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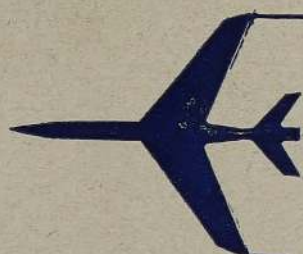
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A VICIOUS PRINCIPLE

VITAL questions affecting the future of private enterprise in the country arise from the developments following upon the intervention of the Prime Minister in the matter of retrenchment of staff in two Colombo firms—Ceylon Cold Stores, Ltd., and Hayleys Ltd.

The two firms, respectively, gave notice of discontinuance to 70 and 190 employees, the former because it was closing down its bakery and the latter because it was giving up trading in rubber—both on the grounds that these sections were running at a loss.

At a conference called by him, and attended by the Minister of Labour and his officials and representatives of the two firms and trade unions, Mr. Dahanayake asked that the notice be withdrawn and the retrenchment proposals and relevant matters discussed with the Labour Department. Neither company found itself in a position to accede to the request, but both were agreeable to the matter being referred to an industrial court or to voluntary arbitration.

* * * *

IMMEDIATELY thereafter emergency regulations were enacted to prevent work being interrupted by a trade dispute in any "essential service undertaking", and under them the two firms were required to withdraw the retrenchment notices. This action has to be considered with the suggestion made at the conference that the firms had taken advantage of the prevalence of a state of emergency to reduce staff, in that the workers concerned were precluded from taking trade union action.

What is most disturbing, however, is that an employer should be compelled to carry staff rendered redundant by the effect of Government policy and in the ordinary course of business. A clue to the considerations influencing the Government is the suggestion made by Mr. Dahanayake at the conference that the two companies were not justified in deciding upon retrenchment if their overall working showed a profit.

* * * *

THIS is a point of view which cuts at the very basis of private enterprise, and if applied as a general principle, as appears to be contemplated, could well result in the private sector going out of existence altogether.

The Government has ample powers normally to save labour from exploitation by the private employer and to divert excess profits to the state exchequer. In the circumstances, to cripple private enterprise as in this instance is to do damage to the economy at a time when all available resources need to be utilised to its expansion.

THE EDITOR.



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MATTERS OF MOMENT

—By BRUTUS—

CEYLON and other under-developed countries in South and South-east Asia are assured of continuing aid by the decision last week of the Consultative Committee of the Colombo Plan, meeting at Djojakarta, Indonesia, to extend the Plan to five more years. It is reported that most of the 21 countries taking part in the conference, which was at ministerial level, proposed a five-year extension, while New Zealand suggested ten years and some an indefinite period.

New Zealand's Prime Minister Mr. Walter Nash, announced that his country had reached saturation point in providing training places, but it was planned to extend the animal husbandry and dairy technology units at the Massey Agricultural College. It was also proposed to set up a technical teachers training college and an English language institute attached to the University of Wellington to help students who did not have an adequate knowledge of English.

* * *

MR. Stanley de Zoysa, the Finance Minister, who was a special delegate to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association at Canberra recently, told the association that it would be tragic if the development of Commonwealth-made synthetic rubber endangered natural rubber production in countries like Ceylon. He urged that competition between Commonwealth countries should be avoided as much as possible and advocated the setting up of machinery in Commonwealth countries to avoid instability in prices of primary produce.

Mr. de Zoysa also said that economic conditions in under-developed countries challenged the parliamentary way of life. If democratic goals could not be attained, people would turn to other ideologies, he added.

* * *

A MEETING of the National Planning Council, presided over by the Prime Minister, Mr. W. Dahanayake (Chairman), which discussed the implementation of the Ten Year Plan has agreed that a short-term implementation programme be pre-

pared as a follow-up to the Ten Year Plan. This would specify the various steps that should be taken immediately and over the next two years to implement the targets and objectives of the Plan.

Specifically, it would define in greater detail the projects to be undertaken, the investment outlays to be made, complementary policies needed in various fields, administrative and legislative provisions necessary, training programmes for supplying of skilled manpower and other measures.

The Council felt, a communique said, that the best machinery by which the implementation processes could be carried out would be the setting up of a joint implementation committee covering the several sectors dealt with in the Plan. A sub-committee of the Council was appointed to work out details such as the number of committees required, personnel etc.

It also decided to set up a committee to examine the proposal for the early establishing of a Development Saving Bank made by Mr. C. Loganathan, General Manager of the Bank of Ceylon and other proposals with the objectives of greater mobilisation of savings and wider diffusion of ownership of capital.

IN an effort to arrest the outflow of capital and the fall in Ceylon's external assets, the Government has reduced the amount of capital which non-residents can repatriate from their share proceeds and other holdings in Ceylon from Rs. 100,000 to Rs. 50,000.

Leading share brokers in Colombo were quoted as saying that the reduced repatriation ceiling was likely to accentuate the withdrawal of such investments as has been going on, particularly in the last three years. It was felt that the belief that the repatriation ceiling may be further reduced would result in non-residents wanting to withdraw as much investment as they can. Non-residents were reported to have in fact withdrawn some of their investments earlier when the government fixed the ceiling at Rs. 100,000.

Last September, Ceylon's external assets fell to the lowest level since 1953, Rs. 761,400,000. At the beginning of last year they stood at Rs. 855,600,000.

* * *

A CURRENT attraction in Ceylon is the USSR Trade and Industrial Fair at the Vihara Maha Devi (Victoria) Park, which was opened on November 4. The Russian Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade, Mr. Houmykin, came to Ceylon specially in connexion with the exhibition and said, at its opening, that its purpose was to further trade relations between Ceylon and the USSR.



—Times

Mr. R. G. Casey, Australian Minister of External Affairs, accompanied by Mrs. Casey, arrived in Ceylon on Saturday on his way home from London. He was met by the Minister of Industries, Mr. J. C. W. Munasingha. Mr. Casey met the Prime Minister and other Ministers and laid a wreath at the tomb of Mr. Bandaranaike.

MATTERS OF MOMENT

A giant statue of Lenin and models of Luniks 1, 2 and 3 were on display. Other exhibits which attracted attention were agricultural and industrial machinery, three cars straight from the factory (factory prices marked on them said they cost Rs. 6,000, Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 30,000), 50 varieties of liquor, dairy products, tinned fruit and fish and tea manufacturing machinery.

There were examples of the peaceful purposes to which atomic energy is put and the TV centre caught visitors in its camera and reproduced TV pictures of them at various points on the exhibition grounds.

* * *

THE Colombo Plan was described as a "total failure" by a former Ceylon journalist, Dr. Dinar Rangekar, who is at present a lecturer on Asian affairs at the Melbourne University. Addressing a rotary meeting at Wangratta, 146 miles from Melbourne, he said promises of large scale aid made when the Plan was inaugurated had not been fulfilled. Aid that had been given was of the wrong kind.

Dr. Rangekar said Asia needed money rather than technical aid which he described as being like "sending a chef to advise a family unable to afford food". The United States is the only country giving substantial aid, in his view.

Asians whose main concern was the battle against poverty were watching whether communism or free enterprise was the more successful method of organisation, he said.

* * *

HULFTSDORP paid warm tributes to Mr. O. L. de Kretser, retired puisne judge, whose death occurred last week at the age of 77.

Mr. de Kretser was admitted to the Bar in 1905. He had built up a lucrative practice when in 1924 he accepted the district judgeship of Batticaloa to be the first member of the Bar to be appointed to the judiciary. He was District Judge of Colombo when he was appointed Commissioner of Assize in 1936. He was raised to the Supreme Court Bench in 1938 and retired in 1945.

In the Supreme Court, the Chief Justice, Mr. H. H. Bassnayake said: "When the Government was faced with the task of selecting the personnel of a judicial commission his

mastery of the practice and procedure of our courts of original jurisdiction made it inevitable that he should be invited to serve. The report of that commission bears eloquent testimony to the valuable contribution he made. . . . His learning, the fruits of his industry and research and his unrivalled knowledge of the procedure of our courts lie enshrined in the law reports."

Mr. de Kretser's son, Mr. O. L. de Kretser (Jr.) is an additional district judge of Colombo.

* * *

THE Ceylon Institute of Scientific Research is highly commended in the latest issue of the "Tea and



—Times

The Late Mr. O. L. de Kretser, C.M.G.

Rubber Mail" for its invention of an all-rubber rain-guard which will enable rubber estates to tap on all days of the year. The rain-guard, which is described as the first of its kind to be invented by a rubber-producing country in the world, has already undergone large-scale tests at the Rubber Research Institute at Dartonfield which revealed that the rainguard has weathered twenty-one months in the field. Its lifetime is said to be at least three years, probably four.

The report adds that negotiations are now going on with major local rubber companies for the manufacture of rainguards under patent licence.

ROBINHOOD legislation was the term used by Mr. L. E. Gray to describe the *ad valorem* duty on tea in his statement, as Chairman, at the annual meeting of the Galaha Ceylon Tea Estates Co., Ltd. Indeed the taxation system generally was severely criticised by him.

After dealing with the provision made for taxes, he said that Ceylon taxation is extremely difficult to estimate because "in recent years there have been a number of changes—always upward, of course—and some have had retrospective effect. Direct taxation, he said, absorbed 62 1/2 per cent of the Company's profits. Of the new expenditure tax and the alteration of the basis of personal assessment, he said that they would tend to create both premature retirements and difficulties in recruiting men of ability in the future.

* * *

SPEAKING as one responsible for "the buying and blending of more tea than any other person in the world", Mr. Gray said that buyers and blenders looked at askance at any move which tended to reduce the quantity of fine tea available to them, which in his view would be the effect of the *ad valorem* duty. He implored the Government to modify this tax so that it pressed less hardly on the successful planter and ceased to discourage him from cultivating and manufacturing the best of which Ceylon is capable.

* * *

THE view that, as a further step in the introduction of Sinhalese as the official language, government departments as well as among themselves must correspond with corporations and the private sector also through the official language has been expressed by the Prime Minister, Mr. W. Dahanayake.

He has declared that the attempt to get government departments to use the official language in inter-departmental communications has been carried out with considerable success, with due regard to the need for creating the least possible dislocation of the machinery of Government, some 115 departments now using Sinhalese.

MATTERS OF MOMENT

Mr. Dahanayake says that he has no wish whatever to alter the present practice which recognises the right of every private citizen to correspond with the Government in the language he normally uses for communication, but feels that mercantile institutions should not be allowed to acquire this privilege through use, and should be asked to communicate with the Government in all matters in the official language, so that the use of the official language will be extended even in some small measure beyond its present range.

The reaction of the mercantile sector, both Ceylonese and foreign, is that it would be difficult or impracticable to implement the proposal. A spokesman of the Estate Employers' Federation was quoted as saying: "We shall face great difficulties if we are required to make all communications with the Government in the official language. In most cases it will be impossible to achieve."

* * *

It is officially announced that Brigadier Anton Muttucumaru, Commander of the Ceylon Army, who shortly relinquishes his command to take up the post of High Commissioner in Pakistan, has been promoted Major-General with effect from January 1, 1958. Commodore Royce de Mel, who commands the Royal Ceylon Navy, has been promoted Rear-Admiral with effect from July 13, 1959. Acting Air Commodore J. L. Barker of the R.A.F. has been promoted acting Air Vice-Marshal with effect from October 30, while serving on secondment as Commander of the Royal Ceylon Air Force.

* * *

Lt. Col. M. A. G. de Mel, who has been appointed Colonel, relinquishes his post of Chief of Staff, Ceylon Army, and becomes Commandant of the Ceylon Volunteer Force. He succeeds Col. H. W. G. Wijeyekoon, who takes over command of the Ceylon Army.

Other promotions are of Lt.-Col. B. R. Heyn as Colonel on being appointed Chief of Staff, Temporary Colonel A. R. Udugama as O.C. 1st battalion of the C.L.I., and Lt.-Col. N. L. Jansz, C.A.G.S.C., and Lt.-Col. H. C. Serasinghe, C.A.M.C. as Colonels.

MR. M. TIRUCHELVAM, Solicitor General, took his oaths on November 4 as Queen's Counsel. Called to the Bar in 1933, he practised in Colombo and was lecturer on company law, trusts, partnership and evidence at the Law College till 1942, when he was appointed a magistrate and served at Negombo, Panadura and Galle. In 1945 he became Assistant Legal Secretary advising the Government on constitutional matters. Transferred to the Attorney-General's Department, he was senior Crown Counsel in 1949.

He was appointed Deputy Solicitor-General in 1954 and acted as Solicitor-General till his recent confirmation



—Times

Mr. M. Tiruchelvam, Q.C.

in the post. Mr. Tiruchelvam was closely associated with Sir Alan Rose, later Chief Justice, in matters connected with the reform of the constitution in 1947.

* * *

EXPORTS of tea from Colombo to the London auctions in October showed a fall from the corresponding figure last year. The total for the month was 5,919,972 lbs. as against 6,695,739 lbs. in October last year.

A similar fall has been recorded in the exports for the first ten months of this year compared with exports in the same period last year. The figures are 67,228,425 lbs. and 98,033,133 lbs. respectively.

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SUNDAY, November 8, was remembrance day this year. In Colombo the observance of the day centred on the war memorial in Vihara Maha Devi (Victoria) Park, where a service in memory of the dead in the two world wars had been arranged by the Comrades of the Second Great War (Ceylon) Association. It was attended by bemedalled veterans of the two world wars and their families and members of the diplomatic corps.

The traditional two minutes silence was duly observed and the Archdeacon of Colombo, the Ven. Harold de Soysa, recited Laurence Binyon's celebrated lines: "They shall not grow old . . ." The Rev. A. Baillie read the lesson from the Book of Wisdom.

On behalf of the Governor-General a wreath was placed by Col. D. S. Attygalle, extra ADC, and Mr. Valentine Jayewickreme, Minister of Justice, placed a wreath on behalf of the Government. They were followed by the services, ex-servicemen's associations and other organizations.

* * *

INCREASE by 10 cents per pound in the duty on crepe rubber of every description except scrap crepe, which came into effect on November 5 and from which the Government calculates to net an extra Rs. 5 million, sparked off a strong protest from the rubber trade. Rubber interests said it would compel producers to switch entirely to sheet production.

With Ceylon committed to supply sheet to China under the barter pact, the effect of the switch-over from crepe to sheet entirely would, it was pointed out by that foreign exchange, which crepe was earning, would be lost to the country. It would also mean the loss of traditional buyers of Ceylon crepe abroad; winning them back would be very difficult.

The protest had the desired effect and the increased duty was last week extended to scrap crepe and sheet.

* * *

THE Director of Irrigation, Mr. A. E. C. de Silva Gunasekera, is away to the U.S.A., on a four month tour, studying irrigation and land development with special emphasis on river basin planning.

(Continued on page 32)



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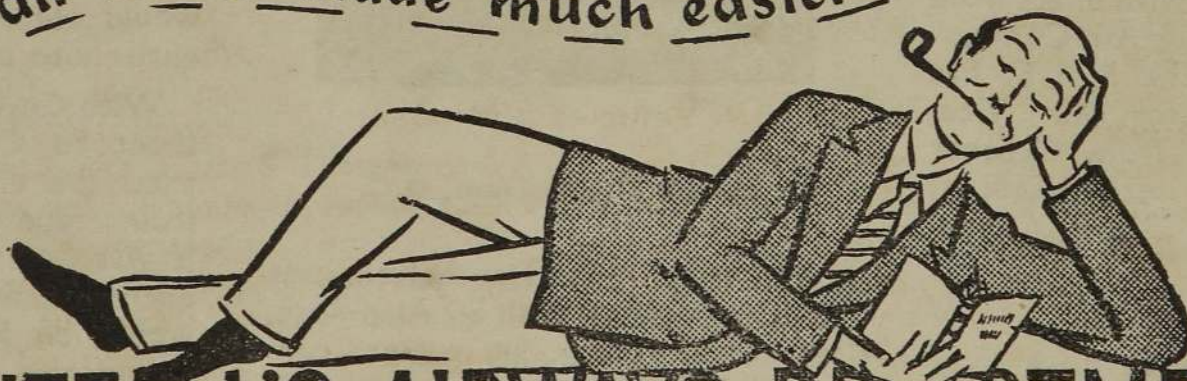
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PEACE HAS ITS VICTORIES

— By ERNEST CHISHOLM THOMSON —

(Special to the Ceylon Fortnightly Review)

ONE tiny corner of London where ordinary mortals will never tread is the new Victoria Cross Room opened in July by the United Kingdom Prime Minister, Mr. Harold Macmillan, at the headquarters of the Royal Society of St. George. It has been set aside as an exclusive retreat for heroes, where any of the 306 holders of the Victoria Cross surviving in Britain and the Commonwealth, and the 138 men and women holders of the George Cross (civilian equivalent of the V.C.) can meet or seek help or advice.

Those who meet there will be men and women from all walks of life, from many countries, linked by one common denominator—the fact of having faced death with complete disregard for personal safety.

* * *

An Historic Letter

IT is just three years since Queen Elizabeth II inspected a parade of Victoria Cross holders in Hyde Park, London, to mark the centenary of this renowned award for valour. I recall that the commemorative exhibition at nearby Marlborough House included, with other relics, the letter written by Queen Victoria in 1856 substituting the words "For Valour" for the inscription, "For the Brave", originally suggested.

Speeches at the opening of the Exhibition expressed hopes that the call for gallantry so bravely shown might never have to be sounded again. There was speculation on how personal bravery would ever get a chance to show itself in a thermo-nuclear war. Most commentators agreed that the latent courage evoked by war must be spent in preserving peace.

That peoples of many nations can rub along in perfect amity has just been joyfully and noisily demonstrated in London's foreign quarter or "world in miniature"—the district of Soho. The annual Soho Fair, opened this year by Mr. Ted Leather, Canadian-born member of the United Kingdom Parliament, set an example of unity to the rest of the world. This great summer jamboree, with its processions and open-air dancing, its festivals of food and wine, takes place within a stone's-throw of Piccadilly Circus, in an area of narrow

streets inhabited by folk of almost every nationality on earth. Perhaps the best clue to Soho's cosmopolitanism is on the walls of a certain coffee-bar, where the word "thanks" is scrawled in 60 different languages.

* * *

Forest of Flags and Banners

THIS year the waiters' race, run with bottles balanced on trays, was won by a 24-year-old Cypriot. The 65 entrants loped and staggered beneath a forest of Commonwealth banners mixed in with the flags of France, Switzerland, Scandinavia, Italy, Spain and others I lost count of, amid the babel of perhaps a dozen different languages within earshot.

Soho lies within the boundaries of the City of Westminster, and it was fitting that the Mayor, in robes and chain of office, shared in the inaugural ceremony.

A mile away, at the opposite end of his domain, is Westminster Abbey, and it was here, two days earlier, that I came across the only comparable medley of tongues. London was thronged, as never before, with visitors from overseas, and all go to Westminster to see the Coronation Chair. Added to the crowds inside the building was a small army of craftsmen at work on the beautiful vaulted roof, which is taking ten years to clean in readiness for the Abbey's 900th anniversary in 1965.

* * *

Nearly 130 Vehicles a Minute

TALKING of crowds, Westminster can still claim the busiest street junction in London. This is the celebrated Hyde Park Corner, shown in the latest police traffic census to have 92,755 vehicles swirling around the Royal Artillery memorial every 12 hours, or nearly 130 a minute. But the most telling fact of the census is a 25 per cent. increase in London's heavy goods vehicles over the past two years. There could scarcely be a better index to rising trade.

Among Britain's brightest trade scoops overseas is the new £25,000,000 order won by the Hawker-Siddeley Group from the Government of India for Avro twin-engined turbo-propellor aircraft to replace the Indian Air Force's Dakota fleet. Apart from beating stiff com-

petition from Holland and the United States of America, this order is hailed as a fine boost for the "turbo-prop" principle first exploited in the famous Vickers Viscount, of which more than 400 have been sold all over the world. Its younger but bigger cousin, the Vickers Vanguard, romped into Britain the other day after flying from Gander, Newfoundland, in five-and-a-half hours. This is claimed as a transatlantic record a propellor-driven aircraft.

* * *

The Upward Look

CITIZENS of the United Kingdom normally hold their heads high, but nowadays the tendency threatens us with crick in the neck. So many things conspire to make us look upwards. New office buildings of skyscraper proportions—unprecedented in Britain—are shooting up in cities and towns everywhere. New flyover road junctions dazzle the eyes of watchers down below. The city of Manchester, to relieve traffic congestion, is even planning a £6,000,000 highway on stilts.

Recently we have been craning our necks upwards to witness the return of smoke trail advertisements by aircraft in London's evening sky. Another sky attraction are the small captive balloons now being used for low level aerial photography.

* * *

To Include Helicopters

AND now even the annual Lord Mayor's Procession in the City of London in mid-November is to include aerial pageantry. For at least four centuries the citizens have enjoyed the brilliant spectacle at eye level. This year three helicopters are to join in as the cavalcade passes the River Thames Embankment. They are crop-spraying helicopters, part of a countrywide fleet, and will demonstrate their prowess in showering coloured water into the Thames.

One might well ask why crop-spraying comes into the picture. The reason is that this year's show has agriculture as its theme. The new Lord Mayor, Sir Edmund Stockdale, is himself an agriculturalist, farming 800 acres (about 324 hectares) in the English county of Hampshire. With the help of the National Farmers' Union, the display will demonstrate with tableaux on 20 or more large trucks, how this ancient industry combines its age-old skills with the latest in mechanisation.

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A POLITICAL NOTEBOOK

By "CROSS BENCHER"

THE assassination of Mr. Bandaranaike continues to be a prolific subject of debate in public and private. So much so that the President of the Senate, Sir Cyril de Zoysa, was constrained to rule in the House that members should not make any reference to the case before the courts or to investigations "conducted, or not conducted" because those matters were sub-judice. "It is a well-settled practice under the conventions of the British House of Commons, which bind us in respect of our procedure," he said, "that matters awaiting the adjudication of a court of law should not be brought forward in debate."

The ruling followed questions in the Senate on a statement issued to the Press by Mr. Sidney de Zoysa, Deputy Inspector-General of Police (brother of the Finance Minister, Mr. Stanley de Zoysa), setting out what he described as the facts as against rumours with regard to the course of the investigations into the assassination. Replying to criticism of the propriety of the statement, the Minister of Justice, Mr. Valentine Jayewickreme, who is in charge of the Police, said that Mr. de Zoysa had his and the I.G.P. Mr. Abeykoon's permission for publication of the statement as it was intended to vindicate Mr. de Zoysa's honour after the references made to him in the censure motion in the Lower House.

The Ministers have since decided that Mr. de Zoysa should not have access to any document having to do with the assassination inquiry, as he seemed to have had, or participate in any conference with regard to it, seeing that officially he was not concerned with the inquiry.

* * *

IN the meantime Mr. Bandaranaike's widow has been drawn into the controversy over the investigation of the assassination. At the instance of the Prime Minister, Mr. W. Dahanayake, she invited several ministers to meet her and asked them to act cautiously lest dissolution of Parliament be precipitated, as in that event

investigation of the assassination of her husband would be hampered.

They subsequently called on Mr. Dahanayake and informed him that they had been perturbed at the statement issued by Mr. Sidney de Zoysa and what they were anxious about was that everyone concerned in the assassination of Mr. Bandaranaike should be brought to book. They urged that the Prime Minister himself should assume responsibility for the investigation of the assassination. The meeting ended with the ministers expressing confidence in Mr. Dahanayake.



Mrs. Bandaranaike

—Times

Mr. Dahanayake in turn later deprecated the tendency of ministers to form into cliques and appealed for unity. He declared that he was prepared to dissolve Parliament or step down from the premiership if necessary.

* * *

THE Government's expectation of moral support from Mrs. Bandaranaike was further manifested by requests that she allow herself to be proposed for the leadership of her husband's party, the SLFP, and to be nominated for the by-election for her husband's seat. A deputation from Attanagalla last week waited on her and presented a petition signed by over 5,000 voters inviting her to stand for election. They

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indicated that other deputations would follow. She, however, gave no immediate reply except to say that she wanted time to consider the matter.

As this journal goes to press, Mrs. Bandaranaike has announced her candidature.

A significant development meanwhile is the enactment of an emergency regulation prescribing a penalty of 12 months' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 1,000 for any action calculated to make any person to refrain from giving information in connection with Mr. Bandaranaike's death.

* * *

AS far as Parliament is concerned, while the campaign against the Finance Minister, Mr. Stanley de Zoysa, has been temporarily suspended during his absence from the Island attending the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Canberra and the Colombo Plan Consultative Committee in Djakarta, the Opposition Parties are training their guns at the Minister of Commerce and Trade, Mr. R. G. Senanayake, arising out of the report of the Shipping Commission. Notice has been given of a motion expressing lack of confidence in him for his defence on the floor of the House of the Ceylon Shipping Lines, Ltd., in which the Government has a substantial share, in view of the grave irregularities in the financing and management of the company revealed in the report.

Another motion calls for the immediate revocation of the proclamation declaring a state of emergency.

* * *

OF immediate interest is the impending elections to the Colombo Municipal Council, which for two years has been administered by a Municipal Commissioner.

The United National Party, which had a majority at the time the Council was dissolved, is putting up candidates for all the wards and has an active organization in operation. This will be the first opportunity for the party to demonstrate that although it was defeated in the last parliamentary elections it cannot be written off as a political force. The SLFP is not in the field as a party but will have candidates for most, if not all, the wards. Left parties are ranged against the UNP to prevent its staging a come-back.

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PROFILE

NOEL COWARD

—By A. C. ENSOR—

(Fortnightly Review Special)

NOEL Coward is a man of many talents. Actor and dramatist, first and foremost, he has been a successful writer of musical comedy and revue, composing book, music and lyrics, and he is an able producer. He "stepped aside" at one period to produce two books of short stories and has written an autobiography, *Present Indicative*. His work for the film, to mention only *In Which We Serve* and *Brief Encounter*, has had world-wide recognition and in 1953 he played King Magnus in Shaw's *The Apple Cart* at the Haymarket Theatre.

There was, and still may be, a prevailing belief that the production of *The Vortex* in 1924 produced overnight a brilliant and hitherto unknown young author. Nothing could be further from the truth. As an actor, Noel Coward was a hardened old-timer with thirteen years stage experience, the author of two plays and part-author of a successful revue. It was, however, *The Vortex* which established him in a night. The play was considered decadent and shocking, dealing as it did with a vapid, amoral collection of people—the "week-end set"—it was first rate theatre, and the dialogue was witty and sparkling. Within two weeks the play had transferred to the West End, where it ran over two hundred performances. *The Vortex* was produced at the end of November, 1924; by June, 1925, there were four Coward shows running in the West End. He was the most sought-after dramatist in London. "Everyone," the author said, "but Somerset Maugham, said I was a second Somerset Maugham."

* * *

IF *The Vortex* caused a stir, *Fallen Angels*, the next play, raised a hornet's nest. The bitterest vituperation was hurled at the play, the cast and the grievously offending author. It was offensive, obscene, nauseating—everything it should not be. All extremely good for business, and this amusing bit of foolishness kept the box-office busy for two hundred and ninety performances. *Hay Fever*, written especially for Marie Tempest, was another play

about a week-end party and the disgraceful behaviour of the Bliss family—perfect darlings but quite impossible—to their unfortunate guests. Bad manners replaced bad morals for once. The same year (1925) saw the production in New York of *Essay Virtue*, Mr. Coward's *Second Mrs. Tanqueray*. The play was goodish entertainment with a dazzling performance by Jane Cowl, which almost concealed the fact that Larita, who just sat around reading Proust, was just as much a bore as her interfering, stiff-necked in-law relations. *The Queen was in the Parlour* (1926), an excursion into the Anthony Hope country, gave Madge Titherage an effective part which *Home Chat* failed to do.



Noel Coward

ALL this time, the author had been quietly perfecting his style. Born with a great sense of the theatre, he acquired considerable technical knowledge and developed a capacity for capturing the contemporary way of life, and reproducing it with an extremely entertaining facility. His dialogue was an innovation; sheering away from the epigrammatic method of the late Victorian dramatists, he employed the naturalistic speech of every day life with its hesitation and clipped sentences. He has a facility for dashing off a play at a sitting, as it were. *Fallen Angels* was written in five days and *The Vortex* in four. This method, though it may lead to a falling-off here and there, does give an effortless spontaneity. He relates that the idea for *Private Lives* came to him in a flash one

night in Tokyo, but on this occasion he did not rush to produce the finished article. It was the same with the musical *Bitter Sweet*, which was inspired by the playing of a gramophone record of *Die Fledermaus* at a friend's house. So vivid was the impression, that on his journey home he stopped his car by the roadside and roughed out the complete layout of the play.

* * *

ROUND about 1930 the author expressed a wish to the manager, C. B. Cochran, to write a spectacular drama and exploit the technical resources of the Coliseum stage. Various ideas were explored, but happening to open an old volume of *The Illustrated London News* he saw a picture of troops embarking for South Africa and the Boer War. At once the idea crystallised in his mind; he would write an epic of the first twenty years of the twentieth century. This *Cavalcade* of history was seen through the lives of a typical Edwardian family and that important and integral part of that life—the family retainers. Round their successes and failures, their pleasures and their heartbreaks, this great sentimental panorama of British life, ultimately produced at Drury Lane Theatre, was unfolded. To have written, selected the music and produced the whole thing, even with the assistance of the highly efficient Cochran staff, was an astonishing achievement. Nevertheless, Noel Coward is, perhaps, at his best when he is at his most inconsequential, in the brittle, light comedies about little or nothing—*Hay Fever*, *Private Lives* and *Present Laughter*, that tailor-made comedy, mocking at the absurdities of a theatrical set, brilliantly written and brilliantly played. And here mention must be made of "the improbable farce", *Blithe Spirit* (1941), which helped to keep laughter alive in the darkest hours of the last war and achieved not far short of two thousand performances. Of the post-war output, *Nude with Violin* is perhaps outstanding. Largely a star part, with decorations, it gave John Gielgud the opportunity to relax and thoroughly enjoy playing a delicious comedy role. *Relative Values* (1951) amused and provided Gladys Cooper with an effective part which she played delightfully; *Quadrille* (1952), yet another play for the Lunts, turned out to be yet another play for the Lunts.

(Continued on page 32)

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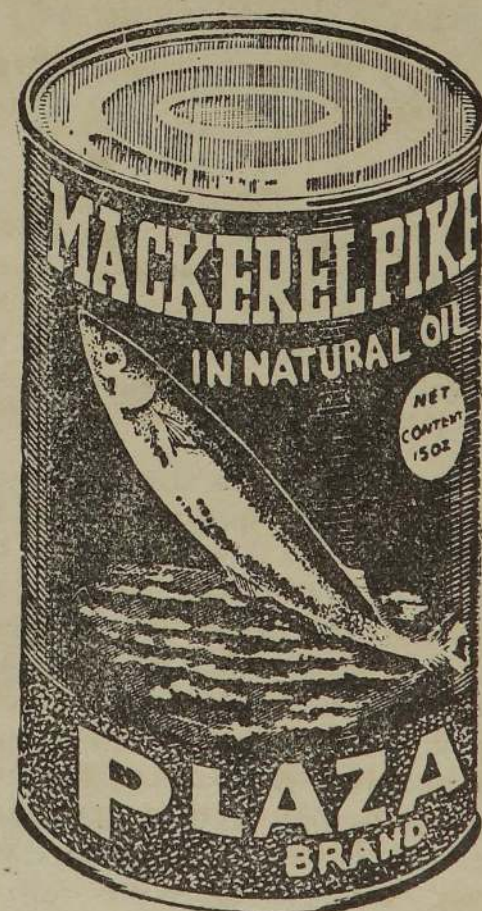
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IMPRESSIONS OF THE MIDDLE EAST-IV

—By Sir JOHN HOWARD, Q.C.—

(Fortnightly Review Special)

ON Sunday, April 13th, I departed at 8 a.m., by Iraqi Airlines in a Viscount tourist plane for Amman, the capital of Jordan. I went there to stay with my son, who was the local manager of the British American Tobacco Company. I arrived about 11 a.m. and my son, his wife and two daughters were at the airport to greet me.

Amman lies in a hollow, and my son has a house on one of the surrounding hills. He gave a lunch party for me at one of the hotels, after which we spent a pleasant afternoon at the local tennis club. The club is small and has a cosmopolitan membership. In the evening my son and daughter-in-law gave a small dinner party, which consisted of bridge players. There was a cosmopolitan flavour about the company, which as far as I remember consisted of two British, two Arabs, one Russian and two Italians.

* * *

ON the following day, after a visit to my son's factory and office and making the acquaintance of the principal members of his staff, I was taken for a drive in the countryside surrounding the city. Places of interest in Jordan are some distance from Amman and the time at my disposal did not permit of a visit to any of them. I would very much have liked to go to Petra and Jeraz.

The country around Amman is parched and barren, with few trees. I gathered that the rainfall, anticipated some months previously, had not materialised! It was easy to see that farming operations on such a desert was not likely to be lucrative.

* * *

AMMAN, with a population of 250,000, is an ugly city. Its appearance is not improved by an encampment of Palestinian refugees who are housed in tin-roof hutments in the middle of the city. These refugees and their camps are administered by UNRRA, a United Nations organization. Altogether in Jordan there are 570,000 refugees who are drawing relief. These refugees have been in Jordan since they were

driven out of Palestine by the Jews in the Arab-Israel war of 1948. The refugees wish to return to their homes in Palestine or obtain compensation for what they have lost.

The number of Palestinians who sought refuge in Jordan after 1948, totals over one million. Those who do not receive relief have managed to obtain work and have been assimilated with the remainder of the population. The refugees are a real source of trouble to the Jordan Government. Few can obtain work and other Arab states have not come forward with offers to take them in as immigrants.

* * *

THE problem seems insoluble. At the present time Palestinian refugees form a very considerable part of the total population of the country, with a consequent impact on its policy as regards Israel and other Arab states. The presence of the refugees is a festering sore and the whole population is consumed with an intense hatred of the Jews. This is not surprising. Nor is it strange that part of the people of Jordan, and not a negligible part, would welcome the absorption of Jordan in Nasser's kingdom.

It has to be remembered that Nasser's declared aim is the extermination of the Jews in Palestine and its return to Arab rule. Jordan is an artificial country without resources and was carved out of erstwhile Turkish dominions to make a kingdom for a Hashemite ruler. In the circumstances it cannot exist without foreign assistance.

* * *

ON my last evening my son gave a large cocktail party so that I could meet a number of the local celebrities. There were members of the British Embassy and a number of ambassadors. Most of the Arabs I met were originally inhabitants of Palestine who, after their exile, had taken up work and settled down in Jordan. They were mainly from the professional and business classes. Many were lawyers. I was most impressed by their intelligence and culture.

We finished the evening by dining at the principal hotel in Amman as the guests of one of my son's Arab friends. There was dancing and a Cabaret of Cuban girls. The latter made no appeal.

On the following day I left at 4 p.m., by Arab Airways plane, a D.C. 3, for Beirut. I took away with me nothing but happy recollections of the reception I had had in Amman. I arrived in Beirut about 7 p.m. and re-joined my friends, who had come from Baghdad. I was once more installed in the Hotel de Georges. That evening we all dined at a restaurant with a Lebanese friend. There was a cabaret of much better class than those I had experienced in Amman and Baghdad.

* * *

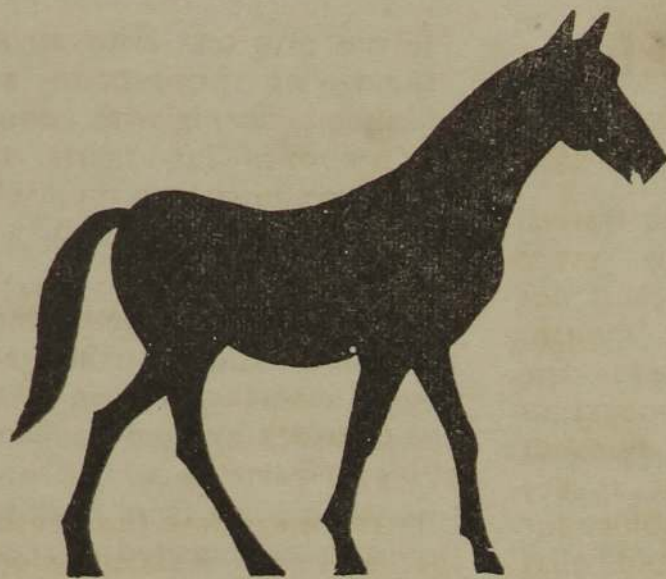
ON the following day our Lebanese friend took us in his Jaguar car to Baalbak, which is world famous on account of its magnificent monuments going back to the Roman period. Baalbak is a small town situated in a plain in eastern Lebanon called the Biqa. It lies north-east of Beirut at a distance of 89 kilometres, and north-west of Damascus, capital of Syria, at a distance of 93 kilometres. From Beirut we passed through most interesting country on the Damascus road.

From sea level we climbed the heights of Mount Lebanon and then descended into the Biqa valley. Before reaching the top of Mount Lebanon we passed some of the best summer resorts in the country. The houses on both sides of the road were well built and gave the impression that they were owned by persons who enjoyed considerable wealth and prosperity. This, I may say, was also the impression made on me by Beirut. The journey took about two hours and a half, and on the way we stopped at a fascinating village restaurant for a welcome glass of beer.

* * *

THE date of Baalbak's foundation is unknown, but from its Semitic name it would appear that it was probably founded by the Cananites, who were known to the Greeks as Phoenicians. The old Semitic peoples of Syria worshipped Hadad, the Baal or Lord of the Sky. This god was identified in the Greek period with Helios, the Sun god. Hence under its Greek occupation

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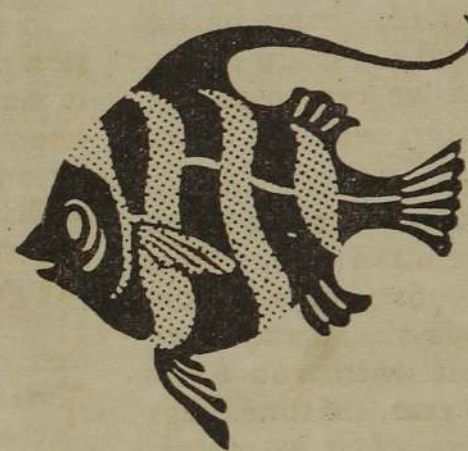
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A LETTER FROM MR. W. T. GRESWELL

(Special to the Ceylon Fortnightly Review)

Taunton, November 6.

It is often said "Time flies" and there are rare occasions when it is said to "drag". And yet what is Time and who would be presumptuous enough to attempt to define it? We read in the daily Press of the discovery in some part of the world of human or animal remains a million years old. We are mildly interested but not impressed. An astronomer gives a talk on Television, exhausts description of the miles that separate the Earth from nearer heavenly bodies and takes refuge in "light years" for those which are further distant. This is too frightening to contemplate because it is beyond the grasp of the human mind. So we return to the truth of the matter, which is easier to understand.

For each one of us Time is Life's span and what we make of it. Most of us are busy. Saturdays follow rapidly on Mondays. Sundays are the measured beat which count out the 52 weeks of a year. If time drags we are the cause of it so doing, because from choice or necessity we are unoccupied, so time hangs heavy—a rare condition for most of us in the age of hustle. In old age activity begins to fail, so our time is more occupied as we try to cope with Life's demands as best we may. Time then flies faster.

* * *

SO we come to the present here in England, to the first week in November. Winter has come at last, ushered in by tempestuous gales. There is snow in the mountains of Scotland and a sharp drop in temperature makes us search for those thicker clothes, which we thankfully discarded in early May, when a wonderful Summer made its entry. In October the rainfall was about the monthly average. The arid acres of the countryside have quickly responded and are green again as Autumn leave are falling, and the first "flu" wave is reported to be mildly asserting itself.

* * *

IN South Africa a Commonwealth cricket side is probably enjoying itself rather than taking things seriously. This is rather a non-descript tour, suggestive of English

end-of-season cricket of the festival order, but commanding more support from a public which is not already satiated with four months cricket every day of the week. The response of individual members of the touring side less rigid demands can be interesting but not a very reliable gauge of their suitability for Test cricket which demand that little extra which is everything. For example Tom Graveney, who has so often failed England while reaping a harvest of runs in County cricket, is in his element. His fluent bat and classic style must be giving grand entertainment.

In the meantime the English Test side to do battle in the West Indies is on the verge of leaving for its important duties. This tour will be a team building one for England faced with the South African visit in 1960 and that of the Australians in 1961, the greatest Test of all.

* * *

THE British public is being irritated and bemused by a series of lightning strikes, unofficial and petty, which, while involving only a few workers in big concerns, may throw out of gear a whole industry and hold up production. The majority of workers themselves condemn such action by men who are often in a key position and are thus so able to create disruption. As often as not there are no legitimate grounds for these strikes and no reference is made first to the Unions, who, by being thus ignored, are rapidly being deprived of the main reason for their existence.

The reason given for one of these strikes was that a young worker, on returning from his honeymoon received sympathetic treatment from the management and was given day instead of night duty. The day workers to whom he was posted downed tools because, so they contended, the addition of this one man to their number, affected in some mysterious way, their weekly pay packets!

* * *

NOT so serious is the strike in progress, as I write, by the British Railways dining car attendants who object to the increase in Pullman service contemplated for the

Midland Region. This strike is not holding up production and only mildly interfering with consumption, gastronomic, for many travellers would prefer to arm themselves with a packet of sandwiches and a thermos flask.

There is a significant similarity in pattern in these strikes and it is openly asserted that it is the new line of attack by Communism for lack of bigger game.

In the meantime the Press reports that a famous Russian scientist has proved to his own satisfaction that the moon is volcanic. Once more communism at work underground and far afield?

* * *

THE West of England Ceylon lunch was held at Taunton, on November 4th, and was attended by the record number of 98 for this annual function. It was a most successful and interesting party and all credit for it goes to Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Gibson, who had all the secretarial work. The attendance was too large to permit of exhaustive personal contacts in the short time available, particularly as the flight of time made recognition a somewhat halting process. One well known ex-Ceylon resident informed me she was about to become a great-grandmother. Her youthful appearance made this hard to believe. Time indeed flies!

Well do I remember being spared a dance or two by this "young lady" in the August Week festivities in Colombo forty years or more ago. Crumbs from rich Beauty's table! A clue to identity? Yes, a planter's wife of course! August Week.

Conversation at this Lunch ranged over many topics but chiefly Ceylon and the Island's present troubles. Today's London "Times" reports from Colombo as follows:—"Ceylon ban on B.B.C. news bulletin. Indefinite suspension."

No comment from me, but how sad that it should come to this!

* * *

AS I bring this letter to a close another strike is announced involving only 25 men, but they are essential to the Rover Motor Co. in the production of components for the world-famed Land Rover. The "Daily Mail" describes this unofficial absurdity as "The Wildest Wildcat!" The reason for this

(Continued on page 32)

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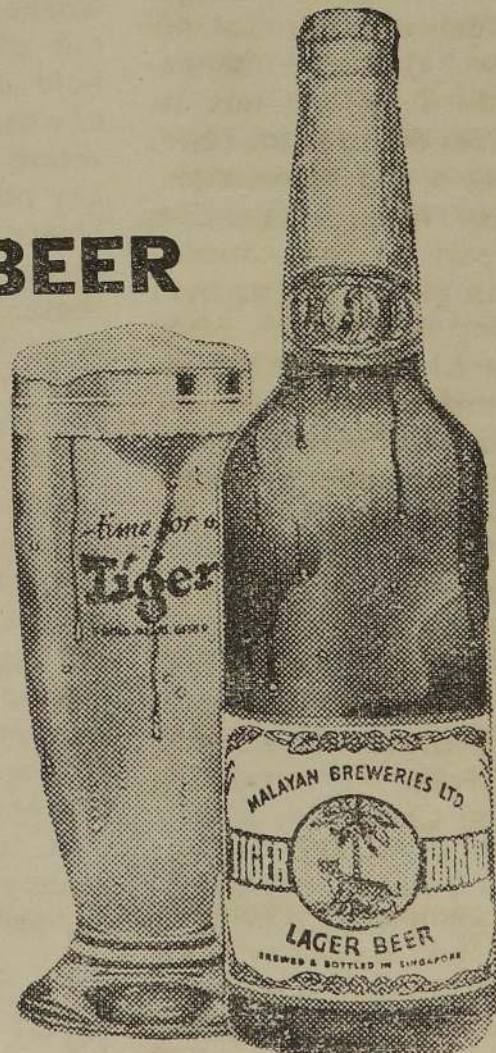
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ART, MUSIC & DRAMA

— By "LYRICUS" —

THE sixth International Exhibition of Photographs at the Lionel Wendt Memorial Theatre, last week, was acknowledged to be the most representative exhibition held so far in Ceylon. Eighteen countries participated, Russia sending in the largest number of entries, 46, out of which the judges selected 20. Altogether 125 pictures were on display out of a total of 400 entries. Although a pictorial exhibition, entries from the photo-journalist school represented a new and welcome approach.

The selection of photographs did credit to the judges, Messrs. B. G. Thornley, D. C. L. Amerasinghe and Shadwell Meynert. The opening of the exhibition marked also the opening of the Ceylon Photographic Society's new premises, which comprise a large studio and three air-conditioned dark rooms adjoining the Lionel Wendt Art Gallery.

* * *

A MUSICAL event of note was the concert of German classical music given by members and friends of the Ceylon-German Friendship Association at the residence of the German Ambassador in Ceylon, "Villa-Berlin", Horton Place. It was arranged by the President and members of the committee of the Association.

The cream of musical talent in Ceylon took part in the concert. Janet Keuneman gave a fine account of herself playing Beethoven's piano Sonata in C. Op. 53. She has proved that she is not only a beautiful soloist but also an effective accompanist. She will be sadly missed in local circles when she leaves for Australia shortly.

Ruth Thornton received high praise for her singing of Richard Strauss' *Staendchen* and excelled in the duet with Lyle Godrige. Incidentally Mrs. Thornton is working with Averil Greet, in producing "Bethlehem" at Christmas.

* * *

A GERMAN composer, Professor G. Trede, is in Ceylon with his wife studying original music of Ceylon and planning to buy typical Ceylonese musical instruments. He composes music for a film company and has already composed music typical of India and Burma and plans

to do the same thing with Ceylon music.

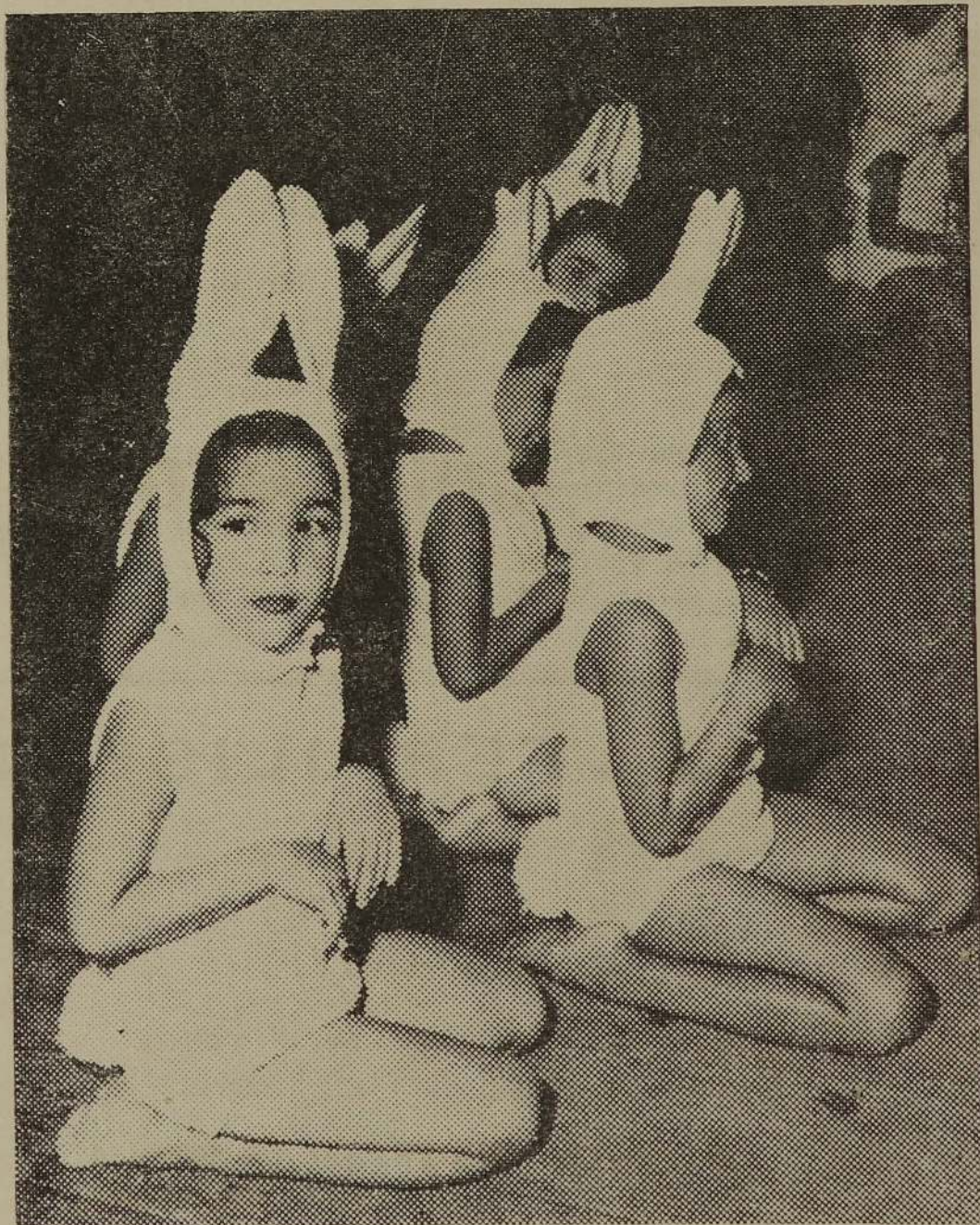
He has shown special interest in the reed instruments—the Sinhalese traditional instruments—used by the "Hewisi" band of the Ceylon Army.

* * *

THE Oxford Playhouse Company, which is visiting Ceylon at the end of this month, comprises 12 actors and actresses under the direction of Mr. Frank Hauser, director of productions at the Playhouse. He will direct three of the four plays they present: "The Man of Destiny", "Don Juan in Hell" and "Twelfth Night". The fourth play, "The Cocktail Party", will be directed by Harold Lang, who also plays Malvolio in "Twelfth Night" and the devil in "Don Juan". A Londoner trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, Lang has appeared in several films and went with the Gielgud Company when it took "Lear" and "Much Ado About Nothing" on a European tour.

Most of the actors have wide experience of repertory acting in the U.K. Robert Bernal spent four years with the Dublin Gate Theatre Company, played at the Art Theatre, London, and the Edinburgh Festival. He plays the inn-keeper in "The Man of Destiny" and an unidentified guest in "The Cocktail Party". Pat Keen (Maria in "Twelfth Night" and Julia in "The Cocktail Party") has toured with the Playhouse in England and the Continent. She spent a year with the Bristol Old Vic, taking part in a wide variety of classical and modern plays and two musicals.

Others in the Company are Sylvia Kay, who has acted on TV; Frank Windsor, who travelled round England with his own touring Shakespearean company; Greville Hallam, who has played in repertory; Nicholas Amer, who has played with Sir John Gielgud's Company, Desmond Jordan, Eric Thompson, Brian Harrison, Patricia Heneghan and Avriil Hall.



—Times

An Item in "A Dance Recital" presented by Timmy Ingleton at the Lionel Wendt Theatre recently in aid of the Ceylon Cancer Society.

PEOPLE

SIR Arthur Ranasinha has taken very little time to get set as Ceylon's Ambassador in Rome. He has had the advantage of administrative experience gained in a wide field during a long and distinguished career in Ceylon. He has been in his time Public Trustee, organiser and director of a Census in which he wrote reports ranking with the work of the late Sir Ponnambalam Arunachalam and Sir Edward Denham, a Permanent Secretary who clarified and co-ordinated the big development schemes launched by Ceylon's first Prime Minister and lastly in the high office of Governor of the Central Bank of Ceylon.

Sir Arthur recently addressed a Press Conference in Rome in connection with the inauguration of the Ceylon Tea Centre there. Mr. A. D. McLeod, senior of the firm of George Steuart & Co., Ltd., and Chairman of the Ceylon Tea Propaganda Board, who is on holiday in the U.K., visited Rome to be present at the inauguration and is now back in England. He returns to Ceylon early in January.

* * *

MR. O. P. RUST, who left Ceylon last year after a residence of fifty years in the Island to spend his retirement in South Africa, where he has a son and daughter, writes to us

from East London last month to say that he has travelled a lot since he arrived in Rhodesia. He was on the same steamer that took Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Aitken on their short holiday to South Africa. Mr. Rust disembarked at Beira while the Aitkens continued their journey to Durban. The Aitkens are back in London.

Mr. Rust mentions that he may visit Ceylon again in the future.

* * *

SIR John Howard, Q.C., our former Chief Justice, writes: "You must in the last month have had some very worrying times. What a dread-



Mr. A. D. McLeod

Chairman of the Ceylon Tea Propaganda Board, who was present at the opening of the Ceylon Tea Centre in Rome.

ful thing the assassination of Mr. Bandaranaike was? I never could have imagined that such a thing could happen in Ceylon, where political assassinations are unknown.

SEVENTY-six-year-old Sir Evelyn Wrench, founder of both the Overseas League and the English-speaking Union, has left Britain on a seven-month tour which will bring him to Ceylon early in 1960. The tour includes Australia, New Zealand, Malaya and Singapore.

The Overseas League will be celebrating its 50th anniversary next year and Sir Evelyn is anxious to bring his knowledge of the Commonwealth up to date. It is 17 years since he was last in India and 18 years since he visited Australia and New Zealand.

He will arrive in Colombo on March 28 and will visit Kandy early in April.

He will end his visit on April 7, when he leaves Colombo by sea on board the "Oranje" for Southampton.

* * *

STUDYING mental health treatment in Britain under the Colombo Plan Technical Co-operation Scheme is Dr. R. Nadaraja, of the Angoda Mental Hospital. Dr. Nadaraja is spending 3 1/2 years at London's Bethlehem Hospital in order to qualify for his diploma in psychological medicine—a recognised professional qualification for a psychiatrist.

* * *

ON a pioneer mission to Pakistan are three Brothers of Christian Schools—Rev. Bro. Stephen Harding, Rev. Bro. Oliver and Rev. Bro. Caesar. They are all Principals of colleges in Ceylon and have been specially selected for the work in view of their experience and qualifications. These three missionaries are to take over the administration of a school in Pakistan and to open a Training College. The Federation of Brothers' Old Boys' Union in Ceylon have arranged to give the three Brothers a "farewell", while the O.B.U. of De La Salle College will accord a "farewell" to Bro. Harding who is Principal of De La Salle College.

* * *

MR. J. F. Samaranayake, a former Ceylonese journalist, who has been with the Vietnam Press News Agency and Radio Vietnam, will be returning to the Island next month after an absence of 17 years, to take up a new appointment as correspondent for Asia Press, Hamburg.

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P E O P L E

A WELL known and popular figure in the southern suburbs of Colombo during the past four decades, Dr. Lawrie Raffel, who has been practising his profession with much acceptance to a grateful public, was eighty years old on the 10th of this month. He has not been in the best of health for some time and his son, Dr. Chris Raffel, has taken over his work and continues the family tradition dating back to the 'eighties when Drs. C. W. and C. T., his uncles, and his elder brother Allan, one time captain of the Colts, ministered to the needs of the Burgher community and others in the Pettah, then a residential quarter.

Dr. Lawrie Raffel, who was educated at Royal College and played in the cricket eleven in the late 'nineties, and also figured prominently in Athletics and Soccer, obtained British qualifications in Glasgow in the early years of this century and on his return to the Island joined the Government Service. He was for some time attached to the Victoria Eye Hospital in Colombo. He took to private practice before World War I with his Dispensary and Surgery at Wellewatte. He was afterwards joined by Dr. Allan Raffel.

Among Dr. Raffel's contemporaries at Royal who are still happily with us are R. L. Pereira, F. H. B. Koch, Sir Tikiri Banda Panabokke, Sir James Obeysekere, Drs. R. L. Spittel, Frank Bartholomeusz, and Cyril Paulusz, still in practice in Lancashire, Forrester Obeyesekere, Dr. Herman Chrissoffels, Hugh and R. E. Stork, Col. Justin Vandersmagt and lastly Kenneth de Kretser, former Director of Public Works, now spending his retirement in Brisbane, Australia.

* * *

THE death occurred in Wales on November 5 of Mrs. Constance Ewart, widow of L. A. Ewart, visiting agent and Manager of Deltota Group, Galaha, for more than 30 years.

* * *

THE death occurred on November 3rd of Mr. A. H. T. de Soysa, the well-known philanthropist. Born on March 4, 1889, he received his early education at Trinity College, Kandy, and studied medicine till, on the death of his father, Mr. S. Peter de Soysa, he took charge of the family extensive planting and other interests.

Mr. de Soysa gave freely and generously to religious, social service and educational institutions. His benefactions to the Salvation Army were recognised by the award to him at the "Army" headquarters in London of the Order of the Distinguished Auxiliary Service Medal; he was the first in the East to receive the award. His Holiness the Pope conferred on him the "Bene Merenti" Gold Medal.

Mr. de Soysa gifted the magnificent Assembly Hall to his old school, Trinity, of the Board of Governors of which he was a member. The industrial schools at Chilaw and Nattandiya, conducted by the Bishop of Colombo, Christ Church and school on his Ingiriya Estate, the King George V Memorial Home for the Aged at Moratuwa, the Chapel of

Holy Emmanuel Church, Moratuwa, de Soysa Park at Moratuwa, a substantial gift to St. Thomas' College, Mt. Lavinia, are but a few of the many benefactions he made.

In 1942, he was made a Justice of Peace for the Western Province and in 1947 for the whole Island. He was a director of several tea and rubber companies. The large and distinguished gathering at his funeral was evidence of the gratitude of the community to this great philanthropist.

* * *

MR. Anthony Brooke, nephew of Sir Charles Vyner Brooke of Sarawak and a student of world affairs, is on a world tour which he is undertaking to study the impact of religion on life today. He left London recently and hopes to visit Colombo from December 2nd to 25th.

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THE ELEPHANT IN CLASSICAL WRITINGS—IV

—By Professor C. A. MacGAUGHEY—

(Fortnightly Review Special)

Punic Wars

CARTHAGE was already a flourishing state in the time of Alexander the Great and the victories of the great conqueror must have made the Carthaginians uneasy. It was feared that he would deal with them after he had vanquished the Persians. The Carthaginians sent an ambassador, Hamilcar Rhodanus, to Alexander's court to spy out the plans of the Macedonians and to pay compliments to their great leader. Fortunately for Carthage, Alexander died at an early age; nevertheless his successors, the Ptolemy dynasty remained a great menace.

The Ptolemy was developing the great port of Alexandria and was extending his dominion over part of Syria and Arabia, over the Island of Cyprus, the Cyclades and soon the sea side towns of Phoenicia, Caria, Pamphilia and even Thrace. Ptolemy's power was extending along the North African coast towards Carthage.

* * *

THE Carthaginians saw that they would have to establish an army equal to that of Ptolemy. It has been suggested by a German historian that the Carthaginians adopted the use of elephants in war after seeing those of Pyrrhus in Sicily but Armandi points out that the Punic war began only 12 years after Pyrrhus' invasion of Sicily and that this time was not enough for the Carthaginians to have captured elephants in the remoter areas of North Africa, domesticated them and trained them in such numbers as they had (several hundreds).

Armandi suggests that as soon as the Ptolemy dynasty was established (after the Battle of Ipsus in 301 B.C.) with Alexandria as its capital, the Carthaginians began preparing for the struggle; they had 37 years to get ready if we suppose they began their preparations after the Battle of Ipsus, 21 years after the accession of Ptolemy Philadelphus. We can assume that they had information of the great collection of elephants made by that King.

NO precise information is available in the sources from which the Carthaginians obtained their elephants but probably it was from Mauretania, Numidia and the Sudan. It is thought that they had at one time 300 trained war elephants. Hanno landed 60 of them in Sicily in a vain effort to drive the Romans off their siege of Agrigentum; in the fight, 44 elephants were killed and 11 taken prisoners.



A Wild Elephant

Some years later, Xanthippe, the Carthaginian leader, had 100 elephants in his army fighting the Roman legions under Regulus. Later still in the struggle for Sicily, Hasdrubal landed 140 elephants, all of which fell into the Roman power; when the Romans finally conquered Carthage, the greatest grief of the defeated Carthaginians, according to Appian (Bell Punic VIII 92) was the loss of their elephants; they lamented with loud wailing and called out their names as if the animals were still alive.

* * *

THE two great battles of the First Punic War were the Battle of Tunis 256 B.C. and the Battle of Palermo 251 B.C. In the first battle, the Spartan General Xanthippe, who commanded the Carthaginian army, made full use of the elephants as

well as Numidian cavalry. The Roman General made tactical errors; the charge of the elephants terrified the Romans, and the Numidian cavalry charge completed their rout. The Roman army was almost exterminated and the Consul Regulus taken prisoner.

The battle is described by Polybius (lib. I.33). The Republic of Rome retaliated by sending a fresh fleet which ravaged the coast of Carthage. To counter-attack, Hasdrubal landed in Sicily with 140 war elephants but the Roman Consul, Cecilius Metellus, was a very far-sighted General; he chose the site of battle, dug trenches, built ramparts, armed his men with flaming torches and enticed the Mahouts on their elephants into his trap; the animals were horribly burnt and, maddened with pain, they turned and stampeded into the Carthaginians; 20,000 of whom were killed; 26 elephants perished and 104 were taken prisoner.

It is recorded by Polybius (l. 38, 39, 40, 41) and by Diodorus the Sicilian (XXIII Ealog. 14) that Metellus, in order to gain control over the surviving elephants, promised liberty to every Carthaginian elephant rider who brought an elephant to him.

* * *

DIODORUS, the Sicilian, says that the Carthaginians owed their defeat to the drunkenness of their Gaulish mercenaries. The defeat was a terrible blow to Carthage. Hasdrubal was disgraced if not executed. The Carthaginians sued for peace and yielded up their prisoner, Regulus, who it seems had gained the admiration of Rome for his courage in adversity. Horace composed a poem in honour of his memory (lib. III od. 5).

After the Battle of Palermo, Rome went mad with joy and Metellus was awarded a great triumph with the 104 elephants in procession, two abreast and with the 13 captive Carthagian Generals loaded with chains. After the triumph, the elephants were put in the circus and left to the tender mercies of the mob, who first tormented them and then killed them with swords.

Medals depicting elephants commemorating the victory of Metellus were struck by his family, the Cecilia.

(Continued on page 32)

OUTCASTS OF NOBLE LINEAGE

By L. J. S.

THE most surprising feature in the social structure of Ceylon is that a comparatively small section of its population, occupying one of the lowest strata of that structure, are of noble lineage. They are the Rodiyas or "untouchables" as they have been stigmatized by the caste-conscious. But they are in fact the direct descendants of noblemen who became outcasts as the result of a king's curse.

Their expulsion from the pale of society took place in an age so remote that even the traditions as to its cause are confused or forgotten. Tennent in his book on ancient Ceylon refers to a legend which describes them as the descendants of a king's courtiers condemned to

never-ending degradation for having supplied the king's kitchen with human flesh instead of venison. This, however, is regarded by some as quite apocryphal.

But all the accounts regarding the genesis of the Rodiyas seem to be agreed on one point, namely, that the nobles who formed the king's entourage deceived him on one occasion by making him believe that a dish served at a palace banquet was roasted venison when actually it was some other flesh which was obnoxious to him.

* * *

CENTURIES ago, say the legends, there lived a Sinhalese King who was a great Epicurean, fond of

doing himself well and of entertaining high officials of his State to sumptuous banquets. On the eve of a banquet the courtiers would receive orders from him regarding the menu he would like to have served up.

One day the menu included venison spitted to a turn. But the nobles too were great hedonists and on this particular day, after they had received the king's order, they gave themselves up to high carousal. The next morning, with still befuddled minds, some of the nobles hastened to the forest to shoot a stag, but their luck was out. No stag wandered into their ken, and so they hit upon a ruse, and introduced into the royal commissariat some other kind of flesh which was skilfully dressed to look like venison.

* * *

SOME days after the banquet the king's barber, who had heard of the deception, whispered it to the King, who worked himself up in a trice into a towering rage. He immediately issued an edict banishing the entire band of his courtiers into the forest and forbidding them, on pain of death, to enter any part of his State. They were never again to own land or other property and they were never to stand face to face with their fellowmen. The descendants of these exiled nobles are the Rodiyas of today.

* * *

THE number of these social outcasts is now estimated at about 2,000. They are scattered throughout the hill country and the southern fringe of the north-central jungles. To this day they are not permitted to fetch water from wells but, like animals during a long drought, they have to go in search of pot-holes or ravines to obtain water for their personal needs. They live a nomadic life wandering from place to place whining for alms. As beggars, they are extremely importunate; they never take "no" for an answer. It is not pity but desperation that often makes caste people throw a coin or two to these troublesome mendicants from a distance for fear of pollution.

* * *

SOCIAL subjection of many years has reduced the Rodiyas to a position little removed from animals. During the Kandyan dynasty their



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OUTCASTS OF NOBLE LINEAGE

degradation was at its lowest. They were not allowed to build houses but had to live in hovels. They were not allowed to come within a fenced field even to beg; they were prohibited from wearing a cloth on their heads, and neither men nor women were allowed to cover their bodies above the waist or below the knee.

* * *

THE Rodiyas could not enter a court of justice, but had to megaphone their complaints to the presiding judge from a respectful distance; and though virtually Buddhists, they could not enter temples but had to pray, like the publicans of old, "standing afar off". They were forced to subsist on alms or such gifts as they might receive for protecting the fields from

the beasts or burying the carcasses of dead cattle.

One of the most dreaded of all social punishments during the days of the Kandyan kings was to hand over a high caste woman offender to the Rodiyas whose ritual of initiation into their fold consisted of taking chewed betel from a Rodiya's mouth and placing it in the mouth of the initiate. This act was supposed to make the woman's degradation indelible till death.

* * *

SO vile and valueless had the Rodiyas become at this stage of their social degeneration that when it was represented to a king that the Rodiyas had so multiplied as to be a nuisance to the villagers, an order was given to reduce their numbers by shooting a certain pro-

portion in each *Kuppayama* or segregated area.

* * *

DURING the colonial period the reclamation of the Rodiyas began and made good progress under the sympathetic treatment of missionaries. The people, too, in the areas beyond which these unfortunates lived began to show a humane and tolerant attitude, and under these civilizing influences, the Rodiyas gradually shed their self-consciousness and timidity, while the more venturesome among them picked up some village trades in which they became quite proficient.

But even today, although aware of their noble ancestry, a good many of them prefer to live in their own clannish ways away from the pale of civilization.

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A VISIT TO THAILAND

THE RECENT ECAFE CONFERENCE

— By F. D. C. WIJESINGHE —

WHEN we arrived in Thailand after a comfortable and interesting plane journey it was raining at Don Muang Airport and the K. L. M. Company sent their coach along the tarmac close up to our plane to save us from getting wet. Delegates to ECAFE Conferences are spared most of the trials that travellers have to undergo at the hands of Customs officials and we were soon whisked again into the Company's coach and were speeding along towards Bangkok.

It is some 18 kilometres from the airport to Bangkok (1.6 kilometres to the mile) and one of my fellow delegates who had been to Bangkok before began to acquaint me with the scenery. "This," he said, "is a 'klong'." "As Thailand is low-lying it is full of these 'klongs' or canals. The water is dirty but they are the chief means of transport in the country."

As our coach sped along we passed some beautiful public buildings and were told that their architecture was partly Thai and partly Western. They were only a foretaste of the splendid buildings in Bangkok itself. What, I asked my companion, was this needle-like monument before us. That, I was told, was the "Monument of Victory", and those figures of soldiers were those who sacrificed their lives for their country in the war. "Which war?" I asked, but he did not know.

I noticed that many of the houses were built on piles to keep them above water level. As we passed a magnificent edifice more like a great pavilion than a private house, I was told that that was the residence of a

man who had amassed wealth by the sale of opium. It was certainly a revelation to me.

* * *

THERE are two state-aided hotels which cater mainly for persons attending various Conferences. They are the Suriyanond and Rathano kosi hotels. For those who want luxury and can afford it there is the Eravan. We chose the Suriyanond as it was only half a mile from the ECAFE Headquarters and were accommodated in an air-conditioned double room for which we had to pay 132 bahts (4.4 bahts to the Rupee).

The Suriyanond lies along the Raja Damnoen Avenue, one of the finest roads in Bangkok. I was told that this road was constructed with American aid and so were two of the splendid bridges that spanned the Chao Phya river. Close to our hotel was the "Monument of Democracy". I spent half an hour marvelling at the beauty of its enchanting frieze and full of admiration for the Thai artificers who fashioned it.

I was advised that meals in the hotels were expensive. So I took only my breakfast in the hotel, and

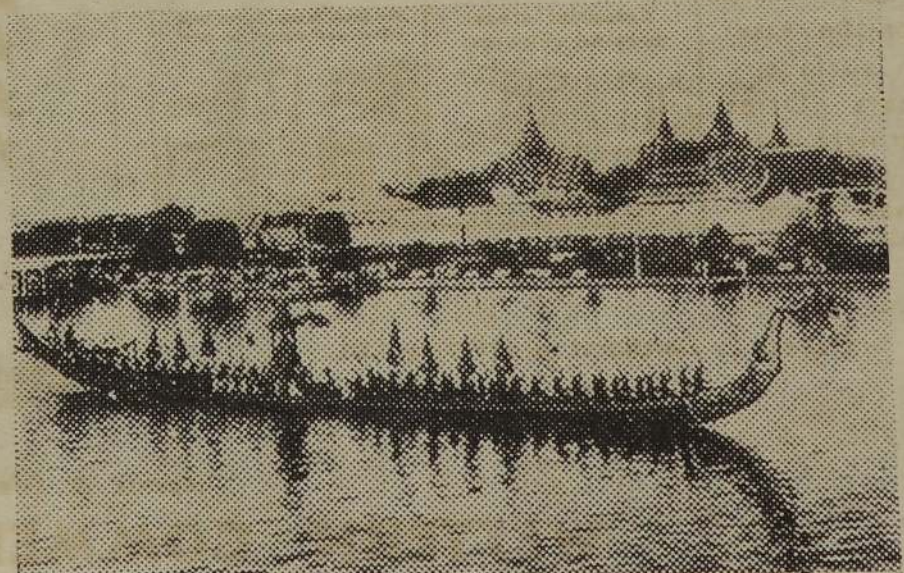
my lunch at the excellent cafeteria at Santhithan Hall, the ECAFE Headquarters, walking down to the Debaros restaurant for my dinner when we were not invited out. As our daily allowance was not too generous, some of my fellow delegates made the numerous cocktails parties do for dinner, but this I could not do as my digestion was not quite so good as theirs.

I liked Thai food but I missed my "hodi". The rice was highly polished and the curries, though tasty, lacked the gravy that sends the rice down one's throat so easily. My favourite dish was a Chinese preparation—Chicken Chow Mien. Chicken is comparatively cheap and plentiful in Bangkok. There is a restaurant which specialises in chicken dishes and it does not ever suffer from a lack of custom.

I found the people friendly although I could not communicate with the majority of them, not knowing their language. They are eager to learn English and I found several flourishing language institutes where, on inquiry, I was told only English is taught. However, in places like the fruit market I had to turn away disappointed as I just could not make myself understood.

The Thais, both men and women, are quite handsome. The men wear trousers while the women wear slacks or frocks. The majority of working women wear a white blouse and blue skirt that seem to suit them admirably.

(To be continued)



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A Bangkok scene—ceremonial royal barge and dagobas in background.

A SPORTS CAUSERIE

By "ITINERANT"

Ladies' Golf Title for Mrs. L. Weeraratne

MRS. Lilamani Weeraratne won the 1959 Ladies' Golf Championship of Ceylon, played recently on the Ridgeway course, very convincingly and proved beyond a doubt that she is the best exponent of Ladies' golf in the Island at the present time. Since her success in the H.G.C. Ladies' Championship early this year she has shown marked improvement and was generally tipped to win her first title as Lady Champion of Ceylon this year. Though several well known players, including Mrs. R. Beadon, representing Up-country, had entered the lists, Mrs. Weeraratne displayed such fine form from the start of the competition that she eventually won as she liked, her victory over Mrs. Cooper in the quarter finals by 6 up and 5, followed by her smashing win over Mrs. Pam Fernando in the semi-finals by 6 up and 5, clearly pointing to her chances of wresting the honour from Mrs. G. D. Gordon in the final. When Mrs. Gordon followed up her success over Mrs. N.W. G. Brown in the quarter finals by 5 and 4, by gaining a most creditable win against Mrs. Beadon in the semi-final after a close finish, she showed such fine qualities as a resourceful golfer that many considered her chances of taking Mrs. Weeraratne all the way in the 36-hole final.

* * *

EXPECTATIONS of a close final were, however, not realised. Mrs. Weeraratne held a lead of 3 up at the end of the morning round though playing below the form she had shown in her earlier matches. Mrs. Weeraratne's weakness was on the greens taking three putts at the 9th, 10th and 11th. Mrs. Gordon too was not showing anything like her best form, her chief fault being her indifferent driving. At one stage Mrs. Weeraratne led 4 up and but for Mrs. Gordon's excellent putting would have had a bigger lead at the 18th. Mrs. Gordon sank a six-foot putt at the 9th, a 20-ft. putt at the 14th and a 7-foot putt at the 18th to keep her in the fight.

Mrs. Gordon lost the first two holes in the afternoon and was five down. Mrs. Weeraratne was giving nothing away, her improved putting being a factor in her lead of 4 up at

the 26th. Later Mrs. Gordon was 5 down at the 27th. A bogey 4 at the 28th made Mrs. Weeraratne 6 up with 8 to go. The next two holes were halved, leaving Mrs. Weeraratne dormy six. A bogey 3 at the 31st gave Mrs. Weeraratne the match—7 up and 5.

It was a well deserved victory. Mrs. Weeraratne had displayed excellent form all through the meet, and all her wins were gained by substantial margins. Her best achievement was her 39 in the outward journey in her semi-final tie against Mrs. Fernando after having three putted once.

Mrs. J. A. Cooper referred the final and Mrs. R. J. Gilmour, wife of the R.C.G.C. President, gave away the prizes.

* * *

Royal Colombo win Puffin Cup

THE contest for the Puffin Cup presented in memory of the late Mr. M. H. Lushington, one of the keenest Up-country golfers of his time, was decided on the Nuwara Eliya course last week and ended in a most creditable victory for the side representing the Royal Colombo Golf Club over the Nuwara Eliya G. C. Ladies, after the latter had squared the Foursomes, winning the two most important of the four matches decided in the morning's play.

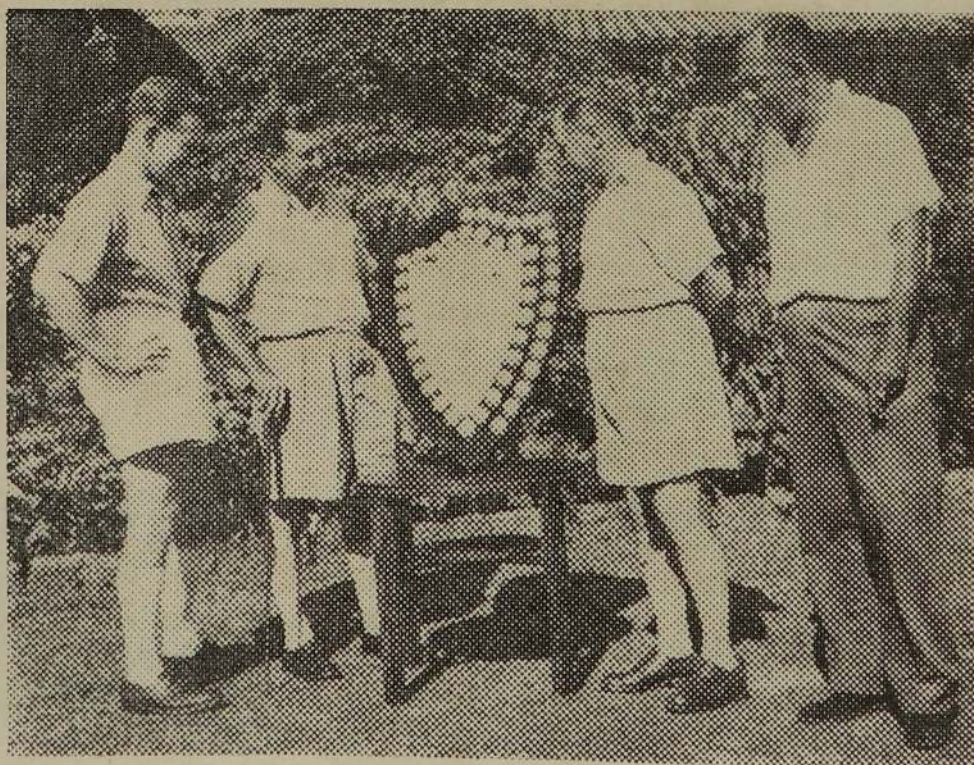
Racing

ONCE again punters fared badly when the last day of the October race meet was run. Only one favourite obliged, and that in the two-horse class I race—(The Kandy Stakes, 1 mile)—which was annexed by Summer Gold from Merlin.

The other five winners, however, did not win out of turn, the yielding going favouring most of them. Mrs. G. N. G. Walles's Mascara chalked up his first win in Ceylon easily, scoring in the Passara Plate (1¼ mile). Star of Gold, Pearl of the East and Neptune followed him home, with the rest of the field spread-eagled far behind.

Trainer Clement Walles and Jockey Somapala scored their second success for the day with another first-time winner, Sa'ad Sa'ad, in the Tamankaduwa Plate (6 furs.) Cautious Chevalier, well ridden by A. P. Perera, obliged in the Avissawella Plate (9 furs.), Saturn had a comfortable run home in the Mannar Handicap (1¼ miles) and Peter Pan paid the day's biggest dividend in winning the Beruwela Plate (9 furs.) and surviving an objection.

Fields, on the whole, were poor during the October meet, but racing was good and the winners generally ran to form even though not being outstandingly fancied. The new Board of Stewards appear to have things well in hand and the sport, facing a ban in five years, appears to be able to carry on, threats notwithstanding.



Finalists in the R.C.G.C. Shakspeare Shield Golf Competition—E. Turner-Green and G. J. Ross (left) of Turquand Young & Co. beat R. G. W. Hutton and S. Muthukumaraswamy of Hayleys.

—Times

A SPORTS CAUSERIE

RACING last week-end had punters going home in a happy state of mind, four first favourites and a second favourite obliging in a card of six events and paying reasonable dividends.

The only race won by an outsider saw favourite Safirat al Bahrain winning from outsider Shamir al Khair in a photo-finish,* only to lose the race in the Stewards room. Favourites Minette, Saad Saad and Persian Image romped home comfortable winners in the first three races, the second-named being a most impressive winner. Then came a bad start that saw the fancied Bell of Enterprise slowly away, the result being a win for Good Luck. The "objection" race which also saw a poor start followed and the day's proceedings ended with Mahbub Hamid obliging the small crowd in no uncertain manner.

Fields were small, but the racing was good.

* * *

Cricket

IN all three "Sara" Trophy matches only first innings decisions were reached, rain interfering with Sunday the 8th's play.

B. W. Gooneratne taking 4 for 32 held the Tamils to 117 runs, only a 56 by skipper Parathalingam helping them to recover from 23 for 5. The University in turn had trouble, but Gooneratne's 46 and Joachim's 25 n.o., figured in a 9th wicket stand that enabled the Varsity to total 152. Rajendram took 4 for 12. When play ended the Tamils had scored 43 for 3.

With useful batting all down the order, the BRC totalled 175 against Moratuwa, for whom D. P. Jayasinghe took 6 for 42. Then Moratuwa folded up for 122 (S. Fonseka 44) against Berenger (5 for 42) and Schoorman (3 for 42). B. R. Heyn 66 n.o. and T. Matthys 53, helped BRC to a 154 for 5 total, compiled most enterprisingly, at close.

The S.S.C. were the only team to come anywhere near winning outright, but by batting a second time quite unnecessarily they foiled themselves against Negombo. Batting first, they scored 315 for 5 before declaring, Sarath Silva scoring 96, Wanigaratne 57, F. C. de Saram 51 n.o. and N. S. Gurusinghe 46 n.o.

The Home team collapsed for 60 against R. B. Wijeyesinghe's 4 for 8 and C. I. Gunsekera's 3 for 11. Batting a second time the visiting tail-enders knocked up 50 for 2, but failed to get Negombo out. At close their home score was 96 for 9, a painstaking 50 by Owen Perera propping the score. S. de Alwis took 5 for 24.

* * *

"SARA" Trophy cricket last week-end resulted in two major upsets. The Champions, the S.S.C. sportingly batted on in fading light and lost to a top-of-their-form young Colts team, 172 to 243, only one innings being played. D. P. de Silva's 51 and L. Ebert's 54 propped up the Colts' batting against R. B. Wijesinghe's good bowling (5 for 67). Abu Fuard, taking 5 for 67, wrecked the S.S.C. batting.

An even century by C. Joseph enabled lowly Negombo to reach a 178-run total and then N. Fernando (6 for 66) baffled runner-up N.C.C. into a poor score of 167, providing the second upset of the week-end. Unlucky not to gain first innings points were the B.R.C. who scored 317 (C. Reid 136 n.o.). In reply, the Tamils were 138 for 8 at close.

K. Caldera (70) and C. Weerasinghe (66) enabled the Saracens to pile up 236 against the Moors who found S. Yatawara, A. E. de Silva and R. Perera too much for them, being able to collect only 132. Bloomfield collected first innings points against the Varsity in a match which could have been anyone's if it had continued to a finish. Bloomfield collected 141 hard-earned runs and then skittled out the Varsity for 78 (Arichandran 4 for 27, K. S. Perera 3 for 26). In their second venture Bloomfield in turn collapsed (R. de Silva 4 for 17), but at close Varsity were 22 runs short with four wickets standing.

* * *

FORMER Ceylon skipper M. Sathasivam, led a Malayan XI against the Australian team to Pakistan and India and though failing individually skippered the team to a fairly creditable draw. After the match the ex-Ceylon batting star was chosen to lead Malaya on the four-match tour of Hong Kong.

Table Tennis

THE National Table Tennis Championships to the fore. With Dick Schoorman and Chrys Gunaratne not participating, young Varsity student Buddy Reid annexed the men's title, beating Lakdawalla in four sets. The women's title went to teen-ager Frances Ratnayake, who beat veteran Belle Wirekoon in straight sets.

The champions combined for the Mixed Doubles, but Reid failed to achieve the triple crown when he and his partner went down to C. Daniels and Miss N. Ratnayake after winning the first two sets. Reid had partnered Daniels earlier to win the men's doubles in four sets from Thambinayagam and Fernando-pulle.

* * *

Hockey

THE long-delayed Pioneer Cup hockey final re-play found the Havelocks beating the BRC by the odd goal in three. This Colombo Hockey Association knock-out tournament final however, did not provide hokey of the class expected from teams studded with "stars" scheduled to tour N. India with the C.H.F. team. The Wijekoon brothers, D. and H., scored for the victors, while J. C. de Kretser converted a penalty corner for the losers.

Addressing the small crowd of spectators at the Prize Distribution, Dr. N. M. Perera deplored the fact that so little public support was given to the one game in which Ceylon had reached international standards. He promised all support to the sport.

Government meanwhile has come through with a Rs. 5,000 grant to the team for the Indian tour.

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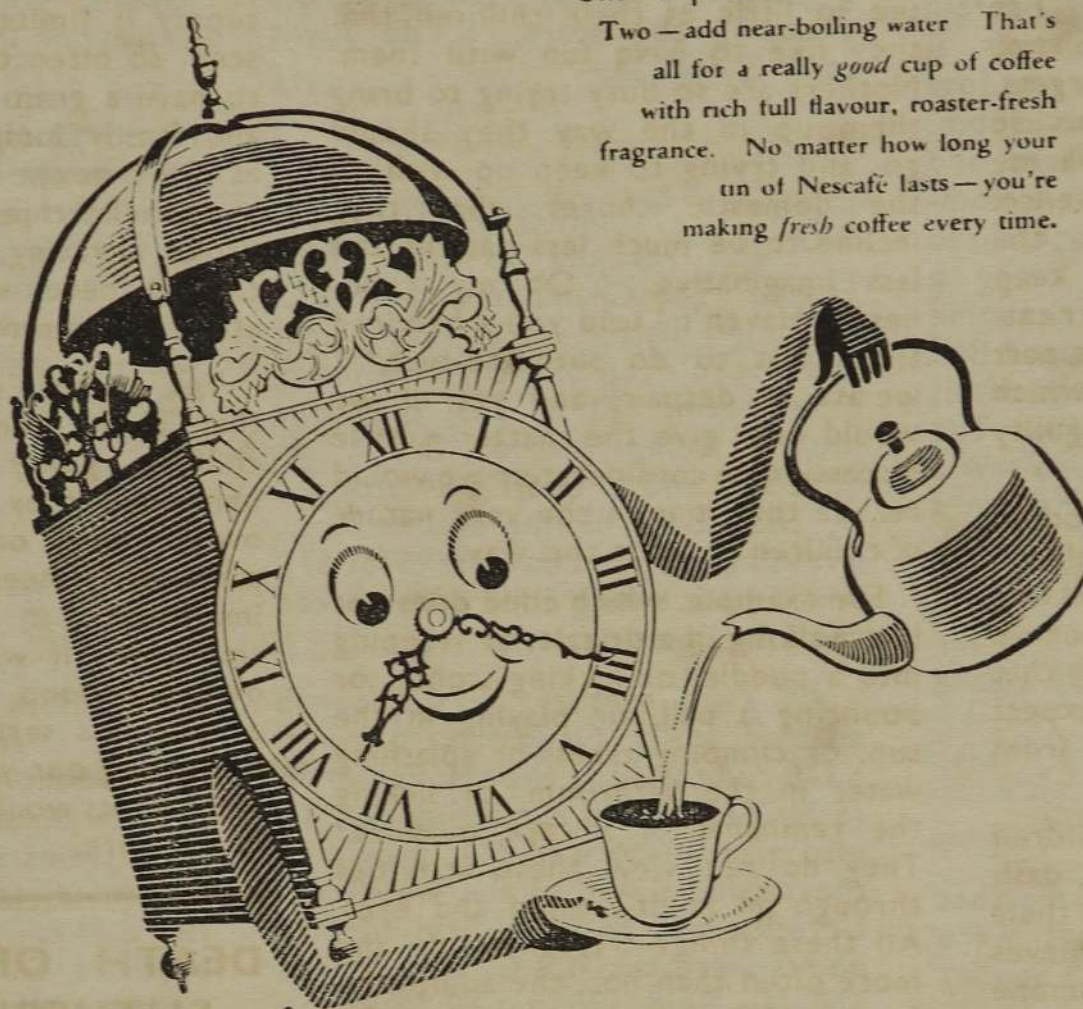
Boxing

TWO bad decisions, one of which was vociferously booed by the spectators, cost the Ceylon Y.M.A. boxing team their match against the Calcutta Y.M.A. in Calcutta.

The home team was 6, after V. G. Rodrigo was at the losing end of a bad decision in the first fight and C. P. Jayasooriya also met the same fate, resulting in the audience demonstration. Jayasooriya appeared to have convincingly won but it must be admitted that he was not in the best of condition.

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ANOTHER OF NESTLÉ'S GOOD THINGS

A WOMAN'S DIARY

PARENTS FORGET

By ANNE

A FOND father of my acquaintance showed me a little cutting from a magazine the other day, entitled "Father Forgets". "I'm taking this home," he said, "because it isn't father who forgets, it's mother!" The short article he had with him certainly gave me more than a twinge of conscience, for it focussed attention on the tendency parents have to keep shouting at their children for irritating traits and foibles that are part and parcel of childhood and of which all parents must have been guilty in their own infancy.

We forget our own childhood so quickly and we scold our children as if they were adults, forgetting all too soon that children behave differently to grown-ups and that it is unreasonable of us to expect adult standards of behaviour from them.

It irritates us to hear children shout, ask perpetual questions, dash through the house, not wipe their feet on rugs, not use handkerchieves and serviettes, spill things, scrape furniture, dirty walls, not wash their hands before meals, lose books and pencils and pens, forget to copy their homework, tear their clothes, and do (or not do) a hundred-and-one other things which seem to be practised for our torment. I know I am often near to tearing my hair in annoyance over little molehills like these, which tend to loom into mountains when viewed through adult eyes.

* * *

PLEASE don't make a noise, the baby is asleep," I plead with my youngsters and then lose my temper because the very next minute somebody has shouted out aloud. I have had several babies and through the years I have continually been exhorting my older children "not to make a noise because the baby is asleep". Once, when I made the same old plea, our eldest looked at me so reproachfully that I felt moved to add, "This is the last baby, darling, so when she grows up a little you can make as much noise as you like." More in sorrow than in anger, my ten-year-old replied: "By the time she

grows up we'll be too old to make a noise!"

I do think my friend was right in saying that we mothers are the people who generally forget what it is like to be a child.

* * *

FATHERS are more tolerant and understanding as a rule, and see so little of their children that they like to have fun with them. Mothers are so busy trying to bring them up in the way they should go, and trying to keep up with all the domestic chores, that they incline to be much less patient and less imaginative. "Oh my goodness! Haven't I told you a hundred times not to do such-and-such?" we ask in despair, and yet, if we would only give the matter a little dispassionate consideration we would realize that it is in the very nature of children to act in this way.

For example, which child does not like walking in a drizzle, or stepping into a puddle, or kicking stones, or bouncing a ball, or playing in the sun, or climbing trees, or splashing water in the bathroom, or licking the remnants of a cake mixture? They do not view these activities through an adult's mind and eyes. All these things are fun to do and more often than not, the adult who fusses and fumes seems, to the child, to be most unreasonable.

* * *

WE would save ourselves a lot of nervous tension and strain if we would stop expecting too much from children, if we would realize that they are not small-scale adults but little beings incapable, for the most part, of understanding or appreciating the rules and regulations set them by the alien world of grown-ups. Of course, we have to try to teach them good conduct and polite behaviour, but we have also to remember that this is a long and tedious process, just as our own parents must have found it in our own case. Getting "worked up" about the idiosyncrasies of children, their inability to follow instructions and their tendency to ignore rules, does no good. We must accept things philosophically. They will learn in time, but raging will not quicken the process.

* * *

HOW often I find myself saying to my children, "Really, do you think money grows on trees?" That, surely, is the silliest

question possible and yet one that I am sure parents down the ages have kept repeating. Of course, children do not think money comes off trees, but they see it come out of their fathers' wallets, and as long as it supplies their needs and sometimes a few luxuries as well, they do not delve into its real source, nor do they understand that its supply is limited. Yet we parents seem so often to expect little ones to have a grasp of home economics and family budgeting. We behave as if we never lost books and pens and handkerchieves as children, never broke anything, never stained our clothes, never wasted food, never asked our parents for luxuries.

Yes, parents do forget too often that they themselves were once children, guilty often of the same behaviour they condemn in their own young ones. We mothers particularly, need more humour and imagination in our dealings with small fry. If we would recall our own childhood more often and be a little less serious about the task or rearing our young, both children and parents would enjoy life together much more.

DEATH OF Mrs. ALICE SUTHERLAND-ROSS

Former Ceylon Lady Tennis Champion

THE death occurred in London, on November 9th, of Alice Violet Sutherland-Ross, widow of Walter Sutherland-Ross, former partner of Messrs. Bois Bros., Colombo, and daughter of the late Sir Frederick Saunders of the Ceylon Civil Service.

One of our best Lady tennis players in the early years of this century, Mrs. Sutherland Ross was Lady Champion of Ceylon in 1908 and 1910, her victory over Miss Brook Smith in the latter year being a fine achievement. Her victory in the challenge round over Mrs. Benham in 1908 was equally notable. Mrs. Sutherland Ross and her husband, who was an excellent doubles player, won more than one coveted trophy in Mixed Doubles both at Nuwara Eliya and the Garden Club tournaments. A stylish player, Mrs. Sutherland-Ross was always worth watching and her matches in the Championships at Nuwara Eliya seldom failed to attract a crowd.

PROFILE

(Continued from page 13)

FOR thirty-five years, Noel Coward has held the centre of the stage in a variety of roles. His first nights are still an occasion—his name in lights outside a theatre ensures a bumper house. Now in his middle years, he has found himself a new career, that of Cabaret Entertainer and as a Cabaret artist he has no equal. There is no one who can put over a number with such point, precision and finish.

With so prodigious and diverse an output, there is bound to be unevenness and even failure. No one is more aware of this or more self-critical than Noel Coward himself. He has recently achieved a sensational flop in New York. At once he announced that yet another play was ready for production; he flew to Barcelona to supervise the presentation of his first ballet, *London Morning*, and found time to film in Cuba with Alec Guinness in Graham Greene's *Our Man in Havana*.

THE ELEPHANT IN CLASSICAL WRITINGS

(Continued from page 23)

Pliny (Hist. Nat. VIII) condemns the barbarous destruction of the captured elephants, but Armandi, while not exonerating the Romans, explains that they could not afford to keep the elephants and that they had no desire to use them in warfare. As well as these two battles in the First Punic War, there were several engagements in Carthage itself when the Mercenary army composed of Numidians, Galatians, Gauls, Celtiberians (i.e. from Spain, Greeks and Balearic Islanders, revolted and threatened Carthage. First Hanno and then Hamilcar Barca saved the city with the aid of a volunteer army and a force of elephants (the Battle of Macar).

This campaign which lasted 3 years is described by Polybius, Diodorus and Cornelius Nepos.

(To be continued)

A LETTER FROM Mr. W. T. GRESWELL

(Continued from page 17)

madness was that a shop steward wished to take his family private car to be serviced during working hours. The management naturally

declined to give leave of absence for this purpose. The public is left wondering, what next?

The new Parliament has got to work in a strangely conciliatory inter-party atmosphere. It may be that the Labour opposition is still licking its wounds after the Election rough-handling and has to settle its own family affairs and future policy before joining battle in the House with the degree of acrimony worthy of an Opposition.

MATTERS OF MOMENT

(Continued from page 7)

His tour includes visits to some 20 cities and towns, talks with U. S. reclamation and irrigation officials and engineers and with agriculturalists and educators.

Shortly after his arrival in the United States early in July, Mr. Gunasekera spent a week with officials of the famed Tennessee Valley Authority. In late July he visited the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation at Denver to observe procedures for irrigation projects and methods of preparing plans for multiple purpose projects. Last month he travelled north to observe operations of the vast Columbia Basin Project intended to reclaim about one million acres of semi-arid land on the Pacific North West.

* * *

THE British prototype of an instrument to be flown in a United States earth satellite was shown recently at an exhibition at the Imperial College, London. It was designed by a British scientist heading a 16-man research group whose members include a Ceylonese physicist.

The designer is Dr. H. Elliot, who worked with a team of four on the satellite project. The remainder of his group are working on other aspects of cosmic ray research and include Dr. T. Thambyahpillai, formerly of the University of Ceylon, Colombo, who is now working as a research assistant in the physics department of the Imperial College.

The instrument they have been concerned with weighs only 2 lb. and is intended to make measurements of cosmic rays outside the earth's atmosphere. It is meant to find out more about energy of atomic particles and to help determine the density of cosmic rays in outer space.

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IMPRESSIONS OF THE MIDDLE EAST—IV

(Continued from page 15)

Baalbak was given the name of Heliopolis or City of Sun. Traditions and legends have also connected Baalbak with old Biblical figures such as Adam, Cain, Noah, Nimrod and Solomon. These legends show the importance attached to the city, which at an early date became famous as a religious centre and in which the Semites built a temple for the Baal. After the sixteenth century B.C. there was a period of Egyptian rule. There was, however no trace of this rule nor of that of Alexander the Great or the Seleucids who followed except for the fact that hellenization took place. Thus the gods and cities were given Greek names and identified with deities and places. It is this way that Baalbak became Heliopolis. The new name was kept under the Romans, who ruled the country after B.C. 64, and the Baal or Sun God was identified with the Roman god Jupiter and came to be known as Jupiter of Heliopolis.

IN MEMORIAM

IN memory of Mr. J. Wilmot Perera, one of Ceylon's leading lawyers, who died twelve months ago. Wilmot Perera distinguished himself while he was a student at St. Thomas' College and won distinctions in English, Latin, Greek, French and Religious Knowledge both in the Junior and Senior Cambridge examinations. He was in later years nominated to the Ceylon Civil Service. He competed for the University Scholarship the year the late Mr. Lawrence H. Arndt won it. He took to Law and was in practice when he was appointed a District Judge in the nineteen-twenties.

Mr. Wilmot Perera, whose mother was a sister of the late Sir Solomon Dias Bandaranaike, had three sons, Mr. Fred Perera, an engineer in the P.W.D., Mr. Wilmot P. Perera, who predeceased him, and Mr. Ronald Perera, the Colombo Advocate. His only daughter, Miss Doreen Perera is a graduate of the Ceylon University. She has been a lecturer in leading Colombo Colleges and has held office in the Ceylon Federation of University Women since its inception.

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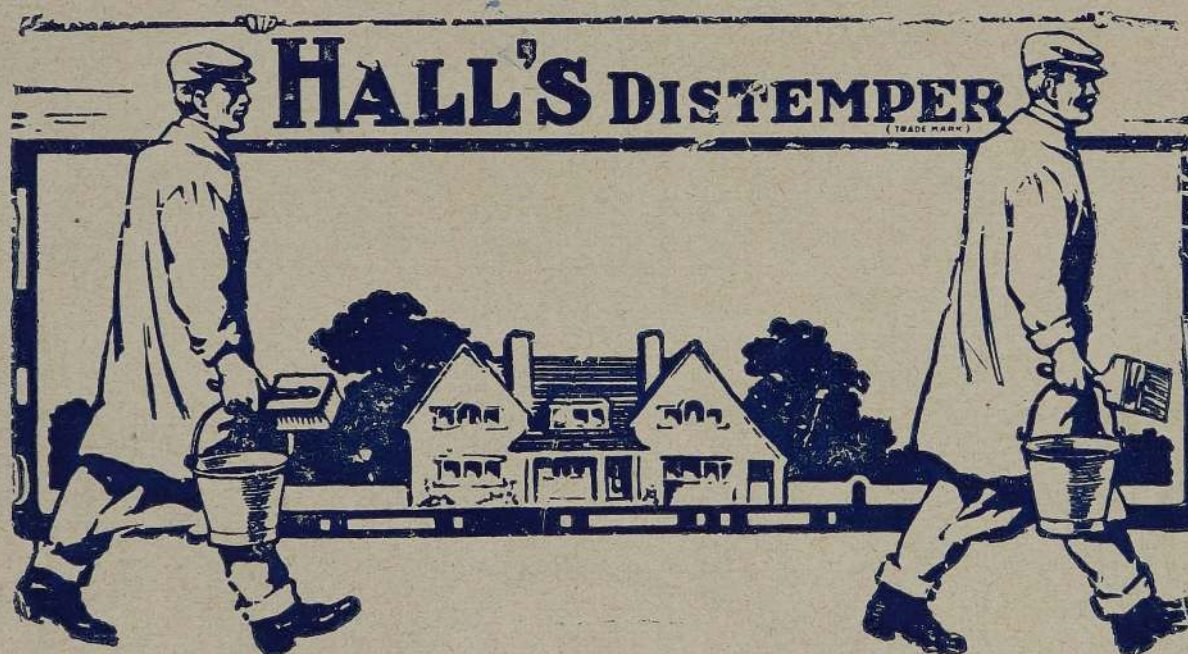
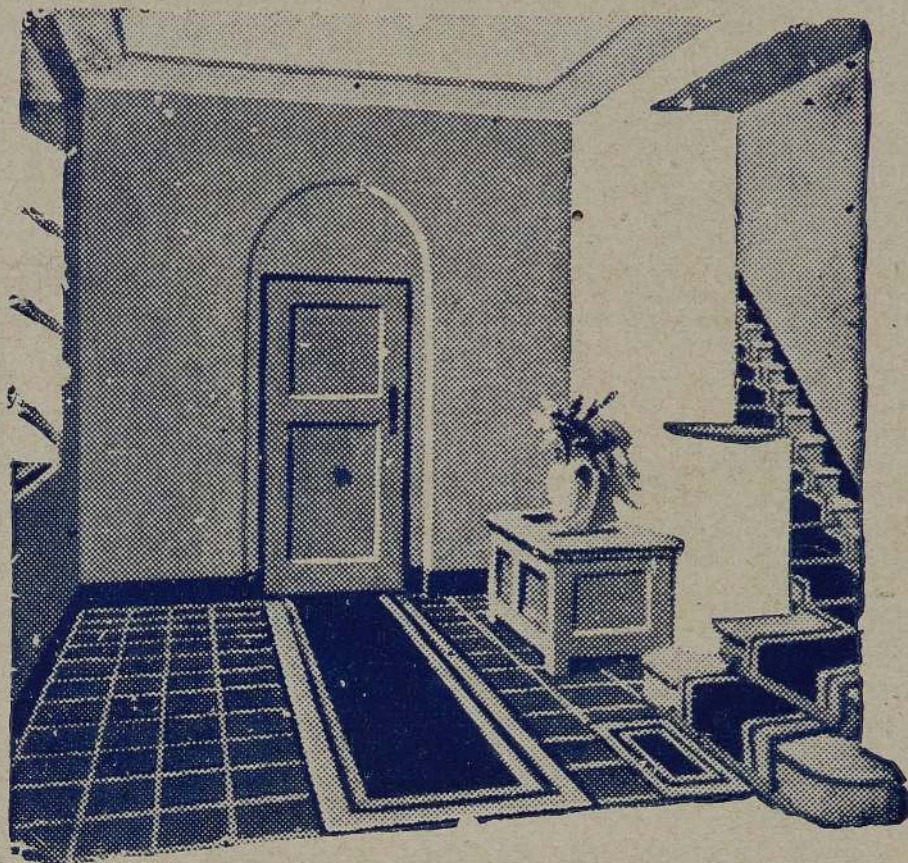
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