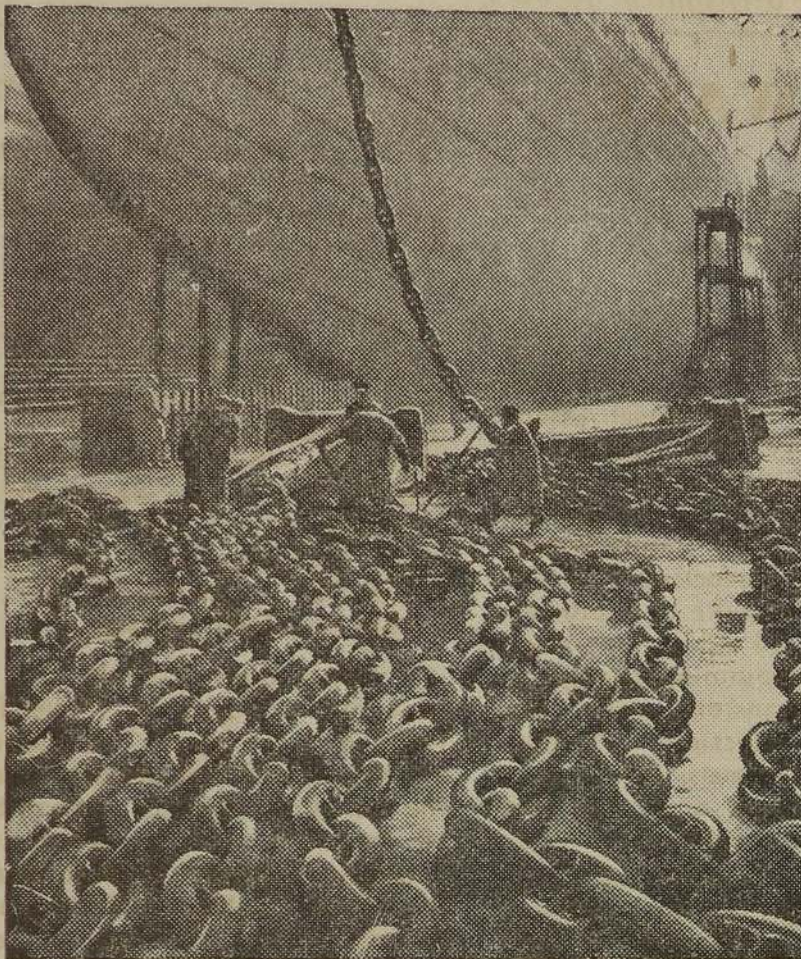
* * *

A WAVE of influenza is sweeping over the Island. Reports from all over the country speak of the out-patients departments of hospitals, dispensaries and private practitioners' establishments being besieged by patients. Fatalities have been negligible in number, but though of a few days duration the fever leaves patients weak and exhausted for more than a week.

(Continued on page 9)



—Times
The Consul for Sweden in Ceylon, Mr. Y. H. Ekmark, and Mrs. Ekmark lighting the traditional oil lamp at the official opening of the Family Welfare Centre at Alutgama, Bandaragama.



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— By ERNEST CHISHOLM THOMSON —

(Fortnightly Review Special)

PEOPLE from lands with long, straight highways laugh uproariously sometimes at the winding, twisting roads of old England. But I love them for their hidden secrets. You never know what surprises may lie in wait round the next corner.

It was past a particularly sharp bend in the New Forest, after we had left the port of Southampton the other afternoon, that our car wind-screen suddenly framed one of the grandest scenes imaginable. Away to the right stretched Beaulieu Water, enfolded in thick woods of oak and beech. Ahead stood Beaulieu Abbey, grey with the mellowing of 700 years, and alongside it the ancient Palace House and Lord Montagu of Beaulieu's automobile museum.

Not shining modern contraptions, but vintage motorcars, these, as thoroughbred as the Cistercian Abbey, but definitely part of the attractions that bring visitors from home and overseas to this glorious retreat. Lord Montagu, it happens, is an automobile enthusiast, as well as being owner of one of the many stately homes now on public view in England, Wales and Scotland.

Never have I come across such a blend of ancient and modern history. In the mansion itself we ranged through panelled halls containing armour and swords used by the occupants 400 years ago, then examined Rolls Royce and other pedigree cars of half-a-century back before taking tea in a stone-arched refectory which was already ancient when Columbus discovered America.

* * *

Immense Variety

SINCE our call at Beaulieu I have been running through a new guide to the 450 historic homes and castles which have "Welcome" on the mat to visitors from all over the world. The pictures and descriptions make one's mouth water. Though many properties are privately owned, others are controlled by the National Trust and the National Trust for Scotland. Many castles, too expensive nowadays for an individual to maintain, are administered by the Ministry of Works.

The variety is immense, ranging almost literally from castle to cottage. Apart from Royal Establishments like Windsor Castle and Kensington Palace, London, which are on view to the public at certain times, there are many stately homes run as business enterprises. One of the biggest is the Duke of Bedford's Woburn Abbey, 44 miles north-west of London. Surrounding the great 18th-century mansion with its £1,500,000 art collection, is a Zoo park with rare animals, a children's playground, a maze, and lakes for boating parties and picnics.

At the other end of the scale, almost in the cottage category, we have St. Mary's, Bramber, in the country of Sussex, a lovely timber-framed house dating back 500 years and still lived in by the present owner, Miss D. H. Ellis. Cold lunches and teas are to be had in the panelled music-room.

Secret passages and hiding holes will tempt visitors to haunts like Sawston Hall, near Cambridge, and Thrumpton Hall, Nottingham. At Sawston they also show you the bed in which Mary Tudor, sister of Queen Elizabeth I, slept one night four centuries ago before escaping from her enemies. A secret staircase is a show-piece at Athelhampton manor house in the county of Dorset.

* * *

Churchill's Birthplace

FAMOUS names are linked with some of the homes on view. At Blenheim Palace, near the University of Oxford, you can visit the bedroom in which Sir Winston Churchill was born, a descendant of John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough, whose military victories in the 18th century won him this magnificent palace from a grateful Queen and nation.

Quebec House, 16th-century mansion in the county of Kent, shows relics of General Wolfe, Squerrys Court, nearby, has a garden monument marking the spot where Wolfe received his first Army commission.

Lord Clive of India, 18th-century British Empire pioneer, lived at

Walcot Hall, in the county of Shropshire, where now we can view the finest rhododendron display in Britain and inspect "a perfect example of the Golden Age of the English country house".

For a shilling only we have the freedom of Woolsthorpe Manor, Lincolnshire, birthplace of Sir Isaac Newton, who, seeing an apple fall in his orchard, discovered the Law of Gravity. But it costs two shillings and sixpence to see where the poet Shakespeare was said to have been caught poaching deer (the herd is still there) at Charlecote Park, near famous Stratford-on-Avon.

If I had space I could tell of a thousand wonders—of "the finest gardens in the world" at Bodnant, in Wales; of fortresses still bearing the marks of besiegers' cannon balls; of mansions proudly proclaiming "Queen Elizabeth I slept here"; and, in the Highlands of Scotland, of Glamis Castle, in whose secret chamber, as Shakespeare has reminded us, Macbeth murdered Duncan.

Today these treasure spots are ours for the price of a cigar—with tea, coffee and cakes in the refectory.

MATTERS OF MOMENT

(Continued from page 7)

The health authorities are inclined to minimise the intensity of the outbreak and discourage reference to an epidemic. In the countryside the outbreak is described as cabinet flu as it coincided with the Cabinet crisis!

* * *

IT is reported from Washington that on May 28 President Eisenhower however accepted the resignation, for reasons of Health, of Mr. Lampton Berry, U.S. Ambassador to Ceylon. He will leave Ceylon on June 3rd.

A career diplomat, Mr. Berry was posted to Ceylon on October 10 last year. He succeeded businessman Mr. Maxwell Gluck, who too resigned, after a year. Mr. Berry earlier was deputy-Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South-Asian affairs.

Since their arrival in Ceylon Mr. and Mrs. Berry have made many friends by their informality who will regret their premature departure.



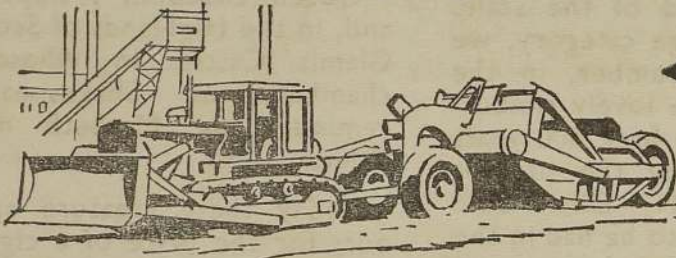
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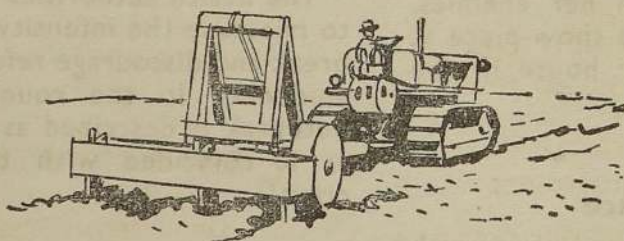
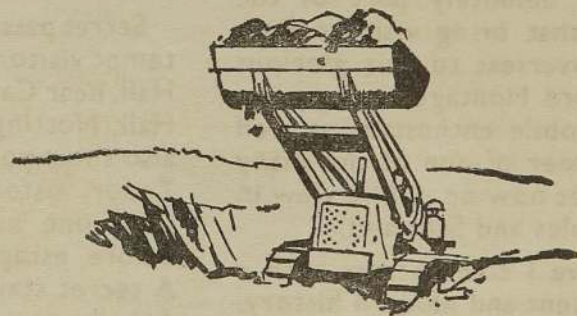
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A POLITICAL NOTEBOOK

—By CROSS-BENCHER—

THE pains taken by the Minister of Education, Mr. W. Dahanayake, to please Muslims by providing separate schools for them in areas where they are in a majority—previously most Muslim children went to Tamil schools—is paying the Government dividends. Mr. M. M. Mustapha (Pottuvil) has gone over to the Government from the Opposition and Sir Razik Farid (Colombo central), who has been an Independent, has agreed to support the Government. Earlier Mr. A. H. Macan Markar (Kalkudah) announced his intention to join the Government group where previously he had identified himself with the U.N.P.

The position now is that Parliament is divided equally between the Government and the Opposition, taking into account the known inclinations of the Independents in a division. The figures are 49 : 49 in a House of 101—the other two seats are those of the Speaker and the second held by Mr. R. G. Senanayake, who was returned by two constituencies (Kelaniya and Dambadeniya).

Interest, however, centres on a possible re-grouping of the Leftist parties in the Opposition. Dr. N. M. Perera is reported to have said that the LSSP is not against a dissolution of Parliament and that they would vote against the Governor-General's speech when he opens the next session of Parliament on June 30th. Should they succeed in defeating the Government, he expected that the Prime Minister would rather advise the Governor-General to dissolve Parliament than call upon the LSSP to form a government.

In the meantime a rapprochement between the VLSSP (Mr. Philip Gunewardena's Party) and the LSSP is not ruled out.

* * *

AT a Press conference immediately before the prorogation of Parliament on Saturday, May 23rd, the Prime Minister reviewed the course of events from the General Election up to the breakaway of the

V.L.S.S.P. from the M.E.P. coalition. When Sir John Kotelawala decided to have a snap election in 1956, he said, and "boasted" that he would carry on the Government even if only ten U.N.P. members were elected, it was not possible to regard the statement as entirely irresponsible. As such an effort would probably have had serious consequences to the country, the S.L.F.P. had to consider a coalition with groups in reasonable agreement with its policy—the main question being language—in aiming at a majority in Parliament. This was how the M.E.P. came to be formed, he said. The manifesto he had drafted for the consideration of the five or six others whom he called in consultation based on the policy and decisions of the S.L.F.P. was adopted with a few "not very important" amendments.

* * *

REFERRING to the crisis which brought about the disintegration of the coalition, Mr. Bandaranaike dealt with recent developments and laid the blame for it squarely on Mr. Philip Gunawardena. "He found it difficult," he said, "to observe those ordinary courtesies and decencies of conduct which one expects between associates and colleagues"—in the Cabinet room, Parliamentary group meetings, Parliament itself and public platforms. He went on to declare that there would be no change in the policy of the Government in the rest of the life of Parliament.

As to why he did not recommend dissolution of Parliament to the Governor-General, he said a general election now would be unfair to the people as the issues before them would be of "a most confusing and confused nature." He also considered it desirable, he said, that the Delimitation Commission's report should be given effect to before a general election was held and that the amendment of the Elections Ordinance should be implemented. There was also the fact that several reports were due to be presented, e.g., that of the Joint Select Committee on the Constitution, the Salaries Commission, the Wage Structure Commission, and the National Planning Council. He was of opinion that a large majority of the people

as well as a large majority of the principal political parties were against an immediate general election.

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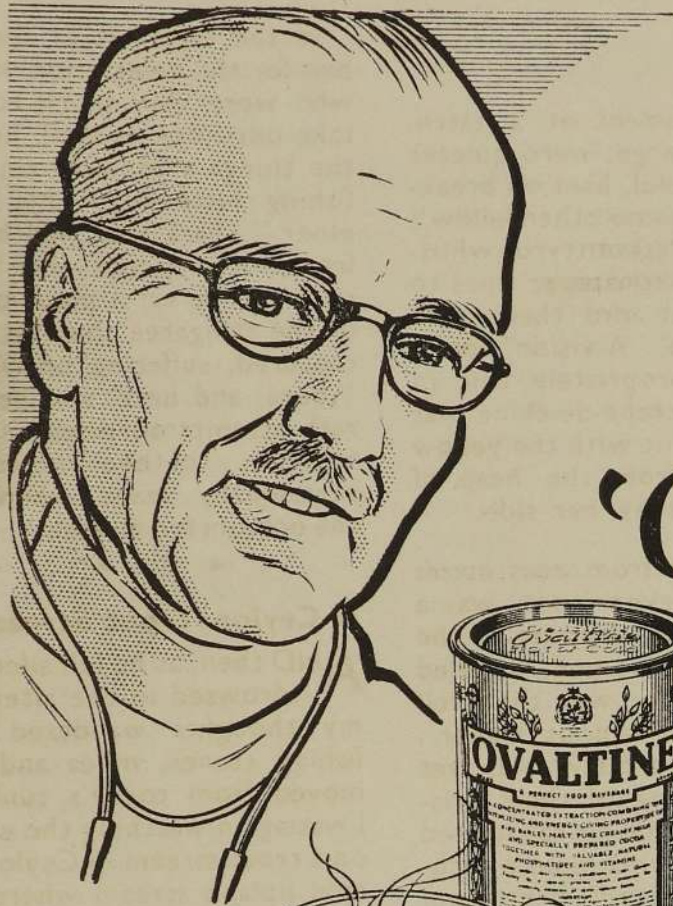
DEALING with the argument that Parliament should be dissolved because the people voted for the M.E.P. at the last general election and a section of it had left the Government party, Mr. Bandaranaike said that over 90 per cent of the members elected at the last general election were S.L.F.P. members returned as such and his personal support played a "not inconsiderable part" in the return of quite a number of the balance. He saw no reason therefore why the Government should resign. He also drew an analogy between his action and that of the U.N.P. when he and his Sinhala Maha Sabha followers broke away from it in 1951.

Parliament was due to be prorogued after the meeting fixed for May 26, when Mr. Gunawardena and Mr. William de Silva were expected to make statements. Explaining the earlier prorogation, Mr. Bandaranaike said there was no urgent Government business to be transacted. The proposed discussion on Tibet could yet be held after Parliament reassembled. On the other hand, important and vital budget discussions had been delayed to which the Government must address its mind. Moreover, he required time for the reorganization of the Government and the preparation of its programme for the coming year, perhaps for the balance of its life.

* * *

ANSWERING a question whether he was assured of a majority, Mr. Bandaranaike said that even if in numbers the Government might fall short of an absolute majority, it would have the assurance of support of enough members to give it an over-all majority. Of course, if a majority were opposed to the Government it was open to them, by passing a vote of no confidence or turning down the budget, to force it to resign. While himself not taking the step of recommending dissolution at this stage, he placed the responsibility on Parliament. "As far as I am concerned," he concluded, "my actions are in conformity with both what I consider to be the interest of the majority of the people and pursuance of the spirit of democracy."

(Continued on page 31)



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MANY WATERS

HOLIDAYING IN NEW ZEALAND

By K. H.

OUR holiday problem was solved with the decision to spend the time making an angler of Bobs, rising seven. Since his last birthday he had been in proud possession of a split bamboo rod, complete with all accessories—a magnificent if somewhat premature present from a relative, himself an ardent disciple of Isaac Walton. The said relative being, unfortunately, thousands of miles away, the initiation of Bobs fell into my willing but unaccustomed hands.

We began by consulting the local oracle, or at any rate, one manifestation of him. Piper it seemed, were the correct thing to fish for; high tide the time; the wharf head the place. Under his guidance the rod was assembled and furnished with the appropriate etceteras, and a firm dough was mixed for bait. Very business-like we felt, setting off with our shining rod, and a creel of real wicker, heavy with apples, and buns, and a stick or two of chocolate to sustain us in our adventures.

* * *

Our Companions

IT was a perfect day; too perfect, perhaps, piscatorially speaking, for the harbour was blue and sparkling and the water crystal clear. At the wharf we found several enthusiasts already ensconced. We noted with some complacency that ours was certainly the smartest tackle, but as they were all baiting with mussel, it was with a little inward misgiving that we garnished our maiden hooks with dough, and casting our bread upon the waters sat down to await the proverbial reward.

There was time now for a detailed scrutiny of our fellow-anglers; and a strangely assorted crowd they were. Small girls, all legs, and hair, and exclamation marks, waxed hysterically exultant over every bite and

wild with excitement at a catch. Boys, small and large, were quieter and more purposeful, bent on breaking their own or some other fellow's record. The adolescent tyros whirled heavily baited schnapper lines to the public danger and their own ultimate confusion. A vision, not so young, but inappropriately chic in black and white crepe-de-chine was making "a great hit with the yellow tails," to judge from the heap of moribund captives by her side.

Lastly, separated from *nous autres* by a vast gulf of experience, was a man bearing all the stigmata of the inveterate angler; his rod, handled with deft precision, was the well worn product of a famous maker; his clothes, comfortably old, yet preserved something of their pristine distinction; while his cap looked somewhat curiously incomplete without its customary complement (from October to May) of a "Coachman." A "coch-y-bondhu" and perhaps a stray "nymph" or two.

* * *

Out of the Mouths of Babes

DO you happen to have a spare sinker?" asked our neighbour, a boy of about ten. We had, in triplicate. And so opened our acquaintance with one of the cognoscenti.

"Bit early for piper, aren't you?" he continued. "They won't be in as far as this for another month yet." We were non-plussed; for our oracle had said nothing of seasons, and we had imagined that piper came in regularly as the tide. But this lad spoke with at least equal authority, and we were glad to accept his offer of a piece of well hung liver, and on his advice to adjust our tackle for sprats.

"Do you know," went on our well informed young friend, with a disparaging glance at our dough, "the proper bait for piper?" "Its gentles, natural gentles!" "Why natural?" I longed to ask, for my imagination failed to envisage what vice or deformity should render a gentle unnatural, and so unacceptable to a hungry piper. But fearing to check this flow of wisdom, I humbly inquired by the correct method

of growing the creatures, and was duly informed how to do it cleanly and without offence.

In the intervals of renewing our bait for the delectation of the sprats, who were very much too wary to take our hook as well, he told us of the things that went to make local fishing history: of the "two-foot-niner" shark that had been caught from this very spot—he still sharpened his knife on a piece of its skin; of the stingaree that his friend had captured, suffering horrible injuries "here, and here, and here," in his rash attempt to disentangle it from his line; of the incredible hauls occasionally made when grappling the bottom for mussels.

* * *

A Ceylon Trout Stream

AND then, as he fell silent and we drowsed in the afternoon sun, my thoughts wandered to other fishing scenes, miles and years removed from today's sunlit waters. I was again watching the evening rise on a trout stream in Ceylon; a clear, cold upland stream where it pauses awhile in its headlong course, to meander through Nuwara Eliya park and to cross and recross, with a curious persistence, one of the finest golf links in the world.

In this cup of the mountains 6,000 feet above sea-level, the evening air has a penetrating chill, and sudden fogs drive across it enveloping everything in a cold, fine rain. But what matter cold and damp when the fly are hatching in myriads and the trout rise freely! Game little fellows they are, from half to two pounds, conversant with every snag and bunch of weed, adept in fishy wile, and, withal, discriminating even in the excitement of the rise. But this evening the luck is ours and we return home with the last glimmer of light gone with a heavy creel, light hearts and a satisfying prospect of a dish of grilled trout for breakfast. Gratefully always will run through my memory this delightful little stream, garrulous and friendly by day, murmurous with mystery by night, irresistible alike to the angler, the idler, and all but the most sternly disciplined of golf balls.

Back to here and now I come, as Bobs plaintively remarked! "I would like to catch a fish!" And to that end I rebaited our denuded hooks.

(Continued on page 32)

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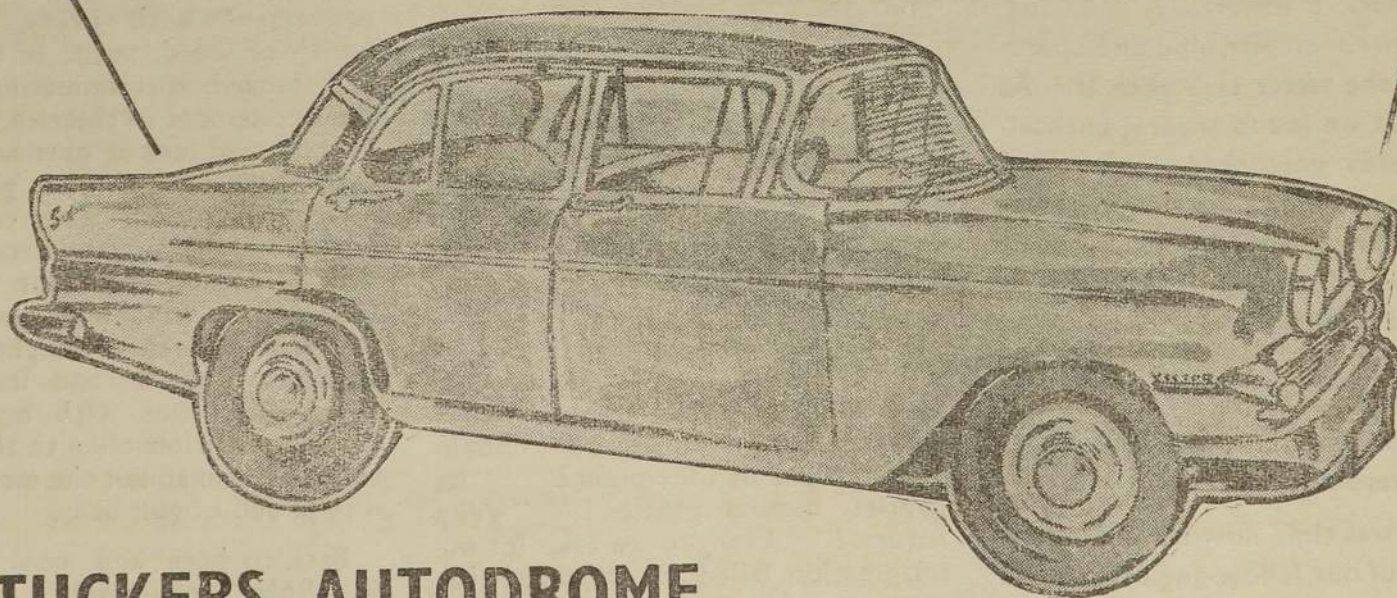
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THE PASSING SCENE

By "SPHINX"

A CALL for a clear indication of the Government's attitude towards, and its relations with, the private sector was made once again last week. This time it was the Managing Director of Messrs. Hunter & Co., Ltd., Mr. G. D. Gordon, who referred to the subject at the annual general meeting of the firm.

Mr. Gordon said: "The vacillation and indecision which have characterised the Government's attitude towards, and its relations with, the private sector cannot continue indefinitely without the most harmful results. The time has come for a clear indication to be given to the private sector as to its future role in the economy of the Island.

"An enormous volume of Marxist or near Marxist talks and woolly economic thinking has pervaded the atmosphere of Ceylon during recent years and its only effect has been to stultify development and to reduce the entire economy to a state bordering upon impotence.

"Such conditions breed frustration and discontent amongst all classes and are exploited at every turn by politically inspired trade unionism, which has during the past year displayed ample proof of how the country can be held to ransom by the actions of a few."

* * *

MR. Gordon added that it would be imprudent to ignore the general malaise felt by all sections of society in Ceylon and it was imperative that constructive action should be taken early in order to recreate a climate of goodwill and tolerance, without which the nation's commerce could not hope to survive, far less flourish.

It might be added here that, following the parting of the ways between the Marxist V.L.S.S.P. and the S.L.F.P. in the M.E.P. Coalition recently, there appears to be a trend more favourable to private trade than existed hitherto. A press report said last week that the Government was considering the question of permitting the private trade to import,

in competition with the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment and the Food Department, certain subsidiary foodstuffs, the import of which is now the sole monopoly of these departments. If the immediate cause of this re-thinking is the Government's fresh effort to reduce the cost of living, recent events invest the report with a certain significance.

It should also be recalled that at the recent annual conference of the S.L.F.P. a resolution was adopted calling for a clarification of policy towards private trade. The Minister of Trade, Mr. R. G. Senanayake, then described as "absurd" the proposal that trade should be nationalised and the Prime Minister, Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, said the Government had no intention of "stopping" private trade but it would encourage the co-operative movement.

* * *

OUT of the total advances made to Ceylonese by the entire banking system of Ceylon, the share of the Bank of Ceylon was well over 75 per cent., the Chairman of the Bank of Ceylon, Mr. H. V. Perera, Q.C., said recently. The main purpose for which the Bank was established was to encourage and assist Ceylonese enterprise and throughout its existence its Directors have kept this purpose steadily in view.

Mr. Perera stressed, however, that while catering for the needs of as large a clientele as possible, the Bank did not discriminate in any way between communities, castes or creeds or between persons of different political leanings.

Mr. Perera has also raised a question in connexion with the proposed Co-operative Development Bank. If the proposed bank is to have the power of engaging in activities outside the co-operative sector, it is important to decide whether the Co-operative Bank should enjoy any special privileges such as exemption from income tax and stamp duty.

The Bank of Ceylon does not enjoy any special privileges such as exemption from Income Tax and Stamp Duty and it is perhaps the only institution sponsored by the Government which is achieving its objectives without throwing any burden on the Government, according to Mr. Perera.

The actual position is that the revenue collected by the Government from the Bank in the form of Income Tax alone has already amounted to many millions of rupees and many times the financial contribution made by the Government.

The Bank grants advances not only to finance exports and imports but also for domestic requirements in the form of medium and short term credit. Loan facilities are made available to the so-called small man as well, repayable over as many as 36 months and often without tangible security.

It also grants other types of loans against tangible security, repayable over as long a period as 10 years. A certain type of account operated by cheques may also be opened at any office of the Bank even with a minimum deposit of Rs. 5 and no commission of any kind is payable for the maintenance of this type of account, which is called the Security Checking Account.

This service, unique in this part of the world, is operated in much the same way as a current account but precludes the drawing of cheques without sufficient funds at the time of drawing them.

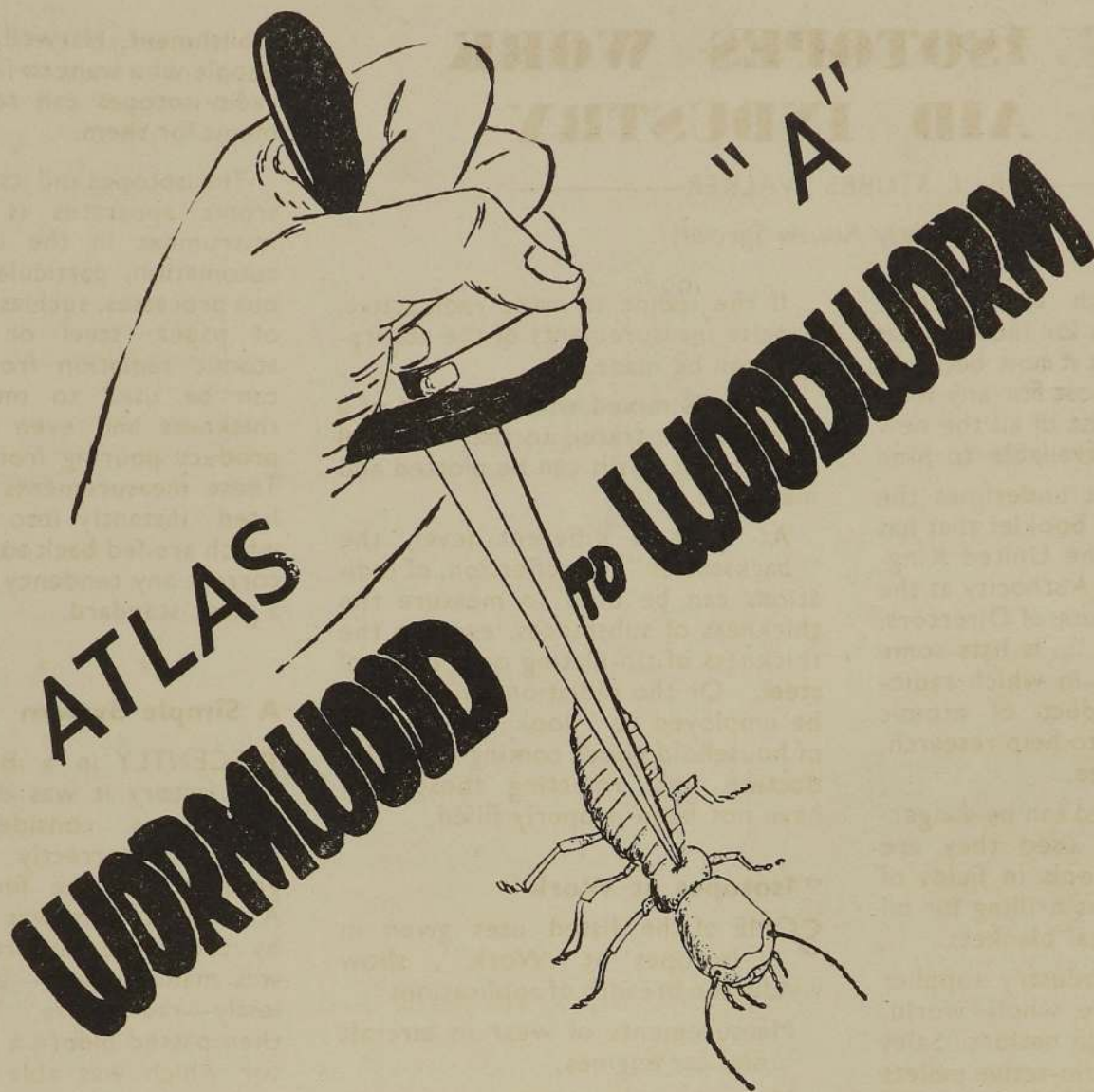
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EMPHASISING that the new Insurance Bill is not a scheme for the nationalisation of insurance, the Minister for Trade and Commerce, Mr. R. G. Senanayake, has said that the main object is to ensure that more funds would be available to local business to launch new enterprises. It seeks to conserve funds for development schemes locally by preventing the flow of insurance capital out of the country.

Meanwhile protests have been made to the Ministry against some of the proposals envisaged in the new legislation. One provision to which exception is taken is that which doubles the compulsory deposit required to be made by every insurance company for each class of insurance it transacts. The new proposal is that the minimum deposit should be Rs. 100,000 and not, as proposed earlier, Rs. 50,000. The maximum deposit is to be Rs. 400,000.

In a joint memorandum, signed by Mr. I. G. Allison, on behalf of the Ceylon Fire Insurance Association, the Accident Insurance Association and the Marine Insurance Association, he says :

(Continued on page 27)



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HOW ISOTOPES WORK TO AID INDUSTRY

—By J. STUBBS WALKER—

(Fortnightly Review Special)

THE rate at which science provides new aids for industry has become so great that it now becomes more and more difficult for any individual to keep abreast of all the new processes that are available to him.

It is this fact that underlines the importance of a new booklet that has been prepared by the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority at the request of the Institute of Directors, "Isotopes at Work". It lists some three hundred ways in which radio-isotopes, a by-product of atomic energy, can be used to help research, industry and medicine.

Isotopes mishandled can be dangerous; but properly used they are proving invaluable tools in fields of activity as different as drilling for oil and sterilising hospital blankets.

Britain's atomic industry supplies radio-isotopes to the whole world, including Iron Curtain nations. Sales of these vital little radio-active pellets have grown from £450,000 and in 1955 to £650,000 last year. The spreading appreciation of their value will certainly bring the figure to £1,000,000 very soon. Not only does Britain supply the isotopes, but its electronic industry has designed highly-efficient apparatus that makes their application even more useful.

* * *

How It Behaves

WHAT is an isotope? It is a substance such as carbon or iodine that has been made radioactive but which, chemically, is exactly the same as its non-radioactive counterpart. Some isotopes are waste products from nuclear reactors, others are made radioactive by being bombarded by neutrons in special reactors at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell, Berkshire. The value of the isotope is that it behaves exactly the same way as would the ordinary chemical, thus it can be taken into the human body and, because of its radiations, its movement can be traced from outside.

Examples.—The amount of iodine that is taken up by the thyroid glands in the human body, and the rate at which it is absorbed, is an important indication in certain illnesses.

If the iodine is made radioactive, precise measurements of the absorption can be made.

Isotopes mixed with the mud of a river can be traced so that the tidal movements of silt can be plotted and measured.

At quite a different level, the "backscatter", or reflection, of radiations can be used to measure the thickness of substances, even to the thickness of tin-plating on a sheet of steel. Or the radiation emitted can be employed to "look" at packets of household goods coming off a production line, rejecting those that have not been properly filled.

* * *

"Isotopes at Work"

SOME of the listed uses given in "Isotopes at Work", show vividly the breadth of applications:

- Measurements of wear in aircraft and car engines;
- Measuring the density and moisture of the soil;
- Studying—and measuring—coastal erosion;
- Sterilisation of drugs;
- Location of gas main leakages;
- Testing iron and steel casting and forgings for faults;
- Measuring the efficiency of washing powders;
- Changing the physical qualities of plastics; and
- The even packing of cigarettes.

The booklet, however, does not confine itself to a mere list of uses. It also explains in simple language the various techniques that are employed, with the aim of informing the busy—and often non-technical—executive of ways in which these processes can help him.

* * *

Stimulating Interest

THE introduction to the booklet says: "We hope that, by example, it may stimulate interest in the solution of specific problems by using isotope techniques", and it points out that the Isotope Division Experimental and Advisory Service at the Atomic Energy Research Es-

tablishment, Harwell, exists to help people who want to find out whether radio-isotopes can solve their problems for them.

The isotopes and its associated electronic apparatus is an important instrument in the introduction of automation, particularly in continuous processes, such as the production of paper, steel or textiles. The atomic radiation from the isotope can be used to measure physical thickness and even quality of the product pouring from the machine. These measurements can be translated instantly into control signals which are fed back to the machine to correct any tendency to depart from a given standard.

* * *

A Simple System

RECENTLY in a British fertiliser factory it was discovered that there was considerable wastage through incorrectly mixing the ingredients of the finished product. A simple system was devised whereby the most important ingredient was made slightly—but quite harmlessly—radioactive. The mixture then passed before a radiation monitor which was able to detect any variation in the mixture, automatically passing back signals that corrected the balance of ingredients. The wastage was eliminated at a very economical cost. This control of chemical mixtures is becoming widely used.

The oil man can use isotopes to tell him through what kind of rock his drill is passing, saving precious time and money.

In quite a different field, the production of antibiotics, radio-isotopes are used to sterilise the drugs.

The importance of this is that the drug itself may be destroyed by the application of heat—the orthodox method of sterilisation—but the radiation process will reduce bacteria so that only 1 in 100,000,000 stands a chance of surviving, yet the temperature of the drug will rise only one or two degrees centigrade.

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“ IN RUHUNU JUNGLES ”

A REVIEW

By D. U.

MR. Douglas Raffel has written a book (“In Ruhunu Jungles”) which will surely take its place among the best dealing with wild life in Ceylon. Eminent authorities like Dr. R. L. Spittel, Mr. E. B. Wikramanayake, Q.C., and Mr. R. L. Brohier (who writes a foreword) have given high praise to the book.

Both in quality of writing and intimate knowledge of the jungle and its denizens the book is remarkable and the photographs and the drawings by the author himself enhance its value. But even more remarkable is the obvious love the author has for the jungle and his keen relish of all the pleasures it has to offer.

One is almost tempted to say that it was a fortunate occurrence that Mr. Raffel contracted some heart trouble and had to give up his practice as a lawyer. It was this chance which gave him the time and the opportunity to live far from the madding crowd, make those knowledgeable observations and produce this very readable and interesting book.

Mr. A. E. Butler of Hambantota, who lent his cottage in the jungle “Rep-ton” to Mr. Raffel while he was holidaying in England, should rightly receive some credit for his share in contributing thus to the production of the book.

* * *

MR. Raffel describes how he spent the days studying birds and birdways and listening to bird song and catching up once again with his painting, a love of 25 years earlier. Altogether one must bless what he calls the heaven-sent opportunity to live quietly in a small house with many miles of jungle around it, alive with animal and bird life.

Ruhuna, as everybody who has the slightest knowledge of Ceylon and its storied past knows, is a

historic area which attained splendour and prosperity, and the jungle tide has overwhelmed the court and palaces of kings and queens, and temples and monasteries. Here the Arahats meditated and Dutugemunu, the great Sinhalese ruler, raised his army to drive the Tamil invaders and bring Ceylon under “one umbrella”.

Mr. Raffel shows in this book Nature and the jungle in their capricious moods “and the fantasy of a strange world enjoying freedom



The Ceylon Magpie

unrestrained by fear of man”, and writes of the lure of the jungle shrine whose beginnings are lost in the mists of time.

He tells of legends of birds, such as that concerning the Coucal. The story goes that the male scours the jungle for a certain root which he incorporates into his nest for the greater protection of the eggs and the young. No harm can possibly come to them as long as that root is in the nest. If you have the luck to find a coucal's nest, you should take it down most carefully and go with it to a stream of running water. Here, root by root, you disintegrate the nest, dropping each root into the moving water. When you find one root moving upstream you have the magic root. You should preserve it most carefully on your person—entwined in gold, for example, as a bangle. You will

then always enjoy good fortune, and if anybody were to shoot you even at point-blank range, he would miss.

And the story of the little cock tailor-bird is almost human. The little fellow, aptly named Charlie Chaplin by the author—he is so helpless—came upon a nice fat grub. He chirruped to his wife to come along and share the feast. But down swooped a great big bully of a White-browed Bulbul and carried off the dish. The tailor-bird bristled and flew after the Bulbul, then shrugged his shoulders and went back to look sadly at the hole where he had picked up the grub.

Which recalled to the author's mind a Chaplin film in which Charlie had “pinched” two sausages and was trying to fry them over a candle when a big bully snatched them off. Charlie squared his shoulders and went after him, then shrugged his shoulders and returned forlorn to flop down beside his dog,

* * *

YOU ought to meet the shama who whistles the first lines of an old and popular valse, “Brune” and the first line of “Always”. And that other to whom the author had only to whistle “The Emperor Waltz” to get him to the bird bath.

He recalls the story of Trebitsch Lincoln, famed German spy of World War I, who once lived alone, dressed as a yellow robed Buddhist monk, in an old monastery in this jungle and signalled to the “Emden” which used to come close offshore and collect all the carcasses of deer and wild boar which the “monk” got the unsuspecting villagers to bring to him.

The villagers were paid in gold marks and when the coins found their way into the market places of nearby towns, it was Van Angelbrecht, the Boer Game Ranger at Yala, who was suspect of complicity with the Germans till he proved his complete innocence. When H.M.A.S. “Sydney” sank the “Emden” off Cocos Island, Lincoln left for the large Kelaniya temple, near Colombo, where his identity was discovered quite by chance by a fellow Buddhist monk, who told the authorities. But before he could be arrested he disappeared from Ceylon, and he was next heard of in China.

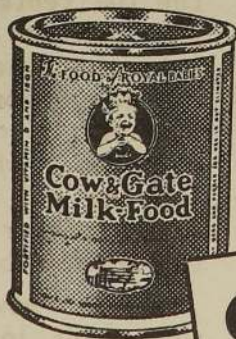
(Continued on page 32)

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IN OLD COLOMBO

—By R. L. BROHIER, O.B.E.—

(Fortnightly Review Special)

COLOMBO as it was a hundred years ago has been brought into perspective by many a by-gone writer. Many of them have wielded a lively pen, and given vivid delight, especially to the reader who would see the by-gone composed into a period. Running my eye over a book-shelf of old Ceylon books, I discovered one in particular, very rare, which had the added merit of being produced by an accomplished artist.

Deschamps' Scenery and Reminiscences of Ceylon was published in London in 1845. The author, a military officer, arrived in the Island in 1828 and left nine years later. Twelve plates, which are by far the most interesting feature of the volume, help one to contemplate as in a panorama how the clock has ticked on since that quaint epoch. On the other hand, the descriptive text helps to unfold, without burdensome research, a closer intimacy with the revolutions in social history which have taken place since that time.

* * *

WAS life in general more strenuous in those by-gone times? There are none left who will remember that generation, but here is a passage, for instance, which seems perfectly attuned to days long before we were permitted to accustom ourselves to having our drinks served up cool from a refrigerator, or cold storage came to the rescue:

"Sheep were so scarce that a Mutton Club had to be established by some members of the civil and military services to ensure a sufficient supply of this essential article of food, which could not then be procured in the market, and for which goat's and kid's flesh frequently did duty, even at the regimental messes." Deschamps does not tell how long this strange club functioned as a

social amenity, and we are left much in the dark how the club obtained the sheep. He, however, tells a story to draw a distinction between two kinds of mutton.

* * *

A PERSON who evidently was not a member of the Mutton Club, "having ordered mutton, was served up with goat's flesh instead. He refused to receive it and sent it back, when the butcher sent him a letter, telling him that if he wanted sheep he ought to have specially ordered it, for sheep and mutton were two very different things, meaning to say that there was goat-mutton as well as sheep-mutton." The sequel to the story is that the butcher sued the customer for the value of the goat's flesh, but "failing to establish his proposition to the satisfaction of the District Judge," lost his case.

* * *

THE Lake, apparently, formed one of the greatest attractions of Colombo at that time, and by its margin stood "some of the most delightful residences in the Island." In an aptness of phrase which makes Deschamps' book thoroughly period, the waters of the Lake are pictured as affording "the favourite and helpful recreation of boating, in all its branches, to the officers of the garrison and the other European inhabitants." The author adds: "The number of yachts and sailing boats having considerably increased in consequence of the promotion of this truly English aquatic amusement, an annual regatta had been established, and on these occasions the Lake puts on a most gay and animated appearance."

Foremost among the "elegant residences" which stood off the Lake was Kew, "a fine house with spacious grounds." Establishing contact with an even period, the author tells that these grounds were once a botanical garden and that they still contained beautiful trees. The house, in Captain Deschamps' time, was the residence of the Major-General Commanding the Forces, but he vests it with other spheres of interest when he says that it had

been "originally built by the Dutch for a masonic lodge."

* * *

LONG before the Lake Development Scheme obliterated this picturesque jut of land, which, with the establishment of a botanical garden in 1810, was named Kew, in token of the Gardens of international reputation, a growing Colombo obscured the locality with business premises. Thus, its approaches came to be blocked with policemen, strings of bullock carts, and also, at one period, with a stable which specialised in breaking in half-trained horses.

If there is one feature in Colombo which in greater measure than any other helps us to contemplate the years that have gone before, as in a panorama, it is the Galle Face Esplanade. Deschamps pictures the origin of it, and shows that it was the introduction of horse-races by Sir Edward Barnes, over a hundred years ago, which shaped the beginnings of the City's lung. The land had "to be levelled and the holes made by the land-crabs filled up, the latter operation being required to be performed annually or oftener."

* * *

ONE of the author's drawings shows the grandstand, on the site now occupied by the Colombo Club. Under this high-pitched, conical, cadjan roof we are told the race balls were held, "the upper rooms being cool and airy for dancing with verandahs where card tables are placed, whilst the lower room forms a good supper room."

Helped by these impressions to visualise in what key Colombo's society life was set in the thirties of the last century, the Galle Face is also pictured for us as "besides being the principal exercising ground of the garrison, the general promenade of the inhabitants of Colombo who repair thither, morning and evening, on foot, on horse-back, or in carriages to inhale the delicious breeze."

It must have been an imposing sight, this long file of carriages, driven at a walking pace, passing another file of carriages going in the opposite direction. It must have also been a serious business taking one's place in a procession which moved up and down a dusty road a little more than a mile in length, half a dozen times before sunset.

PEOPLE

ON a visit to the Island came last week Mr. Wilhelm von Pochhammer, who was Consul for Germany in Ceylon from 1932 to 1935, accompanied by Mrs. Von Pochhammer. He addressed the Ceylon-German Association on the reconstruction of West Germany and problems of unification.

Mr. von Pochhammer said his task now is the promotion of friendship and understanding between the German people and Ceylonese and Indians. He has just spent two months in India, where he was Consul-General at Calcutta from 1924 to 1926. He expects to be in Ceylon until the end of the month.

* * *

THE Rev. James Cartman, former Principal of Wesley College and later Education Officer at the Ceylon High Commission in London, returned to England recently after two years service as Chaplain of the British Church of St. James, Oporto, Portugal, to be installed Vicar of Winchcombe in Gloucestershire.

Mr. Cartman, before his appointment to Portugal, served for two years as Honorary Chaplain to Ceylon forces in the U.K.

MR. P. D. Finn, General Manager of the Shell Co. of Ceylon since October, 1957, leaves Ceylon shortly to take up an appointment with Shell's central offices in London. During his stay here, Mr. Finn has played an active part in the social and public life of the country. He was Deputy Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and he served on the Colombo Port Commission, Ceylon Road Federation, the Museum Advi-



Mr. P. D. Finn

sory Committee and the Tea Propaganda Board and was a member of the Colombo Rotary Club.

He was also associated in the formation of the Overseas Children's School Ltd., which today provides education for children of 19 different nationalities and he has been Chairman of the Board of Directors and Committee of Management since he took over from the former U.K.

High Commissioner, Sir Cecil Syers, in 1958.

In sports, his principal interests have been rugby football, hockey and athletics. He officiated at athletic meets conducted by the Amateur Athletic Association of Ceylon and he has been Chairman of the Ceylon Mercantile Hockey Association. Mr. Finn is also a golf enthusiast.

Mrs. Finn and other members of the family left Ceylon in April. Mr. and Mrs. Finn carry with them the good wishes of their many friends in Ceylon for their continued success and happiness in their new sphere.

Mr. Finn will be succeeded by Mr. S. J. Blamey, until recently manager of the Western Australia branch of the Shell Co. of Australia.

* * *

THE death occurred on Sunday, May 24th, of Lady de Silva, widow of Sir Arthur (A. M.) de Silva, eminent surgeon of his day. She was a daughter of Mr. William Dias, shroff of the Mercantile Bank of India.

She leaves an only child, Mrs. Kotelawala, wife of Senator Justin Kotelawala, Managing Director of the Ceylon Insurance Co.

Lady (Laura) de Silva was a life-long social worker. She was associated with the Social Service League for more than 25 years, being its Secretary for eight years, and was elected to the Board of Trustees. She was a founder member of the Lanka Mahila Samiti and was on its Central Board from its inception. Many Buddhist organizations claimed her interest.

* * *

DR. G. P. Malalasekera, Ceylon's first Ambassador to Czechoslovakia, presented his credentials at Prague last week. He was received by Mr. Antonin Movotny, Czech Prime Minister. The Ambassador was reported as saying that there were good prospects for further mutual co-operation between the two countries; the advanced Czech industry could contribute to Ceylon's economic development.

Mr. Novotny expressed pleasure at the arrival of Ceylon's first Ambassador, and said that the Czech people had followed with sympathy the endeavours of Ceylon's foreign policy which, he said, aimed at consolidating friendship and co-operation between nations and at ensuring world peace.

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PEOPLE

A LONDON wedding of interest to Ceylon was that of Mr. Timothy Crosthwait, Deputy High Commissioner for the U. K. in Ceylon, and Miss Anne Penney, daughter of Col. and Mrs. T. M. Penney of Oakley Gardens, London, S.W.

The wedding took place last Saturday at Chelsea Old Church, London. The reception was at Crosby Hall, Cheyne Walk. Mr. Crosthwait is due back in Ceylon this month. The bride is well known to Ceylonese friends of Mr. Crosthwait as she was in Ceylon last year.

* * *

MR. O. R. Wright has been appointed Government Agent, Nuwara Eliya, in succession to Mr. R. H. D. Manders, the last of the British Government Agents, who goes on retirement on June 15.

* * *

DR. C. H. S. Jayawardene, Lecturer in Criminology at the University of Ceylon, who is studying at the University of Pennsylvania, U.S.A., has been awarded the J. Francis Finnigan Prize for Criminology for 1959. His research was on criminal homicide in Ceylon during 1931-55.

Dr. Jayawardene is scheduled to make a six-month tour of American prisons, the programme being arranged by Mr. James Bennette of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, and the tour is partly financed by the Asia Foundation. He is a son of the late Mr. Francis Jayewardene, J.P., U.M., and of Mrs. Jayewardene of Kuliypitiya.

* * *

MR. Lalith W. Athulathmudali, ex-President of the Oxford Union, who is studying for his B.C.L., has been appointed temporary Assistant Lecturer in Law at the University of Oxford.

* * *

MR. C. S. Appadurai, Assistant Labour Commissioner, is in Britain for five months on a labour administration course under the Colombo Plan in which 16 labour administrators from south and south-east Asia are participating. Members of the course are meeting regional officials, and touring factories and

workshops and labour exchanges, the services for the unemployed, the disabled and the young people.

* * *

THE Rev. E. G. Misso has been appointed incumbent of the Holy Emmanuel Church, Moratuwa, where he had been curate previously. He is the youngest priest to be appointed to this senior office.

* * *

THE post of Professor of Mathematics of the University of Malaya has, it is reported, been offered to Dr. C. J. Eliezer, who holds a similar appointment in the University of Ceylon, on a five-year assignment.

Dr. Eliezer is understood to have offered to reorganize the mathematics department of the University of Malaya and suggested an assignment of a year or two years.

DR. Ernest Soysa of Colombo, President of the Orchid Circle of Ceylon, judged the orchid section at the famous Chelsea Flower Show on May 25. On Tuesday Dr. Soysa and his wife attended the reception given by the President of the Royal Horticultural Society, the Hon. David Bowes-Lyon, brother of the Queen Mother.

When the Queen visited the flower-show, she stopped to speak to Dr. Soysa and recalled "the wonderful orchid show" arranged at Queen's House, Colombo, during her visit to Ceylon in 1954.

Dr. Soysa has been an honorary member of the Royal Horticultural Society for 23 years and is one of the senior members of the committee. He is the only Asian holder of the Veitch gold medal, which was awarded to him in 1954. This is the fifth time he has assisted in judging the orchid exhibits.

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CEYLON'S FIRST CIVIL SERVANTS

— By KENNETH SOMANADER —

(Fortnightly Review Special)

WITH the retirement of Mr. R. H. D. Manders, Government Agent of Nuwara Eliya, we come to the end of a long line of British civil servants who have served in this country.

The first batch of British civil servants arrived in Ceylon on October 12th, 1798, with the Hon. Frederic North, who had been appointed the first Governor under the British regime. The batch was composed of Hugh Cleghorn, William Boyd, Henry Marshall, Gavin Hamilton, Joseph Joinville and Anthony Bertolacci; and Sylvester Gordon, Robert Barry and George Lusignan. The last three were mere "boys of thirteen".

All of them occupied key positions in the Island, though their designations were quite different from those we have today. Joseph Joinville, for instance, was First Clerk for Natural History and Agriculture, while Anthony Bertolacci was Assistant Private Secretary for French Correspondence. Hugh Cleghorn, who was a Scotch professor, was appointed Principal Secretary on a salary of £3,000 per annum.

* * *

AT the inception of the Ceylon Civil Service, some officers were also recruited from the Madras Civil Service. There were, for example, the three Collectors—Gregory in charge of Galle and Matara; MacDowall in charge of Colombo; and Garrow in charge of Batticaloa and Mullaitivu. The first resigned his post towards the end of 1801, while MacDowall and Garrow were both dismissed for "systematic opposition" to the Governor, who once called Garrow "a little, pert black monkey".

The relations between North and Cleghorn also became strained after some time, and North is said to have declared on one occasion: "I am much riled by that madman Cleghorn". And when Cleghorn left Ceylon, having been dismissed in December, 1799, North's immediate comment was: "Heaven be praised!" Cleghorn's Diary, by the way, was published under the name of the Cleghorn Papers in 1927.

William Boyd, on the other hand, was one of the blue-eyed boys of the Governor, and J. R. Toussaint, in his fascinating book entitled "The Annals of the Ceylon Civil Service", tells us how, on one occasion, North addressed a letter thus: "My dear Boyd,—Everything which you have done is perfect . . . Adieu! Come down (from Kandy) as fast as you can. I will send palanquin boys between Ambetelle and Hanwella (sic) for you and Joinville."



Governor Frederick North.

IT is said of Henry Marshall, another of the first batch of civil servants, that he bought some land from Government on the Colombo-Negombo road, near the seventh mile, and had the milestone removed a hundred yards by night, in order to increase the extent of his land! Marshall came to be known as "Iniquity Marshall", possibly to distinguish him from a contemporary, Sir Charles Marshall.

Sylvester Gordon and Robert Barry, two of the three thirteen-year-olds who came out with North, were both killed in Ceylon whilst on duty. Gordon died during the

disastrous Kandyan campaign of 1803, while Barry fell in the massacre at Watapuluwa on June 26th of the same year. Both Gordon and Barry, it is of interest, accompanied Governor North on his tour round the Island in 1800. North started from Colombo with 160 palanquin bearers, 400 coolies, two elephants, six horses, and 50 lascars. Barry was in charge of the escort of 60 Malays.

* * *

NORTH, a few months after he took over the administration of the Island, set about to reform the service. He abolished the posts of Collectors, and instead appointed Agents of Revenue and Commerce for the 13 provinces into which he divided the Island. These agents worked under the control of a Board of Revenue and Commerce which North established for controlling the Revenue Departments—the Provincial Administration, the Cinnamon Department, and the Pearl Fishery. By the way, the first pearl fishery conducted by the British in 1796 yielded £60,000; another in 1812 yielded £90,000.

Important changes took place after the control exercised by the East India Company ceased. A Supreme Court of Judicature was constituted, and a separate Civil Service was established for Ceylon, the Madras officials being encouraged to return to India. Twenty-four civil servants were thus sent out from England in March, 1801, to supplement the nine that North had originally brought with him from England.

* * *

THESE formed the nucleus of a regular "covenanted" civil service, and North spent the last three years of his Governorship (1802-1805) in arranging the salaries and duties of the civil servants. He completed the good work he had begun by establishing a pension fund.

Sir Thomas Maitland, who succeeded North in 1805, initiated an important step in encouraging the study of Sinhalese and Tamil, by an offer of prizes for acquiring the accomplishment. He realised that a government carried on from an office would not be successful, that the tent was mightier than the pen, and ordered officials in charge of districts to make frequent visits in order that their opinions might be obtained "not from hearsay or from black magic, but from personal knowledge".

(Continued on page 32)

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CENTENARY of UP-COUNTRY CHURCH

HOLY TRINITY, PUSSELLAWA

THE centenary of Holy Trinity Church, Pussellawa, was celebrated on Sunday, May 10th, with a combined service of Holy Communion in Sinhalese, Tamil and English. The Rt. Rev. Lakdasa de Mel, Bishop of Kurunegala, was the celebrant.

The anniversary actually fell on April 24th, the date on which the church was consecrated a hundred years ago. According to a souvenir of the occasion, "the land for Holy Trinity Church, Pussellawa, was given by Henry Charles Bird in 1838 to the Trustees of the Church and to their successors. The Trustees named in the Deed of Gift are Francis Richard Sabonadiere, John Tyndall, Louis George Morgan, Bird and John Mackie Sutherland. It is presumably to these men that we owe a debt of gratitude for building Holy Trinity Church, for the Church was consecrated on 24th April, 1859, one year after the signing of the Deed."

"The first English Church in the district, indeed in Central Province, was St. John's Church, Ramboda, under the Pussellawa Chaplaincy. It was consecrated on April 25th, 1850, by Bishop Chapman on land granted by the Crown to the Bishop of Colombo and his successors for erecting a Church dedicated and set apart according to the use of the United Church of England and Ireland on February 13th, 1847."

* * *

TO those to whom nowadays Pussellawa and Ramboda are mere landmarks on the drive to Nuwara Eliya, how this part of the Island has changed will be borne out by the following description of the country when the church was built. It is by John Ferguson, the famous journalist. He wrote: "In the early fifties the Pussellawa and Ramboda Districts were not fully opened, but presented a magnificent show of vigorous Coffee fields framed by the

everlasting forest. A more delightful climate, or more romantic scenery did not, at the time, exist in Ceylon; while the facilities for sport—that is hunting elk with dogs, the popular form of sport at the time—were unequalled, with the far extending forests of the Pedro and False Pedro, and Great Western ranges, and the interminable wilderness forest of the Peak, available on the other side. Pussellawa and Ramboda were very favourite residential districts."

* * *

HOLY Trinity Church, Pussellawa, is now under the Diocese of Kurunegala. Trustees are elected annually, as in the past, by the English congregation consisting largely of the planting community. The Sinhalese and the Tamil congregations elect their own church wardens. The Sinhalese congregation, which was under the K.C.I. Superintending Missionary of the C.M.S., is now cared for by the Diocese. The Tamil congregation forms a part of the Gampola Tamil Pastorate.

The Church has been looked after all these years by the European planting community who built it, while the use of the Church was made available very generously to both the Sinhalese and Tamil congregations from 1862.

The following Clergy have served in this Church:—

Colonial Chaplain :

The Ven. George Justus Schrader—1859-1861;

Chaplains :

The Rev. Duncan C. Mackenzie—1863-1874; The Rev. R. Abbey—1872-1874; The Rev. Charles Swinerton—1875-1879; The Rev. Forbes Auchmuty—1876-1877; The Rev. M. Odell—1878-1884.

Superintending Missionaries :

The Rev. M. J. Burrows—1881-1885; The Rev. P. Marks—1885-1886; The Rev. H. S. Prior—1886-1887; The Rev. G. Liesching—1888; The Rev. J. G. Garrett—1888-1891; The Rev. H. P. Napier Clavering—1895-1912.

Chaplains :

The Rev. S. P. Marris—1913-1917; The Rev. G. E. P. Parmenter—1919-1923; The Rev. H. Parsons—1926-1927; The Rev. C. W. Burroughs—1929-1932.

Since then, the Chaplaincy having been closed, visiting Clergy filled the gap until the Bishop of Kurunegala re-opened the Parish with the Rev. D. P. Setunga as Priest-in-Charge in January, 1957.

THE PASSING SCENE

(Continued from page 15)

"The whole idea of insurance companies being obliged to lodge deposits is basically unsound, as it is contrary to the interests of the policy holders that sums of money should be tied up in different parts of the world in which companies may operate.

"Consequent upon the extension of their activities, at least one of the Ceylonese companies has commenced operations in overseas territories and the above remarks are therefore not applicable solely to foreign companies operating in Ceylon.

"It is not clearly understood why the deposit of Rs. 100,000 per class of insurance is thought to be necessary. If this is to protect policy holders, it is very obvious that no adequate deposit could be made. The sum of Rs. 400,000 would not be sufficient to pay the insurance claim on the majority of tea factories, including machinery, in Ceylon, whilst, from the accident angle, a claim involving passengers travelling a large private bus might involve a loss considerably in excess of the maximum deposit mentioned above."

With regard to the provision for investment of premia, the memorandum states that consequent upon the present operation of the Department of Exchange Control, it is not considered that it will serve any useful purpose. In fact the Central Bank of Ceylon controls through this department all remittances from the country. If it is considered that there might be a time when the monies of insurance companies operating in Ceylon should be compulsorily retained in this country for investment purposes, it strongly urges that this is contrary to the best interests of policy and shareholders as the widest possible spread of investment is most desirable.

A SPORTS CAUSERIE

By "ITINERANT"

Racing

THE May Monsoon race meeting was brought to an abrupt end after the sixth race last Saturday, when a section of the crowd from the fourth enclosure swarmed across the track and into the paddock, with the result that the Stewards were forced to cancel the last race on the programme.

The cause of the trouble was an objection lodged against Tiger Tim, winner of the Gal Oya Plate (9 furs.), who was first favourite, by the rider of the second horse Karikalzo. The Stewards after a short enquiry upheld the objection and awarded the race to Karikalzo.

This decision did not go down well with the followers of Tiger Tim and a section from the fourth enclosure made their way to the Stewards' room to protest against the decision. They were joined by a section of the crowd in the first enclosure, which included a leading owner.

The Stewards were jeered and heckled at and it was only the arrival of an armed Police squad which restored order.

PROTESTING and demanding that the decision be changed, the crowd hung on in the paddock precincts for well over two hours, but they could not make the Stewards change their decision.

While strongly condemning the unsportsmanlike attitude of the

crowd, I must blame the Stewards too for not announcing over the public address system the cause for the objection. The race was run in rain and in poor visibility, so that the majority of the punters were not aware as to what had taken place. An announcement would have gone a long way to help matters and perhaps the ensuing chaos may not have occurred.

* * *

EARLIER in the day, we saw Sir Chittampalam and Lady Gardiner's Vijelatan (Vigorous-Kunji Lata) win the Herbert Stanley Cup (1½ miles) from Friendly Isle and Advocate.

Mohideen who had the mount on the bay gelding was seen to advantage, giving of his best in the last furlong to get the better of Friendly Isle.

Ipomea and Sports Summary made all the running to score easily in the Labugama Plate (1 mile) and Katunayake Plate (9 furs.) respectively, while Rosieness earned promotion to Class III, when scoring a stylish win over Pharsisca in the Pidurutalagala Plate (1 mile).

Proceedings ended with the Gal Oya Plate (9 furs.) where Tiger Tim despite carrying topweight of 9.3, ran a gallant race in the prevailing conditions, to beat Karikalzo by a short head, only to lose the spoils in the Stewards' room.

Rugby Football

THE C. R. and F. C. trounced Uva by 24 points to nil at Longden Place in a one-sided match. Uva came with the reputation of being a team of fighters but played listlessly and just could not hold the C. R. three-quarters.

Atwell demonstrated that he is about the fastest wing three-quarter in Ceylon rigger by scoring two tries. The second was a particularly good effort; he grabbed an Uva pass and ran about 70 yards to score.

For Uva G. Wright and Bill Monypenny did one or two very good runs, but they hardly ever saw the ball as their halves failed to combine.

Havelocks recorded their first win, beating K.V. 27—0 at Taldua and C.H. and F.C. beat Dickoya 20—0 at Darrawella in the other Clifford Cup games played the same week-end.

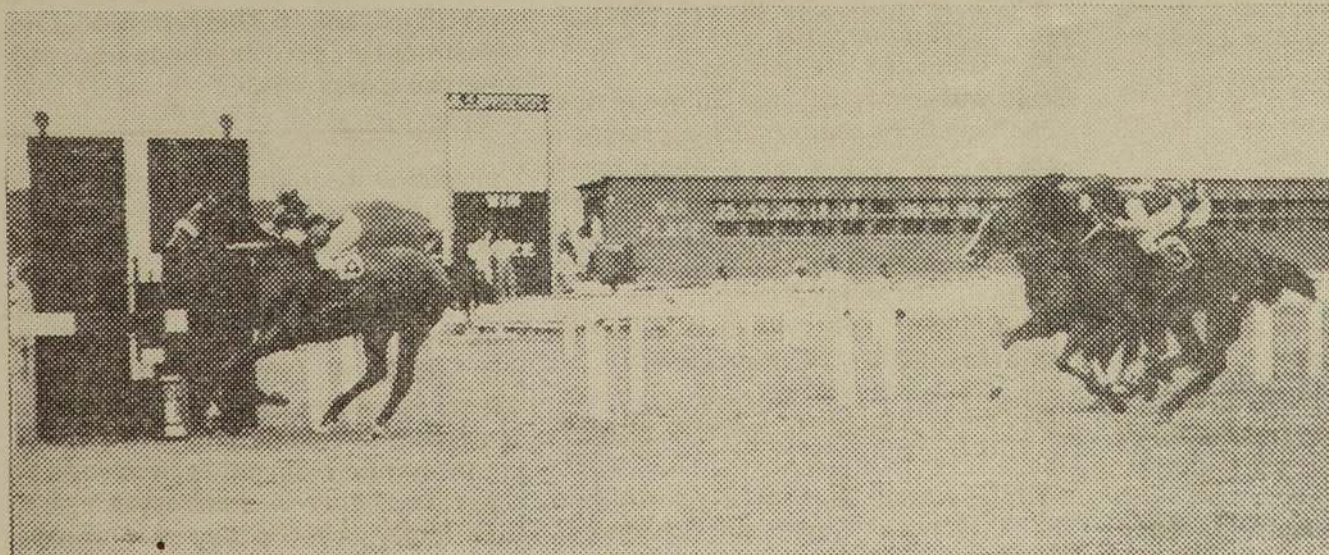
* * *

CR Trounce CH

C. R. and F.C beat C.H and F.C by 27 points to 6 in ideal conditions on the Racecourse before a huge crowd last week-end.

A staggering result, particularly to those few enthusiasts who did not watch the game.

I say staggering because most people before the match would have made the odds just about even. I was inclined to favour the side that scored first, although I did make note of the greater mobility of the C.R. threes and forwards—and this is what counted in the final analysis.



Sir Chittampalam and Lady Gardiner's Vijelatan (Mohideen up) winning the Herbert Stanley Cup (1½ miles), the main event at the Colombo races last Saturday, from Friendly Isle and Advocate.

—Times.

A SPORTS CAUSERIE

Perhaps the CH spent themselves in an all-out effort in the first half, which ended with the scores level at 3 all; perhaps they detailed too many men to mark Rambukwella and Attwell and let others slip through; or even, perhaps, they despaired and made no effort to check the CR scoring spree late in the second half.

Whatever the real reason, the CH just could not match the CR speed. Cader and Ingleton invariably won the ball in the line-outs; Omar out-hooked Lloyd and when Leefe did get the ball, stand-off Gordon (substituting for Tait) was so slow that the CR forwards were able to spoil their attacking moves.

The match opened on an exciting note when Attwell raced through on the wing only to have his touch-down disallowed. Soon after, a CH three-quarter movement, initiated by Spark, ended in Anderson touching down even as two defenders tackled him.

CR equalised off a five-yard scrum when Almeida joined the threes and touched down. Then the CH missed a glorious chance of taking a vital lead, Cooper muffing a fairly easy penalty.

But it must be said in extenuation that a section of the crowd behaved deplorably, hooting and whistling as he was about to take the kick.

* * *

A scoring spree

THE second half was full of incident. First Phillips, backing up well, touched down for CR and Almeida converted. Almeida, in brilliant place-kicking form, then converted a penalty but Leefe reduced the deficit with a fine try.

Getting the ball off a line-out, he raced through a pack of CR players and slithered over the line. A glorious effort.

Almeida converted another penalty and then the CR ran riot as the CH cracked up. Attwell, bottled up on his wing, raced right across the ground and touched down. Almeida converted.

Paiva went through on the blind side, Almeida failing with the conversion. Beven rounded off the scoring for the CR with another fine try under the posts, which Paiva converted almost on the final whistle.

A fine match for the CR and FC, for whom everything seemed to go right, and a dismal one for the CH and FC.

Two other Clifford Cup games ended in wins for Dimbula, who beat Kandy 21-0 at Nittawela, and Dickoya, who beat KV 21-3 at Darrawella.

* * *

Grand Marathon run

L. C. Dias of the Ceylon Engineers astounded the local athletic world by running Ceylon's first ever marathon in the very good time of 2 hours 40 minutes 53.5 seconds.

This timing is only 17 mins. 50.3 secs. slower than the best recorded time for a marathon—by the great Czech runner Emil Zatopek.

Dias's performance would have earned him second place in the marathon at the Asian Games in Tokyo and 16th place at the Melbourne Olympics.

There is no real comparison, of course, but all the same it is a very fine performance and not merely by Ceylon standards.

J. M. Punchibanda, a schoolboy from Kegalla, earned second place in 2 hrs. 52 mins. 54.4 secs. and M. R. Heenbanda of Gampola was third in 2 hrs. 57 mins. 40.7 secs.

The newly-formed Ceylonese Track and Field Club deserve all praise for organising the marathon which was run from the University grounds at Thurstan Road to Homagama and back.

* * *

Golf

G. C. Gray (14) and J. H. Newton (9) won the MacBride Foursomes on the Ridgeways beating R. J. Gilmour (16) and R. A. G. McMichen (3) five and four.

It was a bad day for Gilmour and McMichen for whom nothing seemed to go right. But they fought back desperately after being 8 down with 8 to go.

They won 3 holes in a row—the 11th, 12th and 13th—but the end came at the 14th which was halved in five.

* * *

Death of a leading Ceylon Soccer full-back

THE death of I. B. Krishna, last Monday at the General Hospital, Colombo, after a brief illness, will be mourned by soccer

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NEW CAR NEWS

— By J. P. O. —

The SAAB "95"

ONE of the very few makes in the world not seen in Ceylon is the Swedish-built Saab. Perhaps the reason is that it is not manufactured in large quantities for export but only in limited numbers with their home markets in view.

Designed and made by a firm of aircraft constructors, it has got all the quality of workmanship and design which signifies a thoroughbred machine. The Saab enjoys a wide reputation as a highly successful rally car, being extremely tough and possessing a lively performance.

Recently they have announced the production of a new 6-seater Station Wagon, with a new 841 c.c. three-cylinder engine developing 42 horsepower at 5,000 revs. per minute, and a compression ratio of 7.3 to 1. Unladen weight is 17½ cwt. and the ground clearance 7½ inches—which is good by present day standards. With the back seat folded away, as is customary on station wagons, it can carry two passengers and 66 lbs. of luggage, or with five passengers on board the permissible load is 220 lbs. There are only two doors, a thing I do not favour overmuch for a vehicle of this type.

It is time we saw these Saabs in Ceylon. They will be eminently suitable for the "going" here.

* * *

The Volvo

ANOTHER Swedish-built car, the Volvo, is to be assembled in England. It will have a very advanced styling with a view to high speed touring. Disc brakes will be teamed up with an 85 horsepower engine and four speed gearbox. Production does not commence until the end of 1960! Rather a long wait.

players and followers of the game throughout the Island. For nearly two decades Krishna was a popular figure on the Ceylon Soccer field, first coming into prominence as a member of St. Michael's team as far back as 1935. He gained his first Ceylon Cap as a full-back against the I.F.A. team in 1938. The same year he played against Burma and two years later against All-India. He also played for Ceylon against Pakistan in 1949. In later years he did good work as a referee.

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A WOMAN'S DIARY

On the Care and Maintenance of Husbands

By ANNE

"HUSBANDS are things that wives have to get used to putting up with," observed Ogden Nash in a delightfully accurate little piece on the male of the species, but I honestly do not think most of us ever really get used to them, not even after prolonged association with our husbands.

And so, with June, the month of marriages, nearly upon us, I find myself thinking of all the sweet, innocent young things who will presently be stepping blithely on to the poruwa or up the aisle and who "haven't a clue as to what that bouquet really contains"—as a woman-friend rather aptly and picturesquely put it! A word in season, a gentle hint, a little discreet advice on the handling of husbands is therefore not untimely.

* * *

FIRST and foremost, every wife has to try to grow accustomed to the fact that a husband is quite a different being from a fiance. Inevitably (with a few very rare exceptions), the romantic, eloquent, demonstrative being of the courtship and engagement period gradually disappears and in his place you find a nice, sensible, solid, silent type who at first seems almost a stranger.

Don't try to turn the clock back. It just doesn't work. Men only grow more stubborn and taciturn if you try to recall the Prince Charming with whom you first fell in love. Accept his essential "niceness", be grateful for his reliability and work hard to provide the romance and gaiety in your marriage yourself. He in turn will be quick to appreciate and to respond to the delightful quality of the attention and the companionship you give him.

* * *

NO man ever recognizes his wife as his equal, intellectually. "She's quite intelligent for a woman, but her logic is all wrong, her arguments are personal and she thinks with her heart rather than her head", is the private summing up of most husbands in regard to their wives. Well, let him think so—it won't hurt you and it will give him a pleasant feeling of superiority. The wise woman doesn't give voice to strong convictions and opinions relating to

religion, politics and problems of human behaviour. She can have her own ideas on these things, of course, but there is no need to enter into serious argument with the omniscient male if you value the happiness of your marriage. Men don't like to be contradicted by their wives.

You need not echo his views loudly, either. There are subtle ways of letting him think that you are a sensible woman who listens to reason, and how nice it is that you both think alike in most matters! This pleases him no end.

* * *

NO man enjoys having a martyr in his home. Housekeeping is one big headache today owing to the high cost of living. Servants are a problem all right. Children can be very trying. Cooking and washing and sewing and dusting and cleaning can leave one as limp at the end of the day as adding up figures or dictating letters or writing out prescriptions, but don't ever try to explain this fact to your husband. We women have more vitality than our bread-winning halves.

The clever woman keeps an attractive house without burdening the husband with details of the hard work involved; she watches him enjoy a difficult dish she has prepared without boring him with the inside story of how complicated its preparation was. She dresses the children and herself smartly without recounting how tired she was as she walked the length of Main Street in order to find the right material at the right price, and buttons and braid and beads to match! She manages expertly on a limited income without trying verbally to impress her husband with her ingenuity and her capability.

* * *

AMONG things which are just "not done" (but which so many of us wives are prone to do, alas), I would list the following: Don't ever criticise his mother; don't open his letters or pry into his diary; don't try to tidy his study or his desk; don't treat his ailments as lightly as he treats yours (when a man is ill, it is always serious); don't start comparing him (unfavourably) with that courteous, thoughtful, attentive Mr. so-and-so; don't show your claws the moment he admires another woman (he wouldn't be a man if he did not feel pleasure at sight of a pretty face or figure); don't be demonstrative or possessive in public—it embarrasses him greatly once he's married, however much he

seemed to enjoy it when you were only engaged; don't buy presents for him on his charge account; don't dictate to him on what he should wear; don't answer for him in company—he likes to speak for himself even in simple matters like whether he wants his coffee black or white.

Do give him the right degree of deference; do show him a little flattery; do be kind to him; do let him feel that you are his ally against the world; and do love him with all your heart.

As Ogden Nash so rightly says: "Husbands are indeed an irritating form of life, and yet through some quirk of Providence most of them are really very deeply ensconced in the affection of their wife."

POLITICAL NOTEBOOK

(Continued from page 11)

IN the meantime Dr. N. M. Perera, Leader of the Opposition, has raised an intriguing constitutional question. If, as is expected, the report of the Delimitation Commission is out this month, and after its publication the Prime Minister decides to dissolve Parliament or the Government is defeated on a no-confidence motion, then it is possible that the country would be without a Parliament for nearly a year, according to him.

He arrives at this position for the following reasons: Under the Constitution a new Parliament must meet within four months of the dissolution of the previous one; under the Constitution Order-in-Council, the next elections must be held on the basis of the new delimitation of electoral districts; this would entail the preparation and printing of the new electoral lists, which would take at least nine months.

The problem is, of course, one for the Governor-General. A course open to him would be to call upon the Leader of the Opposition to form a government until the elections are held. The alternative would be for him to take over the administration himself, which is evidently what Dr. Perera has in mind in speaking of the country being without a Parliament.

Curiously the American news magazine "Newsweek", discussing recent developments on the political front in Ceylon, regards the Governor-General as "the most obvious alternative" the moderates might look to if a change of government is to take place.

CEYLON'S FIRST CIVIL SERVANTS

(Continued from page 25)

We are told that later civil servants like M. S. Crawford, R. W. Ievers, F. R. Ellis, H. C. P. Bell, E. M. Byrde and Herbert White, could speak Sinhalese very well, while a former Government Agent of the Northern Province, Mr. B. Horsburgh, was quite fluent in Tamil.

* * *

THEN there is the story told by J. P. Lewis of a "Gentleman of the Civil Service" whose knowledge of Sinhalese never seemed to

get beyond "Mokada" (what). About the only other Sinhalese expression he knew was "Aye bowan". The story goes that, on one occasion, in order to ingratiate himself with "that sinister personage and arbiter of fate", the Sinhalese examiner, he flung at him, as he entered the examination room, the mystic words "I bun".

There is also the story of a civil servant who was so pleased with his knowledge of Sinhalese that he tried to master also some of its proverbial sayings. He was once present with

other European guests at a "society wedding" in a Sinhalese family. There was alternate sun and rain on that day. The ceremony over, the guests repaired to the house of the bride's mother for the usual reception. Then, while the guests were being introduced to the lady of the house, the civil servant thought that here was his chance to display his knowledge of Sinhalese. And so he blurted out: "Awwai Wassai, Nariyagai Magulai" ("Sun and Rain, the Jackal's Wedding"). Adds J. P. Lewis: "The consternation and indignation of the lady can better be imagined than described."

MANY WATERS

(Continued from page 13)

An Eeling Party

AGAIN my thoughts were free. Back this time, back down the years to eeling parties on the Punui, one of childhood's chief delights. From the picnic fire again rises the aroma of burning willow twigs, and the roasting rabbit that is to lure the eels to their destruction. Cautiously the "Konaki" with its savoury bait is lowered into the water. In breathless silence (for eels dislike noise) we bait our hooks with fat, white, squirming grubs, larval form of a large native beetle, and a delicacy equally esteemed by eel and Maori. Suddenly with a thrill of mingled triumph and apprehension I jerk my line back over my head and an eel strikes the ground with a sounding thwack. We fall upon it with stout staves raining blows upon its tail, where, saith the legend, an eel's most vital nerves are situated. Presently the sugar bag is half full of squirming shapes; we haul up the "Konaki" with a solitary captive; and, the need for silence past, gather round the fire to sing choruses and drink strong billy tea. Then comes the swift gallop home on impatient ponies under the brightest of stars.

The Sign

OUT of the past I came to find a cloud over the sun and a cold wind rising. Our young mentor hauled in his lines and advised us that the best of the day was past. "I did want to catch a fish!" said Bobs. But as we trudged homeward (no ponies these degenerate days) his disappointment was submerged in hope for the morrow.

"Wouldn't it be nice," he said eagerly, "if I was to catch a fish as big as this!! or *this!!!*" with rising excitement, and his hands separating ever more widely as he spoke. The gesture was characteristic; generations of angling blood lay behind it an inheritance that would carry him through all the initial disappointments that go to the making of a "Compleat Angler." And it was with absolute conviction that I was able to reassure him: "You will one day Bobs; most certainly you will;" and myself that the holidays would not be spent in vain.

THE death is reported in England, on May 24th, of Mr. A. J. W. Abdee, formerly of Walker & Greig, Ceylon.

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IN RUHUNU JUNGLES

(Continued from page 19)

The author strikes a sad note when he foresees that long before the end of this century you may find no fascinating jungles left in Ceylon, except in the National Parks, and says miles and miles of cultivated land may give economic stability but you can give no one a home where the buffaloes roam and the deer and the antelope play. In areas now filled with 50,000 birds, as free as the wind, you will, he expects, find a bare fifty, each with a number plate and an annual licence. And the youth of fifty years hence may lack those manly qualities obtained when he pits his courage against a wild animal. Then there will be no real wild animals—and no real men either, he fears.

This book is strongly commended.

IN RUHUNU JUNGLES (CEYLON)

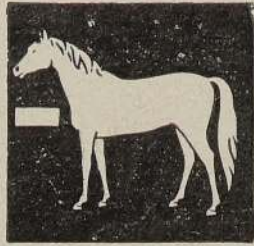
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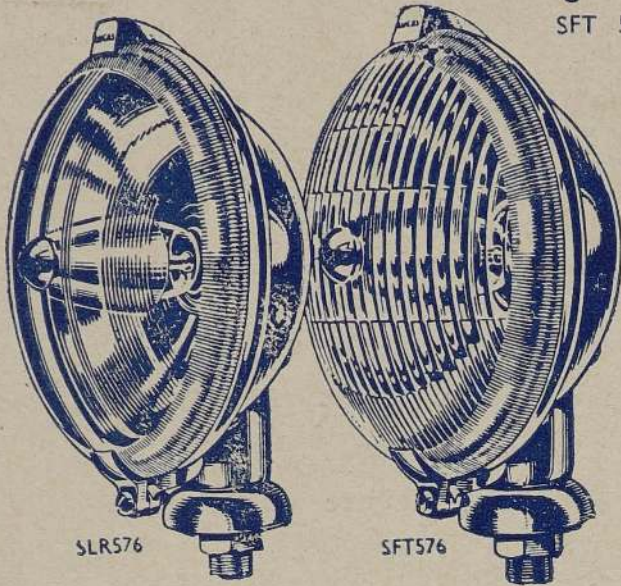


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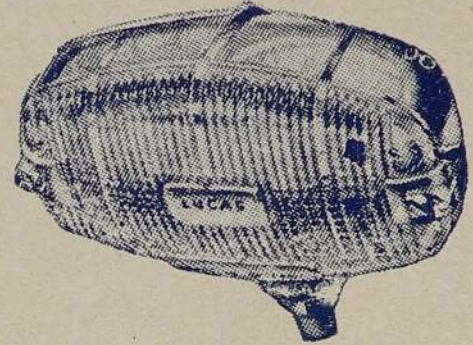
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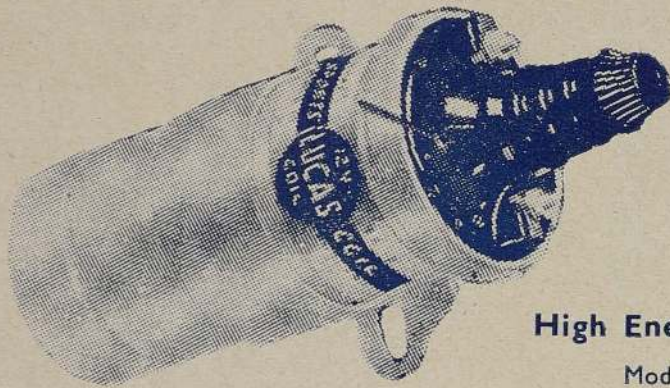
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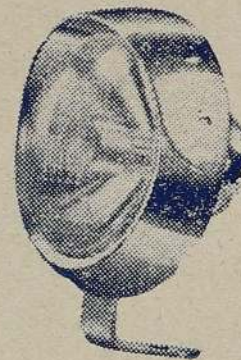
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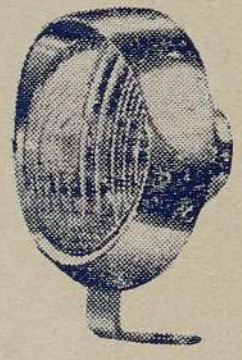
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