

# The Ceylon *Fortnightly* Review

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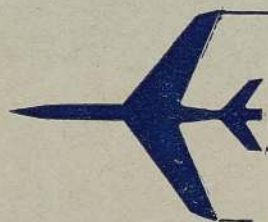
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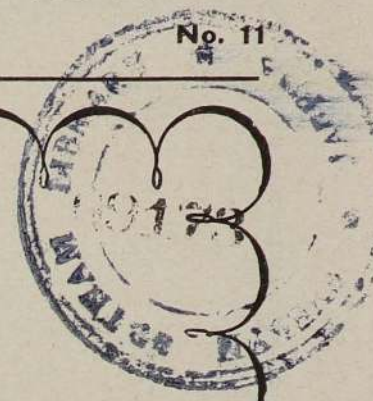
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## Symbol of Transition



— Limes

*The late Prime Minister beside a portrait of his father, Sir Solomon Dias Bandaranaike, K.C.M.G., A.D.C. to the Governor.*

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## THE LATE MR. BANDARANAIKE

BY the death of Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike not only has Ceylon lost an illustrious Prime Minister but the world a great champion of democracy. Of his international standing we in Ceylon, obsessed by our parochial interests, have been by and large oblivious, but it has been brought home to us by the tributes that have poured in from all over the world. Most significant has been the honour paid to him in India: the day of his death was declared a public holiday and a day of mourning. It has been universally acknowledged that he was an outstanding statesman.

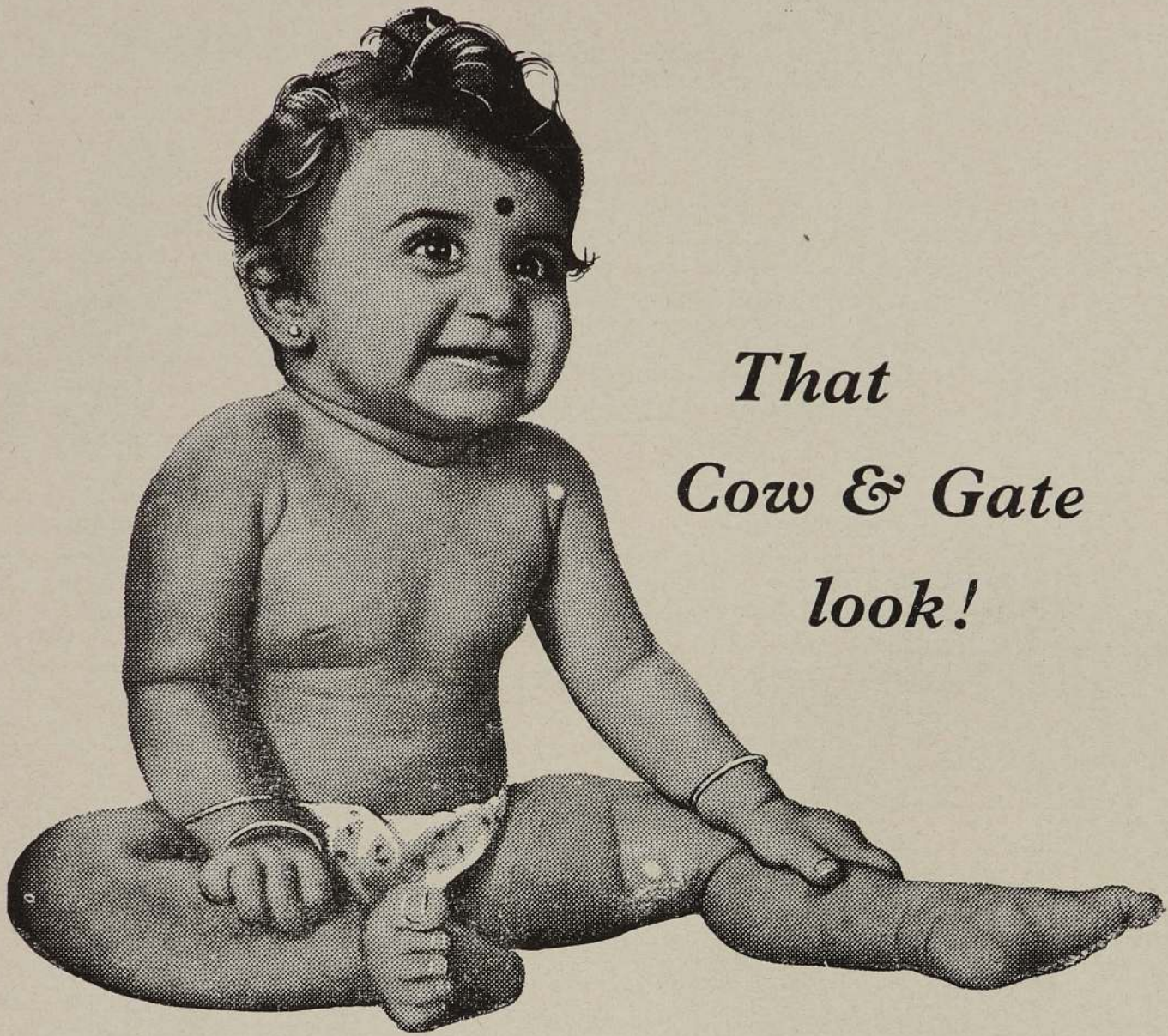
More than any other Ceylonese who took to public life, Mr. Bandaranaike trained himself for a political career. Where it was the compulsion of events that produced most of our national leaders of the past, for him politics had a fascination from his Oxford Union days. Having made his choice, he dedicated his life to the country and he lived not only to realise his ambition and fulfil prophecies that he would be Prime Minister of Ceylon, but earned for himself a certain place in history.

Mr. Bandaranaike claimed that his government brought the country real freedom. Of the truth of this there is no doubt. It was the policy and programme on which his coalition went to the country at the last general election that aroused the national consciousness of the people. In the process forces were released which gave rise to a multiplicity of problems. But he never flinched in the face of the difficulties he consequently encountered. In dealing with them he inevitably provoked antagonism, especially of the class from which he sprang. His severest critics were among the minorities, though actually he was their protector.

A man of simple tastes and devoted to his family, he was an exemplary citizen. If he had few friends, he suffered no sycophants. He did not merely pay lip-service to democracy: he applied it in practice. Indeed it was because he made himself accessible to everybody at all times that it was possible for an assassin to enter his house unhindered and empty a revolver on him.

Mr. Bandaranaike was wont to say that this is an age of transition. If so, he sacrificed his life in bringing about the transition. His successors owe it to him to vindicate the principles which he cherished.

THE EDITOR.



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## MATTERS OF MOMENT

—By BRUTUS—

IT is a week since the death of Mr. Bandaranaike, but the pall of sorrow still hangs over the country. The shock of his death was all the greater because he fell to an assassin—a Buddhist monk who had apparently come as a supplicant and to whom at the moment he was paying reverent obeisance. With bullet wounds in his chest and abdomen he co-operated courageously with the heroic effort of a team of surgeons to save his life. After a five-hour operation he came to lively and cheerful and survived fifteen hours, a remarkable thing for a man more than sixty years old. But his artificially stimulated heart failed his indomitable spirit. His last message to the nation was from the operating theatre. He appealed for compassion for his "foolish" assailant and enjoined the people to be calm and restrained.

The assassin, who was injured by a shot from a Police sentry, is on remand.

\* \* \*

MR. Bandaranaike, who had planned to be at the United Nations this week and visit Washington and possibly meet President Eisenhower, spend some time in Britain, and have talks with Mr. Konrad Adenauer in Bonn and President Nasser in Cairo on his way home, died at 8'clock on Saturday morning. Three hours later the Governor-General, Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, who had spent long hours by Mr. Bandaranaike's bed at the General Hospital, called upon Mr. W. Dahanayake, Minister of Education and acting Leader of the House, to form a Government. Mr. Bandaranaike had himself chosen Mr. Dahanayake to preside at Cabinet meetings during his projected travels.

\* \* \*

MR. Dahanayake made no changes in his Cabinet and only reshuffled departments. He himself retained his portfolio of education together with that of defence and external affairs, which under the Constitution are the Prime Minister's

charge. As earlier arranged, the Police come under the Minister of Justice, Mr. Valentine Jayewickreme. Agriculture, including co-operatives, are assigned to Mr. R. G. Senanayake, Minister of Commerce and Trade.

In a broadcast Mr. Dahanayake announced that there would be no change of policy and appealed for the support of the people in carrying on the government. "I and the newly formed Cabinet will be in a weak position without your willing co-operation," he said. He described Mr. Bandaranaike, who he pointed out had been in public life for 33 years, as a great man by any standard. He compared him to a Bodhisatva (Buddha-to-be). Not only was he a great man, he said, but he possessed saintly qualities. He sacrificed himself for the cause of the people; there was nothing he was not prepared to give up for the sake of his country, his people and his religion.

Two things gave him courage for the future, Mr. Dahanayake said: the example of the late Prime Minister and the signs that this country is blessed by the gods. "There is a protecting hand from above over all the events of history of our country." He would con-

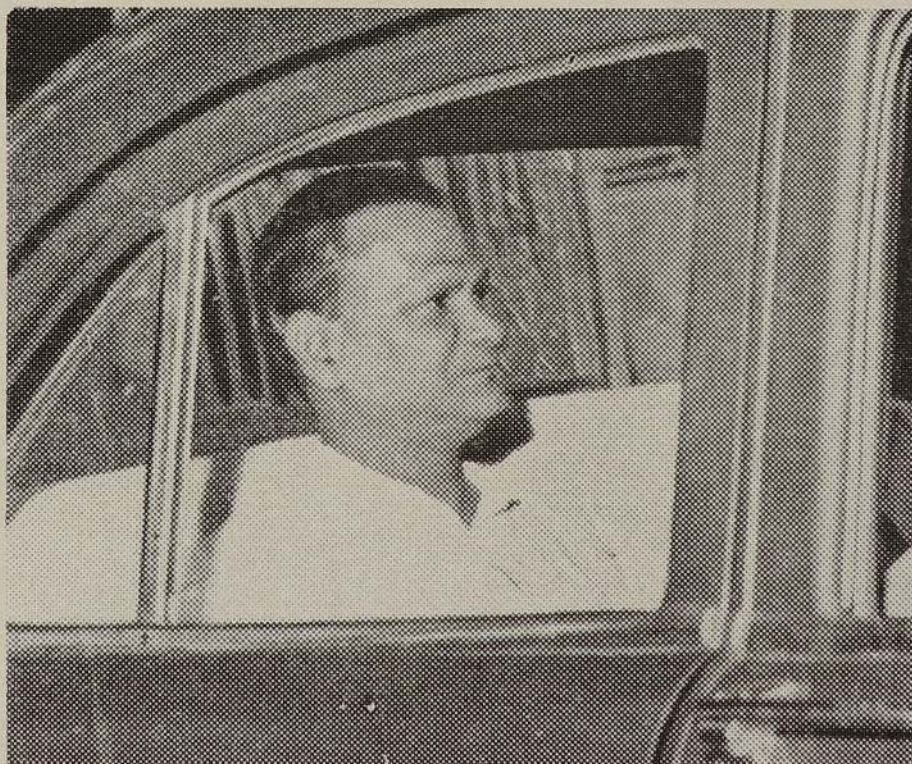
tinue the good work of his predecessor, he declared. "With justice towards all, we shall try to make this government a government of the people, for the people, by the people."

\* \* \*

ONE of Mr. Bandaranaike's last public acts was to open the WHO regional conference in Kandy. On the same day he declared open Kandy's magnificent new central market.

In his address to the WHO conference, Mr. Bandaranaike made an important point. He suggested that in the work of the various specialised agencies of the United Nations there should be a greater degree of collaboration in matters that concerned more than one agency. At present there did not seem to be sufficient machinery for such collaboration, he said. An example he gave was the question of population, which he suggested concerned other international bodies besides WHO. Incidentally he recalled that in 1950, as Minister of Health, he brought up a motion in Geneva for the appointment of a committee to study the question of population, but there was so much opposition to it that he withdrew it.

A family planning project is under way in Ceylon with the assistance of the Government of Sweden.



—Times  
Mr. Dahanayake arriving at Queen's House to be sworn in as Prime Minister.

## MATTERS OF MOMENT

THE late Prime Minister last month reiterated the decision of the Government not to consider nationalisation of estates for at least another ten years. The occasion was a dinner given by the Low-country Products Association to mark its golden jubilee.

Mr. Bandaranaike said that the Government brought a practical approach to the subject of nationalisation. That was why the bus service and the port, which were not being run satisfactorily under private ownership, were nationalised. Whether tea and rubber estates would be worked more efficiently under nationalisation was, he said, a somewhat different matter. Any government with a socialist outlook had to consider schemes of nationalisation, he added, but it was no magic wand that could solve all the economic ills of the country. He asked plantation interests to rid their minds of the bogey of nationalisation.

Mr. Bandaranaike invited the advice of bodies like the LCPA on the implementation of the Government's ten-year plan.

\* \* \*

MR. Selwyn Samaraweera, Chairman of the LCPA, replying to the toast of the Association proposed

by Mr. Bandaranaike, said that the prosperity of the Island was indissolubly bound up with the agricultural industries. The explosive increase of population, however, called for industrialisation in both the public and private sector, as new sources of income and employment had to be found, and soon.

Replying to the toast of the guests proposed by Mr. C. H. Z. Fernando, an ex-Chairman of the Association, Mr. H. Creighton, Chairman of the Planters Association of Ceylon, after acknowledging the co-operation of the LCPA in putting the plantation industries on a sound footing, dwelt on the difficulty of keeping costs on the right side when heavy taxes were imposed. He described as heartening the assurance that plantations would not be nationalised within the next ten years.

\* \* \*

THE Bribery Commission appointed by the Governor-General began work on September 21st. The members of the Commission are Mr. Walter Talgodapitiya, Mr. S. J. C. Schokman and Mr. T. W. Roberts, with Mr. V. J. H. Gunasekera of the Civil Service as Secretary. Mr. Walter Talgodapitiya, who had earlier been appointed Commissioner under the Bribery Act, was District Judge of Kandy. He had also

officiated as Commissioner of Assize. Mr. Schokman is a retired District Judge of Colombo and Mr. Roberts a retired civil servant.

The appointment of the Commission, which was announced on September 12, followed criticism that the Bribery Act in its operation would be ineffective in view of the penalties to which informants were subject who failed to substantiate allegations of bribery or corruption. Under the Commissions of Inquiry Act witnesses enjoy immunity. The terms of reference of the Commission bring within the scope of their inquiry not only members of Parliament and senators, including ministers and parliamentary secretaries, as such and as members of any committee, but also members of the last State Council since January 1st, 1943, including ministers, members of executive committees and any committee. The last Bribery Commission covered a period to the end of the year 1942.

\* \* \*

THE Finance Minister announced a qualified amnesty to tax dodgers when he released a brochure explaining the new system of taxation and containing a table setting out how income tax may be computed under the slab system. The Government had decided, Mr. de Zoysa said, to treat leniently, without recourse to criminal proceedings, taxpayers who voluntarily disclosed before December 31, 1960, omission to declare their correct income or evasion of tax or attempts at evasion.

"It is proposed in the future," he said, "to take more serious cognizance of breaches of the ordinance by a stricter enforcement of its penal provisions and the more frequent institution of criminal proceedings against offenders," adding that the new system, being self-checking in character, would make concealment of evasion more difficult.

\* \* \*

THE possibility of Anuradhapura being made the national capital, with Colombo remaining the commercial capital, was mentioned by the late Prime Minister during a tour of the North-central Province in the course of which he laid the foundation for a new railway station for the sacred city.



—Times

Mrs. Ezlynn Deraniyagala, president of the International Alliance of Women and president of the All-Ceylon Women's Conference, in conversation with Mrs. Golda Meir, Israel's Foreign Minister. Mrs. Deraniyagala was in Israel recently as guest of the Israeli affiliate organisation of the International Alliance of Women.



## MATTERS OF MOMENT

Earlier he laid a wreath at the statue of Harischandra Walsinghe, who started the agitation for the separation of the modern township from the historical city. The restoration of the ancient city was begun during Mr. Bandaranaike's tenure of the office of Minister of Local Government and is now nearing completion.

\* \* \*

**T**HE heavy balance of trade in Burma's favour gives significance to the arrival in Ceylon of a ten-man delegation from Burma last week. The delegation is led by Mr. Thi Han, Minister of Trade Development, Commodity Distribution, Co-operatives and Supplies. The delegation includes the Director of Military Ordinance and the Chief Mechanical Engineer of the Electricity Supply Board.

The main purpose of the delegation is to widen trade between the two countries. Ceylon's main import from Burma is, of course, rice. Burma is said to be interested in purchasing Ceylon products, like coconut, coconut oil and rubber.

\* \* \*

**M**R. B. Mahadeva, Tea and Rubber Controller, told the Sabaragamuwa Planters' Association recently that tea production has reached its peak under the present acreage and it was almost impossible to increase the yield any more by any improved methods of production, except by re-planting.

The tea industry in Ceylon uses more fertilisers than does any other industry in any part of the world, he said. As a result, Ceylon has stepped up production from 250 to 400 million pounds. He said that the aim of the replantation scheme was to induce small holders and large estates to re-plant at least a small acreage every year.

The department gave a subsidy of Rs. 2,500 for every acre re-planted and the target for the next five years was 30,000 acres. This would increase the yield by 25 million pounds and help pay for the subsidy within a very short period.

\* \* \*

**A**RRANGEMENTS for the establishment of a luxury Hilton hotel in Colombo were finalised last week by Hilton Hotels International, Vice-President, Mr. Rudy Basler, with the Prime Minister. Mr. Basler later signed an agreement with the Minister for Trade and Commerce, Mr. R. G. Senanayake.

A site opposite the Galle Face Green is to be selected for the 300-room hotel, which will be fully air-conditioned. A team of architects is to be flown to Colombo soon to prepare plans in association with a firm of local architects.

Mr. Basler has said it is the policy of the Hilton organisation to incorporate local architectural effects. What they would have would be a typically Ceylonese pavilion or hall where Ceylonese music, dances and food would be served to visitors and tourists. "We want to sell Ceylon to the tourist," he said.

\* \* \*

**M**R. R. G. Senanayake, Minister of Trade and Commerce, on his return to the island from a tour in Europe, said Ceylon now seemed famous abroad for two things—good tea and a bad port. He was shocked with the Colombo port's "very poor" reputation in the U.K. and Europe. Shippers in Germany, Poland, Yugoslavia and the U.K. were reluctant to book space for shipments to Colombo. They were only interested in consignments of bulk cargo of heavy equipment on Government orders and when the final destination was Colombo. Shippers were refusing to carry goods to Ceylon when Colombo was merely one of the ports of call.

Mr. Senanayake said that wherever he could he had tried to assure exporters and shippers that the situation in Colombo was much better than it was before.

In the meantime there is said to be a move to amend the University Ordinance so that the Vice-Chancellor may be appointed by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Prime Minister instead of, as at present, on his election by the University Court.

\* \* \*

**T**HE family planning movement has so far encountered little real hostility, it was reported to a meeting of the Family Planning Association on the basis of an initial survey. A curious experience related by Dr. Jan Asplund, Director of the Ceylon-Swedish Family Planning Pilot Project, was that more men than women interviewed adopted the idea.

From a survey of a Sinhalese and a Tamil village, and interviewing men and women, Dr. Asplund said that "our experience was that it was much easier than we expected to approach the people on family planning."

The F.P.A. so far has seven clinics in Colombo and ten in the provinces.

(Continued on page 28)



Research into rheumatic diseases has made great progress in recent times. Students learning how to operate a bubble bath.



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# THE BRITISH GENERAL ELECTION

By Sir JOHN HOWARD, Q.C.

Our Former Chief Justice

(Fortnightly Review Special)

THE General Election takes place on October 8th. I do not recall an election when the electorate was not informed by the rival parties that the issues on which their votes were to be cast were the most serious and far reaching in parliamentary history. This election is no exception and in the attempt to obtain their suffrages voters are being reminded that the issues involved are the most momentous of all time. I doubt very much whether the electors themselves share this view. It is not borne out by the numbers who watch the performances of the politicians on television.

Two recent political broadcasts indicate why viewers take a poor view of members of Parliament when they appear on the screen. One of these broadcasts was made on behalf of the Tory party, by Dr. Hill, the radio doctor.

One can only describe the picture that he painted of what would happen if the Socialists won the election as a gross piece of exaggeration and an insult to the intelligence of his audience.

This was followed a few evenings later by one from Mr. Anthony Greenwood on behalf of the Labour Party. Mr. Greenwood in solemn tones set out to describe conditions of life in this country. He seemed to regard Great Britain as one vast slum from end to end and those old age pensioners who had the good fortune to survive as eking out their miserable existence on a mere pittance.

\* \* \*

MR. Greenwood might have been portraying life not in Great Britain, but on another planet. When he was here a few weeks ago, Mr. Casey, the Australian Minister for External Affairs, stated that he had never known the country so prosperous and life so good for everyone.

No doubt there are pockets of unemployment where a certain number of people are living on the dole. But the figures of unemployment are not high and from the beginning of the

year with production increasing they have been getting less. Slums still exist in certain areas, but rehabilitation of these areas has been a prime factor in Government policy. No doubt old age pensioners could do with an increase in their pensions. It is, however, a grave distortion of the facts for Socialists to suggest that the prosperity which this country now enjoys is unreal and its benefits, such as they are, are not reaped by the people as a whole, but only by the Institute of Directors, take-over bidders and financiers of doubtful morality.

The country's reserves have increased and the pound is strong. Production is up and unemployment is down. Moreover, prices have been stabilised and taxation has been reduced. The benefits arising from all these factors have percolated through to the community as a whole.

\* \* \*

THE economic picture of the country to which I have invited attention is a condition of affairs that the Socialists will be only too pleased to inherit if they win this election. It is somewhat different from the parlous state of the economy that the Tories inherited from Labour in 1951. In these circumstances every elector may well ask himself what the Socialist Party has to offer and why should a change of Government be made.

The Labour Party hierarchy contend that they should be returned both on grounds of external and internal policy. So far as external affairs are concerned, they made great play by indicating the past record of this Government in regard to Suez, Cyprus, the Central African Federation and the scandal of the Hola Camp in Kenya. They also accuse the Government of lethargy and lukewarmness in obtaining a Summit meeting and an agreement to stop the testing and manufacture of nuclear weapons. They maintain that Mr. Gaitskell is better fitted and more likely than Mr. Macmillan to reach agreement with Mr. Krushchev at a Summit meeting.

So far as Suez is concerned I have no doubt that the vast majority of the electors, including many Tories, look back upon it as a ghastly mistake. On the other hand, if it had been successful, it would not have been unpopular.

\* \* \*

THREE years have elapsed since this unsuccessful venture. The Tory Party has learnt its lesson. I do not think it will be a major factor so far as this election is concerned as the electorate will be more interested in the present state of affairs and future prospects rather than dwelling too intently on the past.

In regard to Cyprus, thinking members of the community will realise that the Government had to deal with a complicated situation for which a solution was not easy to find. The fact that the problem was solved eventually through the efforts of the Government in bringing the Turkish and Greek Governments together will be a good mark for the Tories.

The electorate will also not be unmindful of the fact that the Labour Party when in office contributed nothing towards a solution of the question of the Greek Cypriots' agitation for union with Greece. This agitation did not suddenly spring up after the Tories took office in 1951 but dated from the time of the British occupation in 1882. It is unlikely that Cyprus will be a live issue in this election.

\* \* \*

PEOPLE in this country are genuinely shocked at what has been happening in the Hola Camp in Kenya. But I do not think that they will attribute to the Government any responsibility for what has occurred. The electorate will not be altogether satisfied in regard to the establishment of the Central African Federation, particularly in regard to the position of Nyasaland and Northern Rhodesia. The situation is full of complications.

If the Tories make it clear that these two countries will only become part of the Federation of their own volition freely expressed, few votes will be lost by them on this issue. Voters will be reminded that the question of the Federation of the three territories was initiated under the Labour Government. They will also regard this matter as one of minor importance compared with other problems on which their attention has been focussed.

(To be continued)

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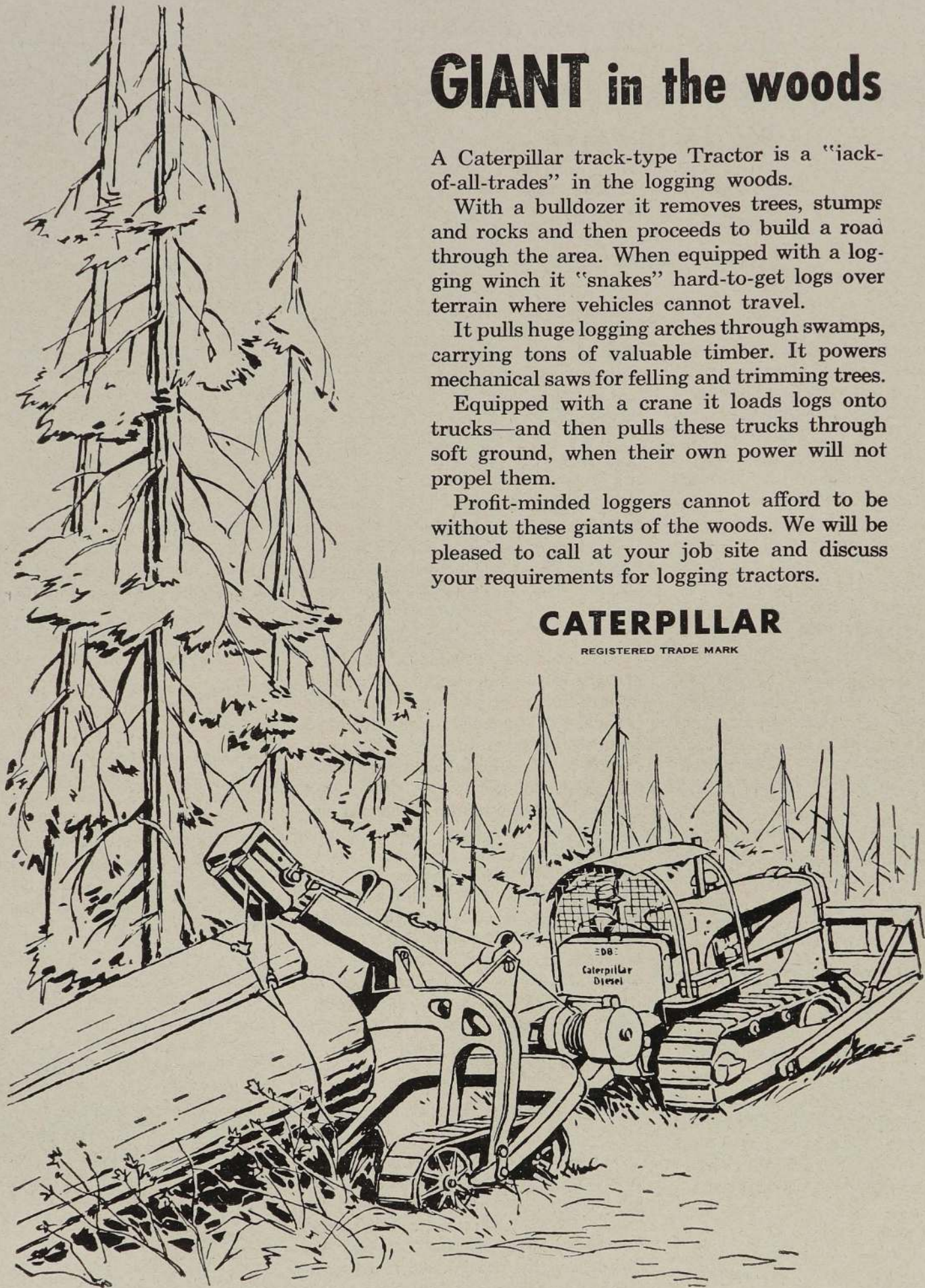
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# A POLITICAL NOTEBOOK

— By CROSS-BENCHER —

THE march of events has propelled Mr. W. Dahanayake to the high position of head of the government of Ceylon. It is difficult to conceive of any other member of the party in power qualified by experience and public esteem fit to fill the role. Indeed, the Governor-General's task in choosing Mr. Bandaranaike's successor was simplified by Mr. Bandaranaike himself appointing Mr. Dahanayake to stand in for him during his proposed attendance at the United Nations and his visit to Europe. Mr. Dahanayake, for his part, could hardly feel exultant at the manner in which the honour has come to him. Indeed he has displayed a becoming humility and declared himself content to follow his late leader's policy. Reluctantly though he assumes office, it cannot be doubted that he will be equal to the duties and responsibilities that devolve upon him.

Mr. Dahanayake has a long record of public life. It has also been a turbulent one. The greater part of his parliamentary career having been in the Opposition, in office he has sometimes found it difficult to curb the politician in him. To Mr. Bandaranaike, however, he gave loyal support, and in the educational sphere he initiated policies which enhanced the prestige of the Government. Now that powers of leadership have been thrust on him, the country will look to him for qualities of statesmanship in his approach to the many problems that beset it. What is at stake is not merely the future of the party in power but of the nation itself. The body politic has suffered grievous injury in the recent past. These must be healed if Ceylon is to play its part in maintaining the democratic ideal in Asia and Africa.

\* \* \*

AS expected the Government forestalled the proposed Opposition motion for a commission to inquire into bribery and corruption among Ministers and members of Parliament by having a bribery commission appointed, although the late Prime Minister had earlier insisted that the Bribery Act was adequate to deal with all allegations. In fact the Government sought to meet Opposition criticism by the appointment of a Commissioner under the Act, but the persistence of the Opposition in demanding a

special commission and the pressure of public opinion compelled Mr. Bandaranaike to yield to the clamour.

Although thwarted, the Opposition can take satisfaction from the fact that its stand that the Bribery Act was an ineffective instrument has been vindicated and that without proceeding to introduce a motion it has succeeded in having a commission appointed. A moot question, however, is whether any useful purpose would be served by the Commission going so far back as 1943 in its inquiry since recent allegations refer especially to members of the present Parliament. There is some thing to be said, of course, for the inquiry covering the last two Parliaments as well, but to go farther back does seem a waste of time.

\* \* \*

LAST week a further step towards cleansing public life was taken when Parliament adopted a private member's motion (by Mr. Robert Gunawardena of the L.S.S.P.) that Ministers, member of Parliament, gazetted government servants, members of local bodies and of public corporations, and their families, should submit annual statements of their assets and liabilities to the Bribery Commissioner and that the statements should be available to the public for inspection.

The motion had been on the order paper for nine years and in its final form incorporated three amendments proposed during the debate.

\* \* \*

CONSIDERING the great expectations aroused by the appointment of the University Commission, under the distinguished chairmanship of Professor Joseph Needham of Cambridge, the disappointment will be equally great that they failed to produce a unanimous report. Evidently there was a serious divergence of views between the one Ceylonese member of the commission, Mr. L. J. de S. Seneviratne, and the two foreign members during their meetings in Ceylon, for meeting later in India, Professor Needham and Professor Chatterji apparently varied some of the decisions they had already made in Ceylon.

Mr. Seneviratne has asked the Government to reject the report made by the two other members on the grounds that certain

decisions unanimously reached by at full commission meetings at Peradeniya have been altered at a subsequent meeting in India between Prof. Needham and Prof. Chatterji which, according to Mr. Seneviratne, were not meetings of the commission.

One of the recommendations made by Mr. Seneviratne which has already been condemned—that admissions to the university should be in proportion to the communities comprising the population—seems to explain why the two other members found themselves in disagreement with him on such kindred matters as the medium of instruction and expansion of university facilities. Another question on which Mr. Seneviratne takes a different view from his colleagues is the manner of appointment of the Vice-Chancellor. His recommendation that the Vice-Chancellor be appointed by the Governor-General on the advice of the Prime Minister has been criticised as making it a political appointment.

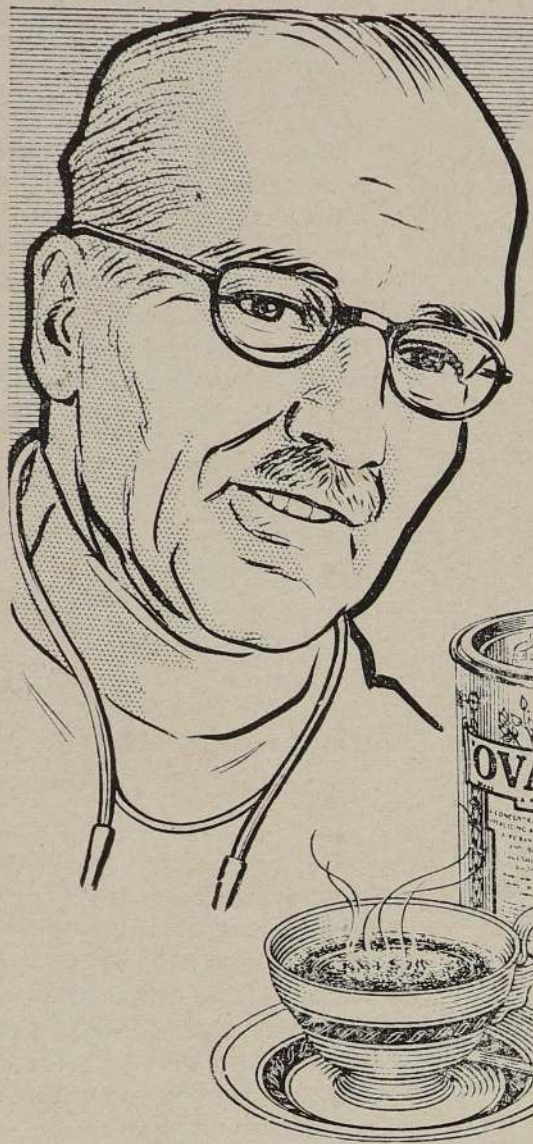
On reflection Mr. Seneviratne appears to have been placed in an invidious position by being appointed to the commission considering his known views on language and higher education and the fact that he is the head of the official language department. Does all this mean that there will be no change in the administration of the university for several years to come?

\* \* \*

RARELY have speeches in Parliament been charged with so much feeling as those condoling the death of Mr. C. Vanniasingham, one of the stalwarts of the Federal Party. The tone was set by the late Prime Minister, who acknowledged that the late member for Kopay was an exemplary parliamentarian and claimed him a friend. The Leader of the Opposition, Dr. N. M. Perera, in turn made an apposite speech and declared that though he disagreed with Mr. Vanniasingham he respected his sincerity of purpose. The greatest tribute was paid by his party leader, Mr. S. J. V. Chelvanayagam, who rightly described Mr. Vanniasingham as tirelessly devoted to the party cause and entirely selfless in character.

It was a characteristically gracious gesture on the part of the late Prime Minister to arrange for an Air Force

(Continued on page 32)



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# THE ELEPHANT IN CLASSICAL WRITINGS

By Professor C. A. McGAUGHEY

(Fortnightly Review Special)

An address given to the Classical Association of Ceylon on 11th September, 1959, by Professor C. A. McGaughey, Professor of Veterinary Science and Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary Science at the University of Ceylon.

IT is a remarkable fact that although the ancient Mediterranean races, Phoenicians, Israelites, Trojans, Greeks, Etruscans, were familiar with ivory, there is no mention of the elephant in any of their legends or writings. The ancient Egyptians never depicted the elephant in their hieroglyphics (except in one instance, recorded by Deraniyagala, on the tomb of the Prime Minister of the Pharaoh Tutmosé III: 1500 B.C.), although they must have seen elephants in the upper reaches of Egypt. The French historian Armandi suggests that to the ancient Egyptians the elephant was anathema. The word "elephas" occurs in Homer's *Odyssey*, but it means ivory; the bed of Penelope, the arm-chair of Odysseus, the gates of Menelaus' palace, were inlaid with ivory. The old Testament records that Solomon decorated his throne with ivory and that Achab used it to adorn his house. There is a reference in the Book of Job to a great beast, Behemoth, but most Bible scholars think this was a reference to the hippopotamus.

\* \* \*

THE first ancient classical writer to mention the elephant was Herodotus, born 490 B.C., who records that elephants abounded in the part of Africa beyond the gates of Hercules.

Even the origin of the word "elephas" is in dispute. The Hebrew word *Senhabim* means teeth of the elephant, i.e., ivory; the Syrians and Arabs used the same word, but later the Arabs called ivory *Cenalfil*, the word "fil" meaning elephant. In India there are various words for elephants—*Ati*, *Ane*, *Accete*—and the Sinhala names are *Atha* for a male tusker, *Aliya* for a male with tushes, *Alidena* for a female without tushes, *Athinne* for a female with tushes, *Pussa* for a male without even tushes.

Various fanciful derivations of the word "elephas" have been made in the past, but it would seem most logical to me to suppose that the Sinhala word "Aliya" came with the Ceylon elephants which were exported to India, Arabia and Egypt centuries ago. It is possible that the Arab traders changed the word to "Al fil" and from that it was rendered into Greek as "elephas".



A wild elephant on the fringe of a Ceylon Jungle

THE first classical writer to describe the elephant was Aristotle the Philosopher, the tutor of Alexander the Great. Armandi thinks that Alexander captured some elephants when he defeated the Persian King Darius at the Battle of Arbela 326 B.C. and sent them to Athens as a present to his old tutor. On the other hand Pliny says that Alexander asked Aristotle to collect and edit information on all the animals found in his Empire and that much of Aristotle's information was garnered second hand from observers in many countries.

That may have been true but, on the other hand, Aristotle's description

of the elephant in *Historia Animalium Vol. IV* is quite detailed and on the whole very accurate, much more accurate than those given by later self-styled naturalists. For example, he described the anatomical differentiation of male from female, the period of gestation, the mode of mating, the amount of food necessary, and the only statements which were inaccurate were those on longevity. Here Aristotle must be exonerated as he depended obviously on the speculations and legends of Indian mahouts.

\* \* \*

THE belief that elephants lived to the age of 200 and even 300 years is recorded in the old Sanskrit manuscripts, translated into Sinhala on ola leaves and published by Dr. Deraniyagala. The elephants which Alexander encountered at Arbela were Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*) possibly of the Assyrian race now extinct, possibly Indian or even Ceylon elephants. There were so many elephants in Ceylon in ancient days that they were exported to India; the Indian traders in turn may have sold elephants to the Persians. Onesicritus, one of Alexander's generals and author of a life of the great conqueror, stated that the Ceylon elephants were much superior to all others in height, strength and docility and, moreover, much more valiant in battle despite the fact that many of them had no tusks.

Aelian in his *Animalium Volume 8*, paragraph 18, makes the same remark; this high praise of Ceylon was repeated by numerous later authors, who embellished their remarks by asserting that other races of elephants recognised this superiority of Ceylon elephants and would not face them but instead made obeisance to them!

Alexander again encountered Asian elephants in his battles in India, especially when he met Porus at the battle of Taxila. Both he and his successors, the Seleucid Kings, employed elephants in their wars. Similarly with Pyrrhus in his famous invasion of Italy.

\* \* \*

THE African elephant *Loxodonta Africana* was used by the Carthaginians. Jugurtha employed them in his war against the Roman general Metellus and Juba used them against Julius Caesar. The Romans in turn, on the few occasions on which they made use of elephants in

(Continued on page 15)

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## THE ELEPHANT IN CLASSICAL WRITINGS

their armies, made use of the African race. This is confirmed by the appearance of the elephants depicted on Roman medals; they are quite clearly African elephants, whereas those depicted on the medals struck by Alexander the Great and by the Seleucid Kings are definitely Asian elephants.

The Romans probably found it much easier to obtain African elephants as North Africa was very near to the Roman territory; the elephants were almost certainly of the small Carthaginian or Mauretanian race, then abundant in the country which is now Tunisia and Morocco but which became extinct probably in the third century A.D.

\* \* \*

**D**ERANIYAGALA is of the opinion that most of the elephants of Assyria hunted by the Assyrian Kings were exterminated by the year 800 B.C. but that a few may have survived in Asia Minor until 100 B.C. His opinion is borne out by the history of Semiramis of Assyria (Sammuramat), who was Queen Regent about 811 B.C. Diodorus tells how she was invading India in a war against an Indian King, Stratobates.

Semiramis heard of the multitudes of war elephants of the Indians and decided to trick them into believing that the Assyrians also had elephants. Therefore she had numerous dummy elephants constructed; these dummies were carried on the backs of Camels; as well as the natural and offensive smell of the camel, they were impregnated with offensive smelling substances. When the Indian King's elephants encountered these frightsome contraptions, they were terrified and thrown into disorder. It is recorded that a similar trick was played by Perseus of Macedonia 183 B.C. in his war against the Romans.

\* \* \*

**P**ROF. McGaughey referred to two famous battles in which elephants were employed. One was the **Battle of Arbela 331 B.C.**—between Alexander the Great and Darius, King of Persia, who had 15 elephants arrayed before the centre of his army. These were all captured and a further 12 elephants were given to Alexander by the Satrap of Sousa. Later in his invasion of India, Alexander was presented with many more by Taxila,

the Indian Prince of the Punjab, who submitted to Alexander. He made use of these elephants (from 70 to 100) to carry baggage.

The other was the **Battle of Hydaspis 327 B.C.**—Alexander versus Porus, who had 200 elephants arranged at 100 feet intervals covering the battalions. Alexander's tactics threw the Indian Army into confusion and the elephants did more damage to Porus' soldiers than did the Greeks. It was at this battle that Alexander's famous horse Bucephalus saved his Master's life at the expense of his own. After the battle Alexander renamed Porus' elephant Ajax and dedicated him to the Sun.

Prof. McGaughey continued:

After the defeat of Porus, many Indian provinces submitted to Alexander and gave him presents of elephants. These were put in charge of Crater, who led them back to Syria.

After the death of Alexander, one of his generals, Perdicas, became Regent over the conquered countries of Asia. One of the first misdeeds of Perdicas was to order some of Alexander's captured elephants to execute 300 mutinous soldiers in the Macedonian army.

Perdicas reigned only 2 years and was killed by his own men on the banks of the Nile.

It is not known exactly how the elephants were disposed of among Alexander's successors but undoubtedly they all had a share as there were very few actions in which elephants did not play a part.

\* \* \*

**A**RMANDI, the French historian, expresses his astonishment that Alexander's successors should have adopted the custom of employing elephants in warfare instead of adhering to the welltried Macedonian system. He explains this change by the fact that the heirs to Alexander's Empire had to employ Asian soldiers, who were used to have elephants in support. Moreover, he says, the use of elephants bestowed a sign of magnificence on them; it only required one of the petty kings to use elephants; the others soon followed his example. Not only did the Seleucid Kings use elephants. Soon they were using chariots armed with sickles—

machines that hitherto had been quite foreign to the Macedonians.

The use of elephants in war soon spread across Europe up to the Alps and across North Africa up to the Pillars of Hercules. This "Military Era of Elephants" lasted without interruption for about 300 years until the end of the Republic of Rome. The use of elephants in Western countries then ceased but appeared again in the 3rd. century A.D. in the Persian armies.

The Seleucids were the heirs to the richest part of Alexander's Empire from the banks of the Indus to the shores of the Mediterranean. The founder of the Seleucid dynasty, Seleucus Nicator, took his armies right to the Ganges but soon saw that his lines of defence were too stretched; he was menaced by Antigonus in the West; so he abandoned the country beyond the Indus to the mighty King of Gangarides, whom the Greeks called Androcottus or Sandrocottus but whose Indian name was Chandragupta; according to Strabo, this monarch had an army of 400,000 men; according to Plutarch 600,000.

\* \* \*

**S**ELEUCUS Nicator married the daughter of Chandragupta, who gave his son-in-law 500 elephants. This may appear to be a very large gift but it is recorded that Chandragupta had 9,000 elephants!

The negotiations between Seleucus Nicator and Chandragupta were carried out by Megasthenes, who made a prolonged stay in Palibothra, the capital city of Gangarides, and who published his observations after his return to Greece. This book of Megasthenes was read by Pliny, by Arrian and by Strabo, who included extracts in their writings. The veracity of Megasthenes' observations has been confirmed by many modern authors, French, German and English.

This alliance of the Seleucid King with Chandragupta took place 18 years after the death of Alexander, 4 years before the Battle of Ipsus.

Although some of the other Macedonian army generals had collected elephants, none had as many as Seleucus Nicator. According to Plutarch in his life of Demetrius,

(Continued on page 32)

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# SIR HENRY McCALLUM AND EDUCATION

By Dr. LUCIAN De ZILWA

(Special to the Ceylon Fortnightly Review)

IT is a paradoxical fact that the facilities for higher education now available in this country are largely due to a man who was himself a complete stranger to the olive grove of Academe. Sir Henry McCallum had never been to public school or university. He was privately educated until he entered the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich. A soldier whose breast glittered with medals and ribbons, he was the son of a soldier, and his mother and his wife were daughters of soldiers. He was a plain, blunt man, who called a spade a spade.

When he came to Ceylon as Governor in 1907, Sir Henry had a record of extraordinarily varied practical achievement. From being the Inspector of Telegraphy and Fortifications in Great Britain he became Colonial Engineer and Surveyor-General in the Straits. He constructed the fortifications of Singapore, and served as Superintendent of the Admiralty Works in Hong-kong. On active military service he had been mentioned in despatches, and won decorations. He had been Governor of Newfoundland, Lagos and Natal.

What a contrast from the don Sir Robert Chalmers, a Fellow of Oriel College, and sometime Master of Peterhouse, Cambridge, the translator of the Jataka tales from the Pali original.

Sir Henry McCallum had looked at the schools and Colleges of Ceylon, and wrinkled his nose, and sniffed at them. In June, 1911, he could not stand it any longer. Being a practical man he did not waste time in talking about it. He took action.

\* \* \*

ONE morning in June, 1911, I was feeling down in the mouth overwhelmed by a sense of frustration and failure. I had been lured by a mirage of great expectations to leave London and give up my plans of settling down there.

Dr. H. M. Fernando, who saw me in London, thought it scandalous that the Colombo Hospital had no gynaecologist, and he was keen on bringing it into line with other modern institutions. He made me

promise that I would accept the appointment, and prevailed on Sir Allan Perry to authorise the Secretary of State for the Colonies to appoint me gynaecologist, ranking as a first grade officer. Drs. S. C. Paul, A. M. de Silva, and others with the F.R.C.S. (Eng.) diploma had started in the third grade on Rs. 75 a month! My wife and I were given first class passages out. I imagined that in a day or two I should be ripping open abdomens, and removing huge tumours.

\* \* \*

BUT although the gynaecology ward had been conceived through the vigour of Dr. H. M. Fernando it still lay hidden in the womb of time. Perry appointed me Third Physician and told me I must "bide a wee" until the time was ripe for the creation of a special ward. The general surgeons objected that it was a slur on them to allege that they were not competent to tackle gynaecological cases.

Dr. Garvin, the first surgeon, was approaching the age of retirement. We must not tread on other people's toes. As a matter of fact Dr. Garvin was a first rate physician whose skill in controlling the epidemic of enteric fever in the Boer camp at Diyatalawa was said to have won for Perry his knighthood. "*Hos ego versiculos feci, alter tulit honores.*" But Dr. Garvin was now masquerading as a surgeon. And so I had been stagnating for four long years in the mephitic atmosphere of the diarrhoea wards with their cut beds.

Can you imagine Sir Rupert Briercliffe, who was a demon for reform, tolerating this nonsense for a day, without implementing forthwith what the Secretary of State had sanctioned?

\* \* \*

THIS was not my only grievance. I was constantly infringing the Regulations, which I had never studied. I was seen at the Mount one Sunday evening with my wife, after my day's work. Next day a reprimand, to be "noted and returned", for going out of my station without leave. I personally

to me. Next day, a reprimand, to be noted and returned, for poaching on the pathologist's province. I felt like an unfortunate schoolboy, always in hot water.

A diversion occurred when a cyclist pulled up under my portico, and handed me a big envelope with the crest of Queen's House. No telephones existed in those days. The Private Secretary informed me that H. E. wished me to see him in his office, and he would like me to be there that day before twelve noon.

\* \* \*

WHAT could the Governor want to see an insignificant person like me for? It boded evil. Perry must have reported me as a cantankerous and incorrigible person, and there was to be a show-down at "summit level". I was sent up to the headmaster for a caning. But I would show him that a Toledo blade was being used for chopping firewood.

Nevertheless it was with some trepidation that I entered the Sanctum. I had met the Governor more than once. At Old Boys' dinners, to which women were not admitted in those days, there was freedom of speech, and the jokes and stories were sometimes quite Rabelaisian. My name appeared as regularly on the toast list as asparagus on the menu. H. E. was at his best when we had adjourned to the bar.

On another occasion I was on the platform with him at a Prize Distribution at the Prince of Wales College, Moratuwa. Come what may, he should hear the other side.

\* \* \*

AS soon as my name was announced H. E. rose from his chair, and came forward, with a beaming face and outstretched hand, as if I were the Queen of Sheba. "How do you do? It is very good of you to come. Won't you sit down?" My hand was gripped in an iron vice which made my whole arm limp and lifeless.

The lines of Bret Harte came to my mind:—

Do I sleep? Do I dream?  
Do I wander and doubt?  
Are things what they seem,  
Or is visions about?

(Continued on page 32)

●  
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## ART, MUSIC & DRAMA

By "LYRICUS"

IF The Players did nothing more than bring Jean-Paul Satre to the notice of Colombo play-goers in his capacity as a playwright rather than, as he is more familiarly known, by his connexion with Existentialism, they did a service by their presentation of his play "Crime Passional".

Actually they did more. They provided excellent theatre fare. In the opinion of many it was the best play The Players have put on the boards and producer-director Lucien de Zoysa won the plaudits of play-goers. He also enhanced his reputation as an actor in his role of Hugo.

The cast included Karl Goonesena (Hoerderer), Olga de Jacolyn (Jesica), Manorani de Zoysa (Olga), Laddie Hettiaratchy, S. Fareq and Shelton de Silva (Georges, Leon and Slick, Hoerderer's bodyguard), Anil Jayasekera (Louis), Titus Monk, F. Sagar and Paramesh David (Ivan, Charles and Franz), Jeremy Margan (Prince Paul) and T. Arasanayagam (Karsky).

The main roles were splendidly played. Lucien de Zoysa has already been mentioned. Olga de Jacolyn gave a fine account of herself and Manorani de Zoysa was at her best. Karl Goonaseena's was a memorable performance as Hoerderer.

What are the motives of political action, in this case the murder of Hoerderer. Was it a political assassination or a crime passional? This was the main theme of the play.

But the problem of Hugo the central character is not a political problem. It is essentially a human problem, the discovery of his inner freedom, and he typifies the human agony of the modern European (and not only the European, perhaps) torn between conflicting ideologies.

\* \* \*

THE International Theatre Group which has come up with such varying productions as "The Rose and the Ring" and Anouilh's "Waltz of the Toreadors" (reviewed on this page), has now turned to farce for its latest production, Philip King's "See How They Run", which opens at the Lionel Wendt Theatre on Tuesday next and will be presented again on October 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11.

Ann Willis, who appeared in the "Waltz", is producing the play, which features two husband-and-wife teams—David and Marion Miles, already well known to Colombo audiences, and Leslie and Jenny Pierson, who appear for the first time. Old hands are Kay Staddon and Barry Whittington.

"See How They Run" is set in any English country vicarage and wrings every possible laugh out of a situation involving two clergymen, the Rev. Lionel Toop (played by Ernest Charles) and the Rev. Arthur Humphrey (David Miles), Mr. Toop's wife (Jenny Pierson) who adores tight trousers, and shocking the locals, Corporal Clive Winton (Barry Whittington) he ex-rep. friend, who



—Times

Rohan de Saram

has some stiff moments play-acting as a vicar, Miss Skillen (Kay Staddon) local busy-body and do-gooder, Ida, the man-mad vicarage maid (Marion Miles) and, finally, an escaped German p.o.w. and his guard (John Dominy and George Willis, respectively).

The play hinges on every one mistaking everyone else's identity and on everyone, at one time or another throughout the play, being eager to hide or escape from everyone else. The ITG feels this is the fastest-moving farce seen on the Ceylon stage for a long time.

\* \* \*

ROHAN de Saram, the 20-year-old Ceylonese cellist was one of the soloists in Brahms's Double Concerto at the Albert Hall, London, on

September 17, his first appearance as a soloist at one of London's popular Promenade concert series. The London Symphony Orchestra was conducted by Basil Cameron and the violin solo part was played by Ralph Holmes, who is very little older than de Saram.

"The Times" (London) said: "Of Mr. de Saram's playing it need only be said that scarcely ever can a Prom debutant have shown such remarkable maturity of style. Budding virtuosos are not uncommon, even on the cello, but players who can give us the opening recitative with such nobility or who can phrase the last dozen bars of the slow movement as exquisitely as Mr. de Saram did will always be rare." "The Times" added that this work "requires more maturity of understanding than most concertos."

\* \* \*

THE noted Indian author, Dr. Mulk Raj Anand, was the chief guest at the celebrations a fortnight ago of the Lanka Sahitya Day (Sinhalese Literature Day) under the auspices of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs. Dr. Anand, who addressed a public meeting at Royal College hall, advocated the establishment of a National Book Trust, on lines similar to the Trust in India, for the translation of world classics into Sinhalese and Tamil, and urged State assistance (without "strings" attached) to the writer, "the unacknowledged legislator of mankind". The writer, he said, was ungovernable and, in a sense, more arrogant than the politician.

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## PEOPLE

WHO first thought of Addu Atoll, on one of the islands of which—Gan—an R. A. F. staging post is being built, as the site of a British base? We have reason to believe that the idea was conceived by Sir William Murphy, formerly of the Ceylon Civil Service, who later became Governor of the Bahamas after the Duke of Windsor, and is now living in Southern Rhodesia.

Whilst in Ceylon, Sir William visited the Maldive Islands twice—the first time in 1938, when he represented the Governor at the Sultan's investiture, and again in 1941, when he did an extensive tour. It was on this occasion that the possibilities of Addu Atoll as a base struck him. For the Christmas Number of the *Fortnightly Review* Sir William has kindly undertaken to write of his experiences in the Maldives and we expect he will dwell on the considerations that inspired the idea.

Sir William came to Ceylon in 1910. Among the posts he held were Mayor of Colombo and First Assistant Colonial Secretary. He was Governor of the Bahamas from 1945 to '49, when he retired and settled down on a farm in Bromley, Southern Rhodesia. He had the unique distinction, however, of being called upon to act as Governor of Southern Rhodesia in 1954 and Governor-General of Rhodesia and Nyasaland in 1957.

\* \* \*

AFTER an intensive lecture tour of Australia, Professor Vincent Harlow, Beit Professor of the History of the British Commonwealth in the

University of Oxford, and his wife have come to Ceylon for a short holiday between an Australian winter and an English one.

They hope to visit Anuradhapura and Mihintale, spend two days at Polonnaruwa and stay with friends near Kandy.

\* \* \*

DR. C. Amirthalingam, who represented the Ceylon Association for the Advancement of Science, and Mrs. Amirthalingam attended



H. R. H. Princess Alexandra, who was on a month's tour of Australia, has returned to the U.K. via Bangkok, where she spent a few days as the guest of the King and Queen of Thailand.

a reception given by the Lord Mayor of York to overseas delegates attending the annual meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science recently at York.

Sir James Grey, in his presidential address, said that Scientists should try "to depict man's position in the world of nature as a source not of fear and doubt but of courage and inspiration."

\* \* \*

MR. C. F. H. Edwards, formerly Head of Lee, Hedges & Co., Ltd. (now Shaw Wallace & Hedges, Ltd.), writing from his home in Aldringham, Leiston, Suffolk, on September 15th says:

"I very much enjoy reading your *Fortnightly Review*. One does find that in a very few years most of one's near contemporaries have made the move homewards.

"When I first went to Ceylon in the early twenties one could count upon a regular sea mail once a week. Thirty-five years of "progress" have now resulted in two issues published at fortnightly intervals arriving as much as four weeks after the date of the second!"

Mr. Edwards was at one time Chairman of the European Association of Ceylon and in his early days in Ceylon represented the C. H. and F. C. at Soccer.

\* \* \*

THE Rev. Peter Godfrey-Faussett, C.B.E., formerly of the Ceylon Forest Department and later Provost Marshall of the Royal Military Police at Singapore, during World War II—he resigned his post as Senior Asst. Conservator of Forests in Ceylon in 1939—is now Vicar of Chiddington Causeway, near Tonbridge, Kent.

It will be remembered that this former Ceylon man took a keen interest in the Boy Scout Movement and at one time was Camp Chief at Pedro Scout Training School, the local "Gilwell". Writing to a friend in Ceylon recently he recalls the "good old days" he spent in the Island and refers to a Scout Camp at Tissawewa, Anuradhapura, thirty years ago. "I am Scouting still but find it rather uphill work at 57: not quite the light hearted fun it was thirty years ago. Both my wife and I think nostalgically of Ceylon, but we are very happy in our new life."

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## P E O P L E

**M**R. V. Sivagnanalingam, Chief Accountant, Ceylon Institute of Scientific and Industrial Research, has been awarded an ICA fellowship for further studies in industrial cost accounting at the University of California, Los Angeles. He left Ceylon last week.

\* \* \*

**U** WIN, former Deputy Prime Minister of Burma, who relinquished duties as Burmese Ambassador in the United States of America, spent a brief holiday in Ceylon with his wife and their two sons before resuming their journey to Burma. They visited the historic cities, Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa and the Temple of the Tooth in Kandy, and attended several receptions given in their honour by local Buddhist associations. They were met on arrival by U. Win Baw, Charge d'Affairs of the Burmese Embassy in Colombo.

\* \* \*

**F**EW men have done so much for sport in Ceylon as Dinshah P. Billimoria, M.B.E., who passed away on September 18, in his late seventies. He interested himself in all branches of sport and took an active part in promoting cricket and tennis contests between Ceylon and India before representative bodies were organized. He accompanied the first Ceylonese cricket team to India in 1906 and was associated with Col. John Rockwood in inviting Indian teams to Ceylon.

Mr. Billimoria was responsible for the formation of the Parsi Sports Club, of which he was Secretary until 1915. He also held office in the Rifle Association and was actively interested in the development of rigger, athletics, boxing and golf. A popular member of the Artillery Volunteers (later C.G.A.), in which he subsequently held a Commission, he was a member of the Ceylon contingent at the coronation of King Edward VII. It was to the Central Y.M.C.A., Colombo, however, that he gave much of his time in recent years and where he will be most missed. A Ceylonese by adoption, he was a real lover of his fellow men.

\* \* \*

**M**R. O. S. Peries, Assistant Plant Pathologist at the Rubber Research Institute at Agalawatta, left for Britain on September 24, by air to take a two-year course

leading to the M. Sc. degree in plant pathology at the Bristol Horticultural Science Laboratory.

Mr. Peries, who was educated at St. Peter's College, Colombo, spent four years in the University of Melbourne and obtained the degree of Bachelor of Agricultural Science with honours in four subjects. Returning to Ceylon in 1954 he joined the Rubber Research Institute as Technical Assistant to the Director. In October the following year he acted for the plant pathologist for three months.

Mr. Peries is a keen sportsman and won his colours for cricket, rugby, football and athletics while at St. Peter's. He played in Grade Cricket in Melbourne and was opening batsman for his Club.

\* \* \*

**A**IR Chief Marshal Sir Thomas Pike, who is on a tour of the Far East visiting Royal Air Force units, is expected in Colombo on

November 2nd, after visiting Hongkong and Singapore. In Colombo he will meet the Governor-General, Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, the Prime Minister, Mr. Gunasena de Soyza, Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Defence and Air Commodore J. L. Barker, Commander of the Royal Ceylon Air Force.

\* \* \*

**M**R. Earle Anderson, an old boy of St. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia, promoted to the Ceylon Civil Service after 28 years in the Clerical Service, was at the time of his retirement recently Senior Administrative Assistant, Department of Industries. He was O. A. at Puttalam when seconded for service as Assistant Personnel Manager, Ceylon Transport Board.

Mr. Anderson, accompanied by his wife and family, left last week for Melbourne on the "Oranje" and will settle down permanently in that city.

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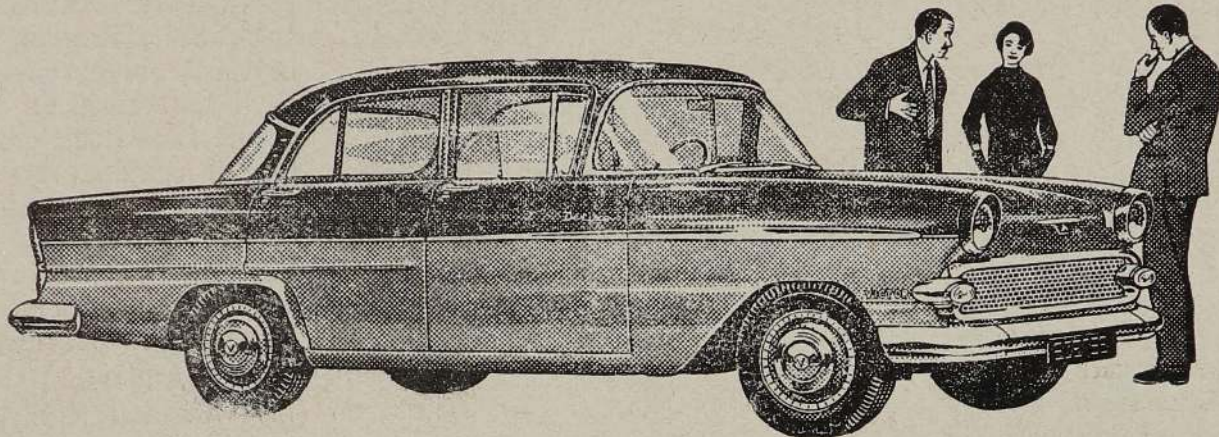
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# IMPRESSIONS OF THE MIDDLE EAST-3

By SIR JOHN HOWARD, Q.C.

(Special to the Fortnightly Review)

IN spite of Nebuchadnezzar's Maginot Lines the city of Babylon fell an easy prey to the Persians under Cyrus only twenty-two years after Nebuchadnezzar's death. Cyrus built a deep trench round the city, giving the impression that he intended to starve the Babylonians. The latter, with twenty years provisions within the walls, had no fears on this account. The Persians, however, chose a night when the Babylonians were feasting in the city, and, while Belshazzar, their ruler, watched the hand of fate writing on the wall of his banqueting hall, diverted the Euphrates into a trench. In the early hours of the morning they entered the city through the dry bed of the river and opened the gates.

Under the equitable Persian rule Babylon still remained a centre of learning and commerce until the appearance of Alexander the Great and his defeat of Darius at the battle of Arbela. The responsibility for the final destruction of Babylon remains a matter of some doubt. Among the famous rock sculptures at Bavian, north of Mosul, there is an Assyrian inscription which records how, in the year 689 B.C., Sennacherib captured and completely destroyed the city of Babylon. The story concludes: "That in after days the location of that city and the temples of the gods be seen no more, unto the water I cast it and ended it entirely."

\* \* \*

THE thoroughness with which the soldiers of Sennacherib did their job may have been exaggerated, but it would appear that practically everything at present visible on the surface at Babylon, or excavated by the Germans during the first fourteen years of the present century, dates from the period between his destruction of the city and the death of Alexander (323 B.C.), after which his successors moved their capital to Seleucia, on the Tigris.

It is sad to reflect that little remains today of what was once Nebuchad-

nezzar's prosperous city and the capital of the New Empire. One must form an impression of that prosperity and magnificence before visiting the ruins. A good deal of imagination is necessary to see in them, as they have survived, more than a sad expanse of brickwork and rubble. It is more easy to be impressed with the fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecy: "Wild beasts of the desert shall be there and their houses shall be full of doleful creatures: owls shall dwell there and the satyrs shall dance. I will also make it a possession for the biltern and pools of water; and I will sweep it with the besom of destruction, said the Lord of Hosts."

\* \* \*

VISITORS to the site first come to a little museum belonging to the Department of Antiquities. The museum contains a striking scale model of the excavators' reconstruction of the temple enclosure and the portion of the town surrounding it. Leaving the museum, finger-posts indicate the most easy route to take and the names of the principal ruins. You descend into chambers joined by excavating the deep foundations of the Ishtar Gate and the adjoining walls. A remarkable feature is that these underground facades are decorated with brick reliefs of animals.

I was particularly anxious to see the famous throne room, scene of the "writing on the wall", and the "Hanging Gardens", one of the seven wonders of the world. They are supposed to have been in the South Palace, but it is hard for the visitor to distinguish either among the ruins. It is at least evident that the only sense in which the Gardens were suspended was that they were supported on long ranges of vaulted pillars which brought them up to the high level of the Procession Street, the main thoroughfare. There are remains of temples to be seen, but generally speaking the site resembles a vast brickfield. "The great city has become a great desert," as one ancient writer has put it.

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BY way of change from the ruins of ancient cities with their temples and palaces, we visited the new palace in course of construction for His Majesty the King in Baghdad. It was almost complete and built with every modern luxury, including air-conditioning. Before it could be completed, and occupied, the revolution of the 14th July, 1958, resulted in the murder of the King and other members of the Royal family. It was not known to what use this magnificent and costly building will be put by the new rulers of the country.

\* \* \*

READERS of this article may be interested in a few words on Baghdad. It is a city of one million three hundred thousand inhabitants situated on the banks of the Tigris. Its history dates from A.D. 762, when it was ruled by Caliphs and was the centre of fabulous wealth and prosperity. Its greatness ended in A.D. 1258, when it was sacked by the Mongol leader Hulagu, brother of Kublai Khan—Hulagu had undertaken the conquest of Iraq. This ended the rule of the Caliphs. Subsequently it passed under Turkish domination until it was captured by the British under General Maude in 1917.

In recent years Iraq, and particularly Baghdad, has undergone remarkable development. This has been made possible by the receipt of revenues from oil exploited by the Iraqi Petroleum Company. A Development Board established in 1950, was allocated 70 per cent of the oil revenues, which in 1955, amounted to £73,800,000. The expenditure of the Board rose from £4,000,000 in 1951 to £32,000,000 in 1955. The result of this development in Baghdad is somewhat incongruous. Modern structures such as Government buildings, roads and bridges have been imposed on an ancient city which still retains all the signs to indicate that its inhabitants are poverty stricken. It is impossible to dilate on the architectural splendour of these modern edifices.

\* \* \*

MY Ceylon lawyer friends would be shocked at the ramshackle old buildings from which justice is administered. For the few there is great wealth. But its sudden influx

(Continued on page 32)

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## A LETTER FROM MR. W. T. GRESWELL

### ROSIER OUTLOOK FOR ENGLISH COUNTY CRICKET

(Special to the Ceylon Fortnightly Review)

Taunton, 10th September.

A GREAT deal of prominence was given to Ceylon by Television (B.B.C.) two nights ago in the "Panorama" series. I was disappointed to miss this most interesting item as I had been attending a Committee meeting of the local branch of the Conservative Association. As I walked into the drawing room my wife exclaimed: "You have just missed seeing Ceylon! Ossie Forbes at the Colombo Club and everything!" "Everything" apparently included talks with some of Ceylon's leading politicians.

It has since occurred to me that the recent remarkable scenes in Ceylon's Parliament, reported in the Colombo Press, may have been the chief incentive to B.B.C. to capture a little material for the light hearted entertainment of the British public. For nostalgic Ceylon residents now in retirement there may have been cause for tears as well as for laughter. Be that as it may, I could have hardly forgiven myself for missing a short stay in Colombo again made possible in our English homes by the wonders of modern science.

\* \* \*

TALKING of Parliaments, as all the World knows, our Prime Minister has at last taken the plunge and "goes to the Country", on October 8th. He made the fateful announcement yesterday. It is a somewhat short notice of a General Election but there should be no complaints. The present Parliament is coming to its allotted span and the public has been ready for some months for an Autumn Election.

The timing of it, in the light of World events and conditions at home, is suitable enough from the Government's point of view. General Elections share with cricket matches an element of uncertainty as to outcome. The present Government has an excellent record and it would be very surprising if the Conservatives were not returned once more.

\* \* \*

WHERE the contest is liable to be a close one, that wayward and unpredictable factor, "the floating vote" is of great importance. There

is no reason to believe it will drift away from the Conservatives. More than ever will it be a Television Election. Canvassing of constituencies by candidates is no longer of vital importance when party Leaders can be seen and heard in the family sitting room.

This new order of things has put an end to heckling, which used to be an amusing feature of the village meeting, and created gusts of merriment, the heckler invariably getting the worst of the exchanges with the practised candidate.

\* \* \*



"Collie" Smith

—Times

AND this leads me to the obvious comment that one more cricket season is now over. The weather is a much used and abused subject of conversation and comes in for its innings when other subjects fail. But this English Summer has surely broken all records as well as the hearts of many bowlers. It has been one long heat wave punctuated by brief thundery visitations giving only temporary relief from a temperature which has been all but tropical and is still continuing well into mid September. Cricket under these conditions came into its own. There was a big increase in spectators, and Counties report welcome improvement in gate receipts. The visit of the Indian cricketers was a disappointing one. England is trying to build a

new side for the greater tests ahead, particularly for the next Australian visit in 1961.

The Indians were unable to give our Selectors any assistance. Our players were put to no test at all. However, it seems that a new era in English cricket is starting. Old players such as Godfrey Evans, Trevor Bailey, Tom Graveney and the immortal Laker have faded from the Test screen. Younger players take their places and go to the West Indies this Winter to try and win their spurs. This must be the right policy. Australia is now very strong and has firm hold of the "Ashes".

\* \* \*

THE County Championship this summer was a refreshingly open matter, several counties, at one time or another, shaping to secure the coveted honour and being well in the running. The issue was open to the last and, for the first time for many years, September saw the struggle decided, when Yorkshire thrilled the country with a magnificent batting display of hurricane quality against time. Nobody will grudge Yorkshire, a young and coming side, their great honour, though it is by no means new to them in their long and brilliant history.

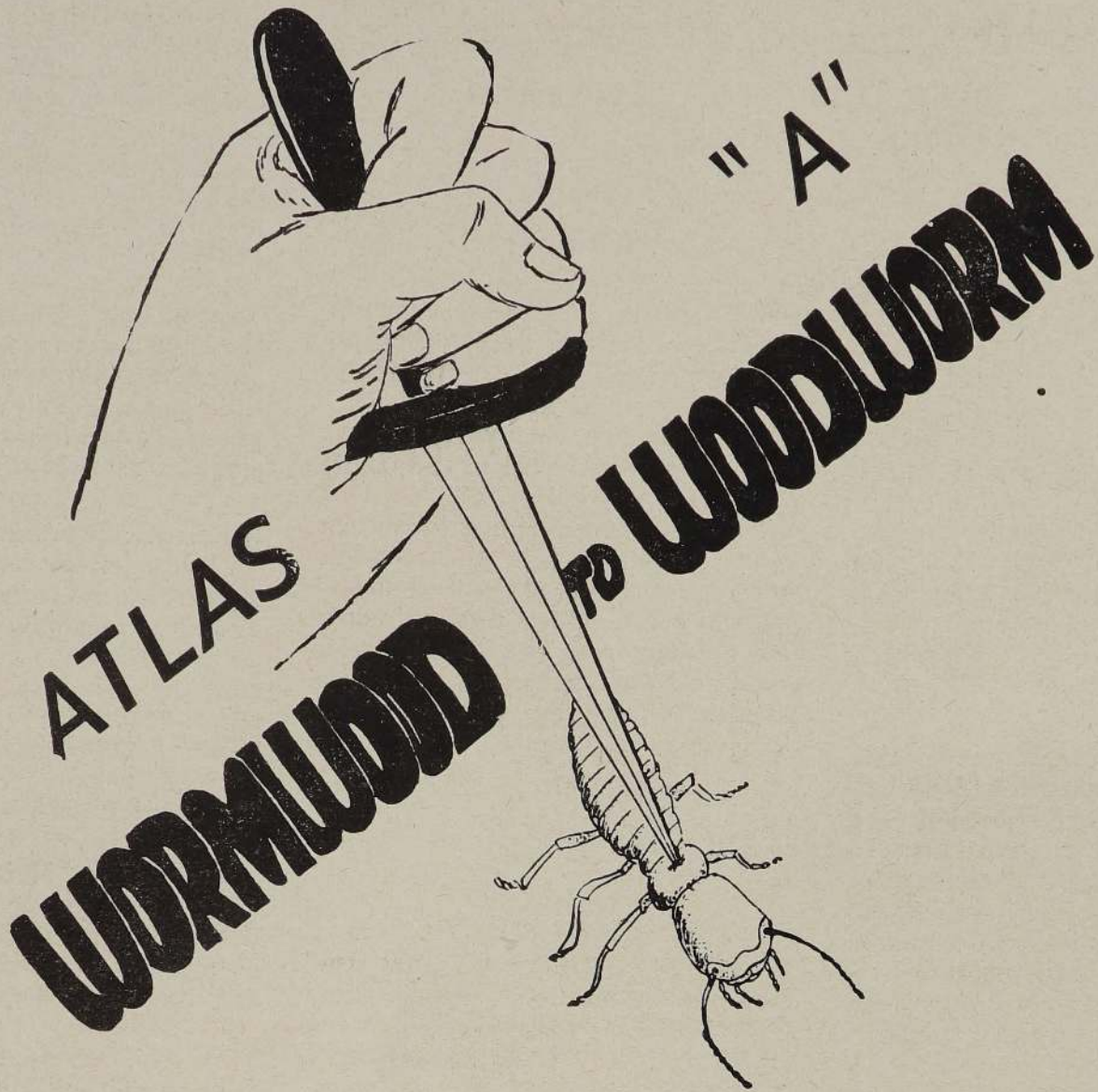
\* \* \*

IT is fit and proper that Surrey, after seven successive years of this distinction, should at last yield place but who would dare to say that, if Peter May had not been kept out of the side by his operation, this would have been the case.

Many hoped that the Championship would at last come West to Gloucester who did remarkably well. I venture to think that Gloucester's chance will come in the next year or two. They have a young and very promising side and they are a happy family in that all the members of it are Gloucester men and none, I believe, are imported from other counties.

\* \* \*

AS I close this letter B.B.C. news bulletin gives us the announcement of the tragic death of O. G. ("Collie") Smith, the promising and most engaging young West Indian test cricketer. He and two other West Indian cricketers were on their way from the North to London to play in some end of season match, when their car had a head-on collision with a cattle truck in the half-light of early dawn. Thus does the insatiable toll of road deaths continue in this over-crowded country. Sad news indeed for the West Indians on the eve of the M.C.C. tour.



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## A SPORTS CAUSERIE

By "ITINERANT"

### Racing

THE fourth day of the "August" race meet run on a soft track saw well-fancied horses oblige in all but one race.

Chief event of the day was the Mile Classic, the R. L. Pereira Cup, which was won comfortably by Mr. M. Munsoor A. Cader's Rusty Bar, who was making his debut in Class I. Trained to the minute by Sathasivam, ably ridden by A. P. Perera, the Robert Barker gelding lay fourth into the turn. Making his run at the distance, he went on to score a facile victory from Vijelatan and Friendly Isle.

Summer Gold found his 132-pound burden too much on the going and his late run was only good enough to earn him the unremunerative place, while Queen's Cup winner Shell Pink found his welter burden and the scorching pace set by front-runner Court of Claims too much and finished last.

A major upset was caused by Mr. M. M. Macan Markar's Copper Belt in the Galle Cup for horses in Classes II and III. Paying odds of over 28 to 1, Copper Belt, well ridden by Jayawardene, shocked punters by pulling out a burst of speed near the distance and going on to win easily from Vicence who had exhausted himself round the bend beating early leaders Amurath and favourite Nicely Nicely. The defeat of Vicence and Nicely Nicely sent the treble dividend soaring.

The champion of yesterday, Taimour, made a grand come-back to the winner's circle when he just managed to nip Wisam Tarid on the post in the Class II Arabs' Morley Cup. Two furlongs out Taimour was brought out by Mohideen and looked a winner all over. But hanging out he enabled Cautious Chevalier and Wisam Tariq to make their runs on the rails. Cautious Chevalier looked a winner 50 yards from home, but Wisam Tariq came on again. That was when Taimour made this second effort and went under the wire winner by a photo finish verdict.

Tamasha chalked up his third successive triumph, Anthony John

his second, while Mashur and Ibn Mirdas completed the day's list of winners. Trainer Samarawira saddled three of them and A. Selvaratnam two while Mohideen and Jayawardene rode a winning double each.

\* \* \*

LAST Saturday's races, the final day of the August meeting, were postponed on the declaration of a state of emergency after the attack on Mr. Bandaranaike on Friday.

\* \* \*

### "Sara" Cricket Trophy

THE 1959-60 "Sara" Trophy cricket tournament got off to an inauspicious start when rain restricted the first day's play to just two periods of 25 minutes each.

In the opening match last year's runners-up, the N.C.C., met the lowly Catamarans at Maitland Place. Batting first, the Catamarans scored 24 for 2 on the first day and took their score to 116 on the next. Skipper W. I. Peries (23), K. Fernando (19), A. Fonseka (13) and H. Fernando (14) batted best for the Moratuwa team against the bowling of V. G. Prins (4 for 27) and M. Tissera (3 for 38).

In an all-out for an outright win the N.C.C. went for the runs and declared at 179 for 5 of which R. J. Reid scored 37, M. Tissera 37, H. C. Perera 50 and V. G. Prins 24 not out.

In batting a second time, the Catamarans did extremely well against a good attack, and opening partnership of 84 (J. Wijedasa 44 and M. de Mel 52) helping considerably towards their close of play score of 128 for 2.

\* \* \*

### All-India Rugby

A MAGNIFICENT last-minute try by Harvey, a conversion by Anwyl, and hot favourites for the All-India Rugby title, Ceylon, were out of the tournament in the semi-finals, and South India were in.

It was history repeating itself, for in Madras in 1957, following a foreign tour of Ceylon, Ceylon opened the

tournament with a convincing victory. Made firm favourites, they then proceeded to lose to South India, who went on to beat Calcutta in the finals. This year Calcutta avenged that defeat by winning the title on two penalties by Chapman, the only scoring of the match.

\* \* \*

CEYLON opened their bid to retain the trophy with a runaway 39-3 win over Calcutta "B", the Ditchers. Scoring 6 goals and 3 tries to a penalty, they gave Calcutta fans a scintillating display of fast open rucker, as Harrison (2), Almeida (2), Madugalle, Cader, Boyd-Moss, C. Ephraims and Rambukwella scored in turn, Almeida converting four times and Macrae twice.

In the match against South India, there was a repetition of this classy rucker, but the frequent whistle stopped many a promising move. Jacob just missed a try, Almeida an easy penalty, but with a minute to go Ceylon nevertheless clung on to their slender 3-point lead resulting from a brilliant try by Harrison on the wing from a cross-kick. Then came that Harvey try, the Anwyl conversion and Ceylon's hopes were dashed as all their efforts, which saw 90 per cent. of the play in the South India, came to nought.

Some consolation however was the winning of the Seven-a-side title by the Ceylon "A" team who beat the Armenians 13-10 in the finals. Ceylon "B" had bowed to the latter 8-0 in the semi-finals.

\* \* \*

THE "Blues" continue unbeaten in Japan, though in one match, against the Al-Keio University XV, they just managed to maintain their record, winning 24-17. All Jeiji they beat 27-3, and Waseda University were also beaten, 32-11.

\* \* \*

### Basket-ball

CEYLON proved no match to Pakistan in the first-ever Test played in a local basketball team. Sparked by Alban (12), Javed Hansan (11), Wallace Badruddin (11) and Nasrullah Badruddin (12), the visitors ran away from the local team to notch a 72-35 victory, playing their second string for most of the game. Thurairajah of Ceylon scored 10 points, the only opponent to worry a team that is making rapid strides in the basketball world.

## SPORTS CAUSERIE

## CEYLON PRIVATE PILOTS' ASSOCIATION

*(From a Correspondent)*

BEFORE the war we had the "Aero Club of Ceylon" and subsequently the "Colombo Flying Club". Private flying virtually ceased from 1948, until the Ceylon Air Academy was formed in October, 1950. The object of the Academy is to train pilots up to Private Pilot and Commercial Pilot standards; being a Government concern, it is of course subject to the same "red tape" and official "channels" as any other Government Department.

There has been a steady increase in the enthusiasm of private flyers in Ceylon over the last year or so and this resulted in the formation of the Ceylon Private Pilots' Association towards the end of July this year. The new Association is non-political and is not another trade union. Its main object is to foster local interest in flying; it intends to organise "breakfast flights" to the various airstrips in Ceylon and it also hopes to improve the status of pilots' licences by assistance in instructional materials, etc., and by increased co-ordination with the Academy.

THE Association has elected a President (Mr. L. A. D. I. Ekanayake), and Executive Vice-President (Mr. R. E. Bartlett) and various Secretaries to co-ordinate Flying, Ground Instruction, Gliding, etc. To celebrate its inauguration the Air Academy and the Private Pilots' Association held a "Field Day" at Ratmalana on Sunday, September 6th. The day was a great success, and flyers and spectators alike had an extremely enjoyable day, despite an hour of rain during the morning.

The Field Day had the support of the Hon Mr. Maitripala Senanayake (Minister of Transport and Power) and he was represented by Mr. Hugh Fernando, his Parliamentary Secretary. The Director of Civil Aviation and other officials attended.

\* \* \*

THE morning's events included competitions in skill in spot landings, simulated forced landings and cross country flights, plus various "pylon" races. An excellent lunch was provided "on the house" (thanks to generous donations) and many of the spectators enjoyed "joy flights" in the afternoon. The Shell Co. of Ceylon, Ltd., kindly donated silver cups as prizes for the various events plus a Challenge Tro-

## MATTERS OF MOMENT

*(Continued from page 7)*

THE stampede at the Kandy Perahera in which fifteen persons were killed when an elephant ran amok has prompted the Minister of Local Government and Housing, Mrs. Vimala Wijewardena, to seek the authority of the Cabinet for the Town Planner to prepare a scheme for preservation of the area surrounding the Dalada Maligawa, including the four devales, as a sacred area.

Mrs. Wijewardena has said that the narrow streets along which the Perahera passes cannot hold the crowds that throng the town during the season and it is imperative that something should be done to prevent a recurrence of the recent tragedy.

She also adds: "Cheek by jowl with the sacred edifice and the four devales are insanitary, un-Buddhistic institutions (presumably a reference to St. Paul's Church and school and the courts) dirt and squalor which make a mockery of our attempts to rebuild the Maligawa.

"One may well ask whether it is worth our while having spent over Rs. 2 million on the reconstruction of the Temple of the Tooth when the surroundings are allowed to continue as a horrible eyesore not only to the Buddhists but also to the thousands of visitors who come to this country mainly to visit the shrine that houses the sacred relic of the Buddha."

\* \* \*

MR. N. M. Kappagoda, the first Rhodes Scholar from Ceylon, sailed in the "Strathmore" on September 10, to start his studies at Oxford University.

Twenty-one-year-old Mr. Kappagoda comes from Kandy, where he attended Trinity College, and has a first class honours degree in mathematics from the University of Ceylon.

phy for the "best performance of the day"; the latter was won by Mr. John Harwood.

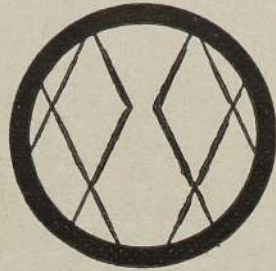
The cups were presented to the winners by Mr. Hugh Fernando, M.P. (open events), Mr. L. A. D. I. Ekanayake (Association events) and Mr. Dudley Perera of Shell Co. (Challenge Trophy).



—Times

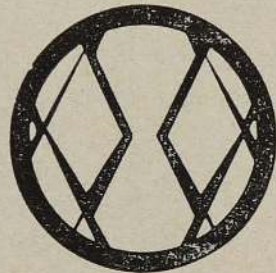
The new Triumph "Herald" is on show at Brown & Co., Ltd., Darley Road, Colombo, and a large number of motorists have now viewed the Car.

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# A WOMAN'S DIARY

## LEARNING TO COOK

—By ANNE—

MY friend Chandra, who in ten years of marriage had not cooked anything more elaborate than an occasional stew (with the "Daily News Cookery Book" opened at her side),\* was full of a sudden resolution to learn how to cook—and I don't mean the kind of gorgeous fancy food that so many women specialise in, but real honest-to-goodness rice-and-curry cooking. Chandra's mother is an excellent cook of the old order and I found the inexperienced daughter standing, notebook in hand, by the mother, jotting down special tips and "secrets of success" with regard to "baduns", "miris-malus" and sambols, etc. She was full of the zeal of a new convert and gave me a little lecture on why a woman should cook the meals for her own family.

Her husband beamed his approval and I gathered that Chandra was to receive the wages normally paid to the cook-woman, to use for household needs. Her children were thrilled at the idea of "Ammi" herself preparing all their food and announced in the very first week that they enjoyed their food much more since the new dispensation. Everybody was very happy.

\* \* \*

WHEN I called on Chandra a month later, she was not in. There was a new "cookie" preparing lunch in the kitchen, much to my surprise. Chandra wore a wry expression and explained rather shamefacedly what had happened.

It appeared that just when she was immersed in her cooking project, a persuasive friend appeared on the scene and pleaded very eloquently on the urgent need for active helpers for some very worthy cause for the needy and Chandra had yielded to her appeal and given up cooking for the family in order to be free to work actively for a good cause.

She was in two minds about the whole business, half pleased to be able to throw herself in heart and soul for a deserving cause, and half guilty at "having let the family down" as she called it.

"I really don't know whether I have acted right", she confided. "There are so many social service organisations which urgently need more helpers and if people like ourselves, who have so much to be thankful for, will not devote time and energy or these things, who will do it? On the other hand, when you do undertake something like that it means that quite often you become much more involved than you expected and personal and family considerations have to take second place. My family has been very understanding but I find I have much less time for the little ones and wonder sometimes whether I have made a mistake." But in the next breath she became all excited about the work she was doing and left me in no doubt that she felt it was worth while.

\* \* \*

STILL, Chandra's dilemma does pose a question: To what extent does charity begin at home and how much time can a woman devote to social service which takes her away from the family? It does seem like the old question of whether a woman can combine a career with motherhood, except that whereas in the case of a career it is often a matter of necessity, social service is a matter of personal choice—you don't have to do it.

There is no doubt that it is very difficult for a woman with young children to engage actively in social service work and I do think her first duty is by her own family. What is the point in busying yourself with work for others if your own husband and children suffer neglect thereby? You have to strike a balance in whatever you do.

\* \* \*

HOWEVER, there is another angle to it. I am reminded of a story related in the Bible where Jesus Christ said to a woman (although in a different context altogether), "It is not meet to take the children's bread and cast it to dogs," and the woman replied: "Truth, Lord; yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their master's table." There is a similarity here, I think. Our children's tables are, both literally and metaphorically, filled with plenty, while the children for whom the social service organisations work, suffer physically and mentally for want of basic necessities, let alone the good

Perhaps we who are so fortunate can take a little time away from our smoothly-run homes and well-cared-for children to give of our time and energy to work which alleviates the misery and ministers to the needs of less fortunate people. No permanent harm will be done to our children by a little neglect now and then, while some lasting good may be achieved for others.

\* \* \*

LOOKING at Chandra's glowing face and listening to her enthusiastic plans for the furtherance of her association's activities, I couldn't help feeling that she had chosen aright. Our social service schemes sorely need more people like her who will give not only of their money but of their time and energy as well.

After all, she can easily find a cook for the family, while her association would find it a much more difficult task to attract an enthusiastic worker for their cause. (And I think she will make a better social worker than a cook!) Her children will remain healthy despite a paid cook preparing their meals—her work outside might benefit the health of children whose need is desperate. Her interest in others will have its influence for good on her own children and will teach them too to think of and to work for those who need help.

\* \* \*

THE number of social service organisations in Ceylon has grown enormously in the last ten or twelve years. People sometimes grumble about the number of different causes they are asked to support, but those who actively engage in work for such causes—C.N.A.P.T., the Cancer Clinic, the Social Service Council of the Buddhist Congress, the Friend-in-Need Society, the Child Protection Society, the National Council for Child and Youth Welfare, the Social Service League, the Family Planning Association, the Red Cross and the National Council for the Welfare of the Deaf and Blind (whose annual appeal for funds is being launched on October 1st)—those actually working in these organisations know how infinitely worthwhile is the work they do and how desperate the needs they fulfil.

## IMPRESSIONS OF THE MIDDLE EAST

(Continued from page 23)

has not percolated to those who are most in need of it. I was impressed by the number of large, high-powered American cars not only in Baghdad but throughout the country. At times the traffic congestion reminded me of London. Roundabouts indicated that modern methods of controlling traffic were familiar to those responsible for new highways in Baghdad.

There was a television service, several cinemas, and three or four night clubs. The hotels were third rate as compared with those in Beirut. Having regard to their charges, the food was poor, the meat being tough and the fish generally of a fresh water variety. Prices, generally speaking, were high, and a bottle of beer or a small whisky or gin cost six shillings. There was a very large native bazaar which reminded me of the Suki in Cairo and where every conceivable article could be bought. Goldsmiths and silversmiths abounded. Persian and other oriental carpets were obtainable at what I thought were very reasonable prices.

\* \* \*

I FOUND the local inhabitants most friendly. I saw no signs of stress or worry or anything to suggest that a revolutionary upheaval was imminent. It is true that when I put questions in regard to politics and the Constitution which the British had introduced to the country, I was not satisfied that democracy as we know it in England was the ruling principle on which the administration was based. At the same time, amongst the people I met I heard no expression of dissatisfaction with the regime or the way in which the country was administered. I saw nothing to indicate that in the short time of three months the country would be in the throes of a revolution that without any resistance would overthrow the ruling regime and change the whole basis of the constitution and the administration.

(To be continued)

## THE ELEPHANT IN CLASSICAL WRITINGS

(Continued from page 15)

he was jokingly nicknamed "The Great Elephantarch" by the wits

in the Court of Antigonus, his rival. The joke was on Antigonus, however, as Seleucus inflicted a heavy defeat on him, with the aid of elephants, at the **Battle of Ipsus** 301 B.C.: Antigonus versus Seleucus Nicator and others.

\* \* \*

ANTIGONUS, the wiliest of Alexander's Generals had obtained sovereignty over Asia Minor, Syria, part of Greece and the Islands. His son was the brave and able Prince Demetrius.

The other generals, heirs to Alexander, were jealous and combined against him. Seleucus, Ptolomey, Lysimachus, Cassandrus formed an alliance to crush Antigonus. Seleucus arrived in Cappadocia with 20,000 foot soldiers, 10,000 cavalry, 100 war chariots and 480 elephants.

According to Plutarch, the army of Antigonus was made up of 60,000 men, 6,000 horses and 75 elephants and those of his enemies 64,000 men, 10,500 horses, 120 war chariots and 400 elephants. Thus there were almost 500 elephants on the field of battle, the greatest number ever seen in the wars of antiquity.

Plutarch, Justin, Diodorus all give detailed accounts of the battle. It is sufficient to say that Demetrius headed an impetuous cavalry charge and wasted time in pursuit while his aged father was hammered to pieces by the allied army. Antigonus died on the field but Demetrius escaped. After some quarreling over the spoils of Antigonus's Kingdom, three monarchies emerged—the Seleucids, the Lagids and the Neo-Macedonians.

In 281 B. C. Seleucus was assassinated by Ptolomey Ceraunus, who seized a large number of the elephants but Antiochus Soter, son and successor of Seleucus saved some of them; with the help of these he defeated the Galatians.

(To be continued)

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**The Next Issue of the Fortnightly Review will be out on October 23rd.**

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## SIR HENRY McCALLUM AND EDUCATION

(Continued from page 17)

Sir Henry explained that the teaching in the schools and colleges—he would not call it the education—was putrid. They had got into a sanguinary rut, and must be jolted out of it. Mr. Harward had told him of my academic record, and that I had published papers of scientific research in the journals. He was appointing a committee, without a single professional teacher, to overhaul the system from top to bottom and make recommendations. The committee would consist of men who had been successful in various walks of life, lawyers, doctors, merchants, civil servants, clergy and so forth.

Would I consent to be a member, and watch the interests of Science?

## A POLITICAL NOTEBOOK

(Continued from page 11)

plane to take members of Parliament to Jaffna to attend the obsequies and delegate two Ministers to represent the Government. By such acts as these could the bitternesses of party warfare be kept from intruding on human relations. And Mr. Vanniasingham was deserving of the highest regard of his colleagues for his sense of service and moral integrity. Parliament has suffered a loss because his contributions to debates were marked by an informed mind and a patriotic spirit.

\* \* \*

TWO former Ceylon families, the de Simons and Le Merciers, now settled in Canada have done their bit to put Ceylon on the Canadian map; they handled the Ceylon stall at the Pacific National Exhibition at Vancouver recently.

Writing to a friend in Ceylon, Mrs. Vanda Le Mercier says: "Every one who visited our stall was surprised at our fluency in English, enamoured of our black hair and white (natural) teeth and found the description and accounts of our handicrafts too fascinating to move away to other stalls." She hopes that Ceylon will put up a bigger and better show next year.

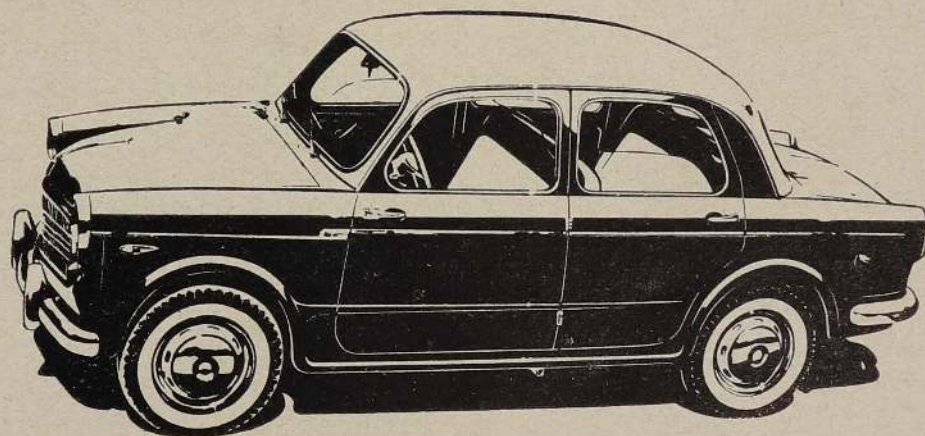
Sir Velupillai, Ceylon High Commissioner in Canada, and Lady Coomaraswamy, were present at a big dinner on the final night of the Exhibition and the final day of the Exhibition was called "Ceylon Day" in compliment to the Island.



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