

# THE SEARCHLIGHT

VOL 35 NO. 14

COLOMBO

August 15th 1956

## Ceylon's Banian Industry

### Why Not Prohibit Foreign Imports altogether?

AN ALLEGED RACKET THAT MUST BE SMASHED

CEYLON'S Hosiery Industry has now past the infant stage. True, it is still very young. But it is a virile young thing, growing fast and growing well, and showing full signs of promise. If carefully looked after and tendered, it is capable of developing into Ceylon's main Textile Industry. In view of such a prospect, the Government which claims to be of a socialist type, must rise to a sense of its responsibility and be prepared to speed that happy day eventuating. It must give it every encouragement and support. It must not be niggardly towards it or pursue a cheese-sparing policy in regard to its up-bringing. Let us here look back a bit.

The Hosiery Industry was born in the aftermath of the Second World War. It was conceived as the result of years of dependence on foreign manufacturers and their local agents, who imported and distributed for sale Cotton Banians. Compelled, therefore, by inexorable circumstances coupled with the bitter experience of the past, Ceylon at long last seriously turned her attention to manufacturing her own product. Thanks to the goodness and progressive spirit of a handful of industrialists who visualised the possibilities of starting a local industry, educated and go-ahead Ceylonese youngmen were found and persuaded to go out to India, Hong Kong and Japan, where the imported banians came from, and there to get an insight and learn the know how about the manufactur-

ing and producing methods in regard to this class of goods. These youngmen went to Ludhiana, a leading textile manufacturing centre in India, and sought training which provided them with the necessary knowledge and information to open similar or smaller factories in this country. And the fruits of the knowledge they then acquired, are seen in the hosiery factories operating today within and without the City limits and whose products are feeding the market in a satisfactory manner. All this, be it noted, was accomplished without Government support or encouragement.

#### LOCAL PRODUCTS MAKE HEADWAY

With local manufacture gaining strength and stability, Government soon began to realize its duty towards Ceylonese industrial effort and enterprise, and accordingly set about devising ways and means of giving it state recognition with a certain measure of protection for the locally turned out article. With this object in view Government got on with legislation and the Industrial Products Act was the outcome. This Act covered the Banian, the Shirt and the Sarong making industry, the latter two also having made progress in the meanwhile. Admittedly the Industrial Products Act gave a filip to the respective manufacturers and helped to put them on their feet, so to say, and stabilise the industry.

(Continued on page 19)

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Vol 35 No. 14

COLOMBO

August 15th 1956.

## England's Oil Diplomacy

BY G L ARNOLD

"WHEN all is said and done," wrote the Daily Telegraph on March 28, summing up a week of bad news, "the prime aim of policy in the Middle East is to secure our oil supplies. The free world's dependence on this source is such that industry in Britain and Western Europe, to say nothing of Australia and India, might be brought almost to a standstill if the flow were cut off."

Having thus stated the issue with commendable frankness, the principal organ of the Conservative party (for the Times represents Whitehall rather than Conservatism) when on to pinpoint the danger spot:

"The oil producing countries need our money as much as we need their oil—but they could do without it longer. Fortunately however, Colonel Nasser is not yet Emperor of the Middle East. He could close the Suez Canal to tankers: but even if he were able also to force Syria and Lebanon to close the pipelines that pass through their territories, and so deny Iraqi oil to the West, major sources would still remain beyond his control."

It has taken the shock of Lieutenant-General Glubb's sudden dismissal from his key post in Jordan to encourage this degree of plain speaking. Before looking at the political implications, it is worth considering the size of the stake.

When news of Glubb's dismissal (and of the almost simultaneous anti-British riots in oil rich Bahrein) hit the European Stock Exchange, they reacted no less sharply than the City of London, where shares of the



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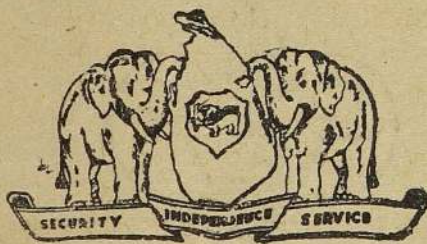
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President Eisenhower

British Petroleum Company fell by five shillings. For the Middle East now supplies 95 per cent of Western Europe's crude oil and 77 per cent of its total oil supplies. The f.o.b. value of Middle East oil handled by British and Anglo-Dutch companies alone amounts to some \$560 million annually; in market terms this means a capital investment of \$5.6 billion, but the real value of the property is incalculable, since Britain and Europe literally cannot get along without these supplies. That is why the Cabinet and Parliament reacted with such violence to Glubb's dismissal.

able, since Britain and Europe literally cannot get along without these supplies. That is why the Cabinet and Parliament reacted with such violence to Glubb's dismissal.



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Kuwait, which saved the day when Abadan closed down, is a British-protected sheikdom and the largest oil producer in the Middle East. Iran, an ally under the Baghdad Pact, is said to be willing to step up output. Elsewhere in the Persian Gulf area, beyond the scope of Egyptian Saudi interference, there are other existing and potential sources. All this was (and is) at



Mr. John Foster Dulles

stake in the seeming trivial Jordanian upset. For if Nasser, using pan Arabism as a stalking-horse, can dislodge the British from Jordan, he can make trouble elsewhere with the help of Saudian gold and Soviet arms. And it looks as though that is just what he wants to do.

But the matter does not stop there. Britain's and Europe's present dependence on Middle East oil, alarming though it looks, is small compared with that scheduled for the future. Industry needs more energy each year, and the supply of coal is static. Oil has to fill the gap until atomic power has been developed, and British oil consumption is scheduled to double in twenty years. The oil companies have been asked by the Government to make special efforts to meet these needs, and their plans provide for heavy investment not only in production facilities but in transport. The present system of pipelines is due to be greatly expanded, and the tanker fleets must be multiplied.

Even the Suez Canal now appears inadequate in the light of these expansion plans, and who is to say that shipping through the Canal will be free and unimpeded if Colonel Nasser stays in control? The whole of this huge investment program depends on political stability in the area; any crisis that throws it out of gear must have economic repercussions later on, and no country is more sensitive to them than Britain.

The Baghdad Pact makes sense only within this context. Indeed, it is no great exaggeration to say that its meaning lies precisely in this domain. That is why even the Labour Party feels disinclined to challenge its purpose, although Hugh Gaitskell found fault with it on other grounds during the stormy debate on March 7. He even managed to draw some Tory cheers by insisting that the Persian Gulf must not be allowed to fall under Russian control.

With Nasser so obviously out to make trouble, and with Jordan proving so unreliable, Conservative faith in the Foreign office's traditional Arab policy is being put to its hardest test. Yet, Iraq is now doubly important to Britain, and any surviving hope of keeping some control over Jordan is bound up with Iraq's position in the Baghdad Pact.

It is sign of Gaitskell's rapid evolution as a statesman that in the debate he combined implicit recognition of this fact with a strong demand for immediate action to reinforce Israel's threatened position. It is likewise characteristic of the mixture of obstinacy and weakness which marks the present leaders of the Government that they dug their heels in over this issue. Both Prime Minister Eden and the unfortunately named Anthony Nutting, who caricatures his chief down to details of personal manner, made it clear that they are not prepared to run the the smallest risk of Arab resentment by selling arms to Isreal—an attitude which caused

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Gaitskell to revive "Spanish non intervention" memories.

Admittedly there are a good many Conservatives who disapprove of the Government stand on this point, but so far they have not dented the official defence line—any more than the Daily Telegraph was able to do at the time of Munich (when the Times supported "appeasement" as it does today; its current comments on Israel, that "alien polity" introduced into the Middle East over Dr. Toynbee's potests, are in the true tradition of its anti-Czech editorials in 1938).

It is tempting to say: "Wait and see." But how long can the Eden-Nutting policy be continued without bringing about a debacle that will pull down more than the prestige of this Ministry? The question worries more than merely the intended victims of

(Continued on page 10)

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## Looking a Gift Horse in the Mouth

MEANINGLESS AND CHURLISH  
OPPOSITION TO THE ASIA  
FOUNDATION

At his weekly Press Conference, held by the Prime Minister of Ceylon on the 1st August, Mr. Bandaranaike made several statements regarding matters of public importance and his Government's policy and attitude in such matters. The Prime Minister also answered certain questions put to him. One of these questions was in regard to the activities of the Asian Foundation in this country. It was as follows:-

"Whether the Prime Minister would allow the Asian Foundation to continue its activities in Ceylon?"

The P.M.'s reply was short and simple. He said he would decide after obtaining all the data for and against the Asia Foundation"..... Official Report.

The above stated question put to the Prime Minister seems to us quite strange, and even extraordinary. It presupposes, we take it, that the Asia Foundation was engaged in activities that were not proper, or contrary to the public good, or that its activities were political in character and therefore objectionable or detrimental to the country's interest. For that is what the question put to the Prime Minister seems to us to indicate. It suggests, as far as we understand it, that the activities of the Asian Foundation, are irregular and, therefore, should be curtailed or stopped altogether. What information the questioner had against the Asia Foundation, if any, we are unable to say. It was nevertheless a question that indicated something wrong happening or was being done.

While we don't by any means hold a brief for the Asia Foundation, and not being opposed in the least to its laudable activities, quite legitimate activities shall we say—we have made vigilant enquiries from various sources, both from individuals and institutions, associations and societies conducted by Ceylonese private bodies and engaged in social welfare work which the Foundation seems willing to aid and as it is known to be doing in India, Burma and in other East Asian countries, without any objections being taken either by the people themselves or by the governments of those countries.

(Continued on page 11)

As pure as . . .

# BEER

Many readers will be pulled up short by that unexpected comparison: as pure as . . . beer. Yet it is the simple fact that there is no article of food or drink produced with the same care and in the same purity as the beer of to-day.

### *How purity is ensured*

By analysing samples before purchase the brewers see to it that both the barley, from which the malt is made, and the hops, are of the choicest quality; and that any brewing sugar used is sugar in its most health-giving form. The whole process of brewing is under the close supervision of the Excise authorities. At frequent intervals tests are taken by the brewer of the beer in the making, and when the brew is completed an exhaustive test of the final beer is applied. Samples of the beer as sold are taken continually by the inspectors of the local authority.

Are such elaborate and official precautions taken with any other article of food or with any other beverage?

### *Downright Wholesome*

The result is that beer is brewed to-day of a soundness and a character that would have been impossible a hundred or even fifty years ago. For these elaborate safeguards have served not only to improve the materials, to secure their purity, and to ensure that nothing that is not pure is ever used; but also to improve immeasurably the whole technique of brewing.

Consider the excellence and the beneficence of beer's ingredients: malt, made from the finest barley, for digestion; hops for appetite; sugar for energy; yeast for vitality. Was there ever anything so downright wholesome as this mild, luxurious, and heartening beverage—beer?

# BEER

*is*

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## Whither Burghers ?

THE case of the Burghers have gone by default for lack of intelligent, forthright and honest leadership in the past. They now find themselves in an open, rudderless and oarless boat in storm swept seas. But they are still quite merry and totally indifferent to the fate that will soon overtake them when the boat capsizes and they are thrown into the sea.

Say what people may, there is no denying the fact that Great Britain has abandoned Ceylon to majority rule; and that naturally means Buddhist Sinhalese rule. This is Themis law. Unfortunately, it is not love of Buddhism but pride of it that motivates them, since nationalism and Buddhism are made synonymous. Under these circumstances the minorities can only expect positions of inferiority, and that too, on sufferance.

The present language tussle cannot interest or affect the Burghers either way. The fact remains that the sudden change over has caught them unawares and unprepared. It is unreasonable to expect them to be proficient, in a few years, in a language that they were not taught in school, or to expect them to adapt themselves to a way of life that is entirely alien to them, at such short notice.

The Burghers love this country and its peoples, with whom they always got on well and were ever ready with help and advice when needed. They have as much right to this country as anyone else. I do not think there is a single Burgher who would have been unhappy about the grant of Independence to Ceylon and the opportunity for the Sinhalese race and Buddhism to come into their own, provided all the communities and creeds could have progressed as a nation on terms of mutual respect and perfect equality, having a form of government more suited to the needs of the country and the genius of the people, where evolutionary rather than revolutionary methods could have been employed. Being the day of the common man means that he should get a square deal; not that everything should be brought down to the level of the common.

However, there is no use in crying over what might have been. The Burghers cannot with any self respect accept the conditions imposed on them now. It is clear that in a few years time the Burghers who are left in Ceylon will become a drag on the country. The unemployment and over-population situation is not going to make things any easier to them.

When the Dutch handed over Ceylon to the British, the Burghers elected to stay on, never in their wildest dreams anticipating such things as has happened in the country in the recent past. They served their British rulers well and faithfully, without any antagonism to the people of this country to whom in fact, they were a source of great help in many ways. It was then the moral duty of the British to see that a people who served them so loyally were not left in the lurch when they pulled out of the country, after having made such a mess of things and making it well nigh impossible for those who took over to put it back into order.

They can still discharge their obligations to the Burghers by assisting to settle them in other countries of the Commonwealth, with the permission and co-operation of the Ceylon Government, who should be only too glad to be rid of what is sure to be another big headache for them. The cost of such a scheme of rehabilitation can easily be met by a sweepstake or so many other ways. I commend this suggestion to all thoughtful members of my community.

It is regrettable and surprising though, that quite a large number of Sinhalese have registered their names for emigration and quite a few have already gone to settle down in the U.K. and Canada! The tendency is for more to follow.

E. B. WRIGHT

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# SUNDAY

**I** READ with delight the brief article on Sunday in your last week's issue. The following historical facts relative to the change of the Sabbath Day will throw more light on the question of this day and will be of further interest I believe, to all those concerned on this important matter.

"We would observe in the Bible that it contains not a single text or reference showing that Sunday is the Sabbath Day. Neither is there any Biblical Authority warranting the observance of the first day of the week or Sunday as the Lord's Day on account of the resurrection as most of the Christians do now.

Up to the 3rd Century the Apostles and the early Church Fathers observed the Seventh Day in accordance with the Holy Writ. But in the latter part of this era a Council of Churches called the "Council of Laodecia" which met in Asia Minor, sponsored by the then Roman Catholic and Protestant Church Leaders, transferred to the solemnity of the day from Saturday to Sunday. Ever since then the Christians as a whole observe the first day of the week, or Sunday as the Sabbath Day, though without Biblical Authority (Condensed Church Council Legislation on Sabbath and Sunday.)

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History also attributes one of the reasons for this change to the popular practice of 'Solar Worship' prevalent at this period among the people who venerated the Sun-God 'Mithras'—thus giving way to the popular choice.

Along with this change, came, in the next century the Sunday Observance Act, which is still in force in certain parts of the world, and which is termed 'Blue Laws' in America.

We would therefore see that the change had been effected by the Law of the Church rather than by the Law of God...and how Sunday has now become the Official Sabbath Day, and not the real one.

Katunayake 3 8-56

E. E. DE SILVA

(We publish the above letter as of general interest. Admittedly there is much to be said or written, on the subject.— Editor)

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# Ceylon's Gratitude

We have received the following article for publication from Col T. Y. Wright, one time member of the Ceylon State Council and later of the Senate now in retirement in England. Col. Wright was very popular in Ceylonese circles.

**S**URELY it is time for the British public to be told of some real facts about Ceylon, I think it might surprise them.

Mr. Bandaranaike is reported to have said he does not wish to be unfriendly to the British. Does he call the following facts unfriendly?

1. For the last 25 years several well-known Ministers and other politicians have consistently reviled the British.
2. A well-known Minister in the State Council during the last War did his utmost to stop Ceylon from contributing to the war funds.
3. The Introduction as soon as Ceylon got Independence of two racial citizenship Bills.
4. The Introduction of a Parliamentary Elections Bill which took away votes from a certain section of the people, who had previously exercised the vote and thereby more Sinhalese elected.
5. A resolution moved in the House of Representatives to confiscate estates without compensation and an amendment moved by a member of the Government party that only non-Ceylonese estates should be so confiscated.
6. At a meeting in London shortly after the last war, the British representatives wished to scale down the Sterling Balances as Britain had saved Ceylon from the Japanese; the Ceylon representatives at this meeting thereupon said if the Balances were scaled down they would seize all British Interests in Ceylon.
7. In one of the towns the Town Council voted that the pictures of the Queen and Royal Family should be removed from the Council Chamber and to obliterate the names on the War Memorial there.
8. The Royal Pictures have now been removed from all public buildings and the Union Jack hauled down.
9. The policy of the Bandaranaike Government is to nationalize all estates and business thereby implementing the Ceylonization policy and bringing them all under Ceylonese management.
10. The Government has decided to make Sinhalese the State language and caused great trouble as there are about two million of the population who don't understand or speak Sinhalese.
11. A movement is going on to make Buddhism the state religion though there are thousands of Sinhalese who are of other religions.
12. The new Ceylon Government has told Britain to give up her bases at Trincomalee and the Aerodrome near Negombo on which Britain has spent a very large sum of the British tax payers money.
13. The new Ceylon Government has decided to tell Britain that Ceylon is soon to be a Republic.
14. Most of the above measures are entirely contrary to the two Clauses in the Constitution which gave Ceylon Independence

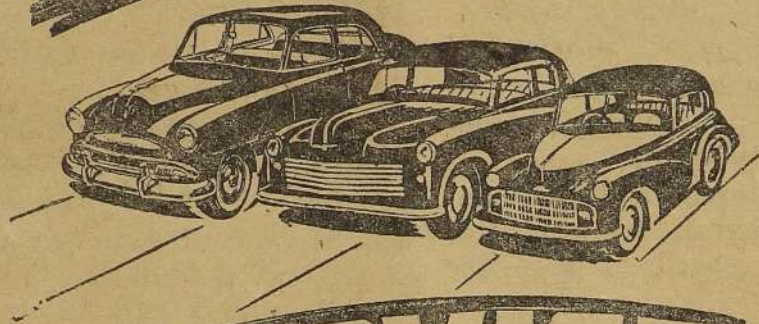
## Now let us just see what Britain has done for Ceylon.

1. Britain has brought great prosperity to the Island which formerly was little known and had very little trade.
2. Britishers introduced tea and rubber into the island and from which the Ceylon Government obtains most of its revenue.
3. Many millions of British tax-payers money in the past has been spent in making roads, railways, harbours and public buildings and all these have been handed over to Ceylon for nothing.
4. Britain spent four hundred million rupees in Ceylon each year during the last war and saved Ceylon from the Japanese and many Ceylonese became rich at that time.
5. Britain introduced Malaria Control which has been very beneficial to the Island.
6. The British saved all the fine ruins of the past from the jungle and many other things of benefit to Ceylon.

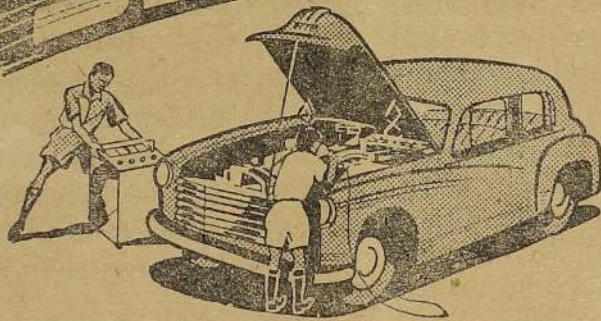
What gratitude and whither is Britain going?

T. Y. WRIGHT

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## From the Courts Verandah

THE unveiling of the portraits of the late Dr. R. F. Dias and also that of Mr. O. L. de Kretser, who happily is still with us, is an event of more than ordinary interest both to the legal fraternity and the public. That the ceremony of the unveiling was performed by the Chief Justice of Ceylon (Mr. Hema Basnayake) who eulogized the worth and work of the two Pusine Judges was amply deserved and befitting the occasion.

Of the two judges Mr Oswald de Kretser, now in retirement, is the senior. Both his collegiate and legal career was one of distinction right through and no less brilliant than his career on the Bench.

I remember Mr. de Kretser at the Royal College where he impressed those educational giants like Harward and Hartley so much that they had foreshadowed a bright future for him. Leaving college to study law, he got through his exams with no great effort. As an Advocate, he soon made his mark at the Bar. He started his practice at Matara, where he won his laurels and then came to Colombo and joined the Crown Counsel's Department from where he went on the Bench of the District Court as A.D.J. It was as a judge more than as an advocate that he soon began to win public recognition. His judgments were lucid and not too elaborate. Impartial to all parties in a case and a pronounced dislike to say hard things against witnesses or the contending parties was a remarkable characteristic of Judge de Kretser. And this was much appreciated and admired by litigants and practitioners alike.

I would wish to add here that in the early days when Mr de Kretser was starting to climb the legal ladder, he showed a penchant for politics, and had the makings of a brilliant journalist which faculty, it is believed, he practised "sub rosa." for a little time. May the good old judge have a happy retirement and enjoy it in peace "otium cum dignitate."

### THE LATE DR. R. F. DIAS

And of the late Dr. R. F. Dias one can write quite a good deal. Reginald Felix son of Felix Reginald Dias, the one time District Judge of Colombo and Kandy and later Commissioner of Assize, trod the identical path of



*The late Dr. R. F. Dias*

his sire. Both father and son were splendid products of Cambridge. Both started as Crown Counsel. Both were District Judges of Colombo and Kandy. Both mounted the Supreme Court Bench through the same path and portals. They displayed the same characteristics of head and heart. If, however, father and son were caustic in their remarks at times, and unguarded in their observations when referring to persons. Both shared in almost equal degree the same spirit of independence and a high and unbending sense of justice though severe in dispensing the same.

Reginald Felix Dias was a lawyer in a hurry. He carried this weakness to the Bench. Impatience often drove him to commit mistakes unconsciously, of course. But when he realized he had made a mistake he, with rare courage, owned up and made ample amends for it. Nevertheless his sterling integrity and scrupulous honesty combined with impartiality were never doubted. He was conscious of the responsibilities of a judge and never allowed any extraneous matter or uncorroborated evidence to warp his judgment. In his zealous regard for procedure, he demanded the strictest legal proof. He was never vindictive. That he was unsparing to wrongdoers and a bit too severe, we all know. But he never failed to temper Justice with Mercy.

The late Dr. R. F. Dias struck me as inclined to be unforgiving. He was not a man to pocket any kind of slight either to him personally or to the office he held. He was always too

exacting. And if he bumped up against officialdom, it was not because he had too little a regard for authority but too high a regard for the august office and the person of a Judge of the Supreme Court. His death was a bit too premature, judged by the good old age members of his family were known to live up to. He has left two sons who will carry his name. The one a promising young man in England, also a lawyer, and the other a promising advocate in Ceylon both of whom can look up with pride to a distinguished family record. HALTSDORPHA

## England's Oil Diplomacy

(Continued from page 3)

Whitehall's policy of appeasing Nasser at the expense of others, while building up an anti-Egyptian counterweight in the Baghdad Pact. It has become a major issue in British politics. The stormy debate of March 7 shattered bipartisanship. If it did not split the Conservative party, the reason is that any split now would have brought the Government down; and there is no one there to pick up the reins, as Churchill did when Chamberlain was overthrown in 1940.

The idea of taking out a reinsurance policy by signing a security treaty with Israel is gaining ground among influential Conser-

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vatives (the Labor party needs no persuasion on this subject). It is backed by the "Churchillian" tradition and by those Tories who have digested the lessons of the Thirties. It is opposed by the Foreign Office and by something more important and less palpable—the social and intellectual complex sometimes called "the Establishment," of which the Times is the principal organ. Anyone who regularly reads this paper cannot fail to notice that its editorialists have had their brains addled by Dr. Toynbee. But Toynbee is himself a symptom of a pervasive attitude which finds expression, at different levels, in the politics of Sir Anthony Eden, in the editorial line of an influential Liberal paper like the Observer, and in the present tone of British intellectual life.

What exactly it is that makes so many different people, outside the Labor party and a section of the Tories, react predictably to every challenge is not easy to say. There is no question, though, that the mood of the mid-Thirties is creeping back like a fog. This time, it is not a matter of having to cope with Hitler and Mussolini—merely with Nasser. Yet, the defeatist reaction is there.

## Looking a Gift Horse in the Mouth

(Continued from page 4)

It may be true that the past week has provided the shock required to promote a movement in the opposite direction; there are some signs that it may have. Even so, it is well to remember that on the previous occasion it took three years—from Hitler's march into the Rhineland in March 1936 to his entry into Prague in March 1939—for the process to work itself out. In terms of past experience, Colonel Nasser's successful Jordanian coup this month corresponds to the Rhineland occupation rather than Prague eye-opener. He has now been admonished (in a rather shaky voice) not to do it again. Suppose he refuses to follow this advice? We know from the memoirs of the former German military attache in London that the Rhineland coup of 1936 destroyed the British General Staff's illusions about Hitler; but we also know that "appeasement" was practiced for a further three years and indeed reached a pinnacle just before it was renounced. That, too, is in the tradition. This time, though, events may move too fast for a gradual shift from appeasement to resistance. There is not much room left for retreat.

In the issue of THE SEARCHLIGHT of July 15th 1956 on pages 1, 5, 6 & 7 we published an article written by Mr. J. D. Asiriwathan, B.Sc., an educationist, entitled "This Asia Foundation, What it is doing and has done for Ceylon." That article referred to the following facts.

The Asia Foundation is a private American philanthropic body with its headquarters in San Francisco, California. It is devoted to helping social, economic, educational or cultural societies engaged in welfare work. It is not Government sponsored nor has it anything to do with politics. It is like the American Mission that did considerable good to the people of Ceylon, especially in the Northern Province, where the Mission opened schools and hospitals, and the benefits derived by the people of Jaffna from such institutions stand as a living monument to the Mission's great work. What valid objection therefore can anybody have to a benevolent organization engaged in non-sectarian work, and which did not engage or concern itself in any political activity one cannot understand. What then was the object that motivated the question put to the Prime Minister at the Press Conference held on the 1st August?

It is clear that the objects of the Asia Foundation are laudable. It is also clear that it is doing a great service by helping under-financed societies languishing for lack of funds to carry out their objects. It is only under such circumstances that the Foundation's assistance is sought and which is given after diligent enquiries are made. If a donation or gift is given it is entirely without strings attached to it! Nor does the Foundation meddle or interfere with any work done by a body or institute which it aids. Hence it is inexplicable why anybody should take exception to the munificence of the Foundation.

(Continued on page 13)



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## The Triumph of Democracy!

THE phrase as represented by the above caption must be familiar to newspaper readers. It originated with the famous celebration at the Galle Face after the second General Election subsequent to the death of the "Father of the Nation" though there was no Triumph in the celebration. It came in later. This is how it happened.

A top-notch of the UNP was anxious to see the party well supported with men, money and rolling stock. On the occasion of his visit to a big business emporium, he told the Big Man there - so the story goes - that he would like to see his firm give the party some encouragement to help defeat the Reds. He naively suggested that the encouragement should take the shape of kind rather than cash. The Big Man understood what was meant.

A day or two later, the request made was responded, as the firm was quite willing to aid the party to keep its flag flying. So he had a vehicle sent down to the bungalow of the "top

notcher" in question. The Big Hat, thanking the donor for the gift had the same registered in his name. And the matter, for all intents and purposes, was forgotten for the time being.

Later another Big Shot went up to the same emporium to make certain personal purchases and wanted to see the Boss of that emporium. Presently the Big Shot of the party and the Big Boss of the emporium, were seen in friendly conversation. The purchases were effected and both walked down to the office where, it is said, the Big Shot remarked that that emporium should give his party some substantial help. The Merchant, like Barkis, was willing! He, however, good naturedly asked his friend, how the vehicle he caused to be sent down a little time back, was working? The party man was flabbergasted. He felt surprised. He did not know that a gift had already been made. So, without much ado, he apologised. He said he would never have dared to suggest what he had suggested, had he known that a gift had already been made. He next tactfully sought further information as to how the gift came to be made and to whom. The facts having been well elicited, he left thanking the Merchant profusely.

### THE DENOUEMENT

Later, having pursued the matter and got all the relative facts, he felt something extraordinary and remarkable had happened. Hence he brought the matter to the notice of the Chief of the Party. The informant, it is said, was bitter in his complaint that those who belonged to the Party were letting it down and attempting to benefit themselves. He insisted on something being done to stop such things being carried on. The Chief sent for, so it is stated, the person who received the gift and gave him a firm dressing down. He wanted the gift transferred to the party instantaneously. And that was done. Thus the Chief secured a Triumph for the UNP!

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## FAIR DEAL

**A**T a meeting of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party held at Moratuwa last Sunday, several speakers including the Minister of Justice Mr. M. W. H. de Silva, are reported to have assured their audience that the MEP Government would give a fair deal to all religions and I should be very grateful to your paper if you would allow me the courtesy of your columns to strike a note of warning to the Christians of Moratuwa in particular at this time, not to bank any hopes on these assurance of the MEP Government.

Almost all the political parties are busy in Moratuwa at this time on the eve of our triennial elections and it is not necessary for me to point out how fair and square the MEP Government has been to us Christians since April. The SLFP knows it very well that it would be extremely difficult for them to get the support of the Christians at these elections, because of the oppression that the Christians have already had to face. The removal of the Red Cross (though not a Christian emblem) on the presumption that it would propagate christianity, through Sweep Tickets, and the abolition of Christian Radio talks and the other obstructions that are contemplated cannot win any confidence from the Christians for the SLFP or the MEP Government.

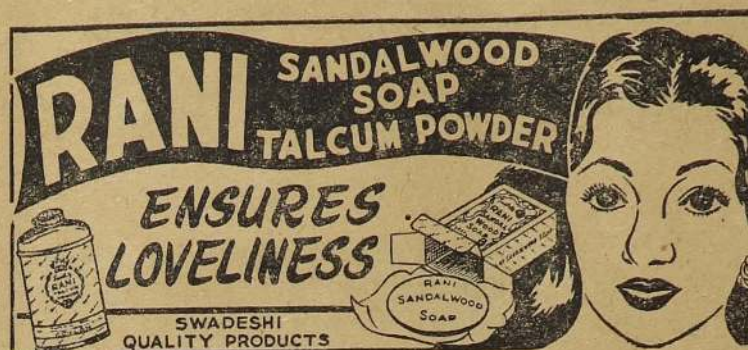
Moratuwa's politics cannot be twisted and turned by outsiders. The Moratuwa UC has been in the hands of the Leftists since 1950 but up to this date we Christians received no oppression or persecution from them in spite of the fact that the pulpit railed against them during elections. Today the oppression has come not from the Communists and the Sama Samajists but from local religious fanatics.

We Christians are definitely in a minority but we must use our vote not to dig our own graves but to protect ourselves from persecution. I hope Mr. Banlanaiké will keep off his hands from Moratuwa and stop all this political flirting and love-making on the even of elections, because Moratuwa is not a place that can be lured by these promises and assurances given on the even of elections.

SHERMAN A. FERNANDO

MORATUWA

15th August



## Looking a Gift Horse in the Mouth

(Continued from page 11)

That the opposition to American benevolence should emanate from sources whose own welfare movements stand most to benefit there from is, indeed, surprising. These people appear to believe that there is political design underlying the offer of American aid. That is a mistaken idea altogether. It is a thundering falacy that must be dispelled. If objection is to be taken to private benefaction, why don't the Buddhist leaders object to the Government going with begging bowl to the U.S.A. for favours and with easy conscience accepting her aid while in the same breath attributing motives to American generosity. It is really ununderstandable how Ceylon who desires to live on the friendliest terms with all nations, and whose assistance and co-operation she welcomes and offers to reciprocate in whichever way possible, should be so ready to suspect their good intentions instead of being thankful for their concern in her well-being and willingness to help her. This strange conduct on the part of Ceylon in regard to favours shown her amounts to looking a gift horse in the mouth!

We are living today in a world and in an era of universal liberation; we desire to coexist in peace and harmony with our neighbours; we offer our friendship and our cooperation in their affairs and, according to the philosophy of the Buddha, not to think or speak ill but to show our tolerance towards those who are with us and willing to see to our advancement; we forget that we are an undeveloped and underprivileged country recently liberated; we invite help and succour from whichever source we can get it and yet we persist in thinking evil and seeing evil in the goodwill and good intentions of our political and economic superiors who wish to save us from our own negligence and helplessness.

# Education System was Radically Wrong

Mr. Amarasuriya said that for nearly 30 years the education system of the country had been in need of radical reforms, the keynote of which should be character building and economic regeneration. Without such reforms the millions of rupees now spent on education would be sheer waste.

The ever increasing number of violent deaths and all kinds of other crime and vice, some of which happened among teenagers and school children, made it all the more clear that the education system was radically wrong.

Was the country in a position to repose any confidence in the rising generation, he asked.

Even at the highest seat of learning in the country—the University—things appeared no better and a lack of discipline was revealed



Mr. Henry Amarasuriya

## VITAL FACTOR

That sort of situation pointed to the fact that their education system completely lacked any attempt at character-building which was vital for the future of the country. Character building could never be achieved through a form of education which was divorced from religion.

He added that they were happy that the present Government proposed to give Sinhalese its due place. He earnestly hoped that the long-delayed educational reforms would soon be forthcoming.

Over a decade ago he was among the members of a Committee charged with the

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task of recommending education reforms. The committee submitted certain proposals to the Government. But nothing had been done to bring about any of the changes recommended except for paving the way to learn English without let or hindrance.

English was no doubt, a living language and a very rich language in every respect, but that should not in any way deter them from giving their own language pride of place. That should be so even at the University.

Economic regeneration was another important matter that should be remembered in a new educational policy and programme. The view of economic experts was that Ceylon's national wealth could no longer be increased without industrialisation. Therefore, emphasis on technical education should be laid without any further delay.

As regards primary education they should go back to the temples and Bhikkus. The Bhikkhus could well teach their children religion and history and thereafter, the schools could take over.

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# MUSINGS

By  
T. W. Hockly

## THE WAY THE MONEY GOES

It is reported that there has been a loss of Rs. 2 millions due to the fillings being stripped off the Municipal Water Plant and rendered useless. These fillings will require to be replaced immediately as they are of vital importance for the Water Supply of Colombo. The Ratepayers of course will have to foot the Bill. The Mayor has ordered an immediate inquiry. That is all very well so far as it goes, but what the ratepayer will want to know is who is the party responsible for this loss? Surely a better watch should have been kept to prevent such an occurrence? The Inquiry will be held but as usual nothing will happen and those responsible for the loss will just pursue the even tenor of their way—*mea non culpa*. A loss of Rs. 2 million rupees is a mere flea-bite to our economy and bursting coffers and so it will go on.

That is how the money goes. The road is wide open for thieves and rogues; and gross carelessness and lack of proper supervision by those responsible who draw fat salaries and do little else.

Everything is free in Free Sri Lanka so who cares? Where do the rogues and thieves find a market for such stolen goods? Cannot they be traced to their source by the Police? Apparently not.

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Themis and his friends are urging the Government to nationalise all European Firms. And yet Banda had repeatedly said he wishes to see and welcome an influx of Foreign Capital from outside. How come? Then again where is the money to come from to pay compensation to these firms? Or does Themis contemplate expropriation in the good old Soviet way? However, Themis need not worry as several European Firms are already on their way out. When they depart they may leave a bad taste in Sri Lanka's mouth and create a not very favourable impression in other countries. Eventually the people of Sri Lanka may be reduced to taking in each others washing. So much for Comrade Themis and his friends and associates.

### STATE VERSUS PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

THERE is a bridge on the lagoon near Negombo which is at present under course of construction. *When this bridge is completed—the italics are mine.* It should prove of great use and benefit to the people. But so far it has taken the P.W.D. already four years and there is no certainty when at long last this bridge will be completed. The P.W.D. proceed in their usual slow, stately and dignified manner and just take their own time. Let us hurry no man's cattle. Had the construction of this Bridge been handed over to some reputable Private Engineering

Firm. I make bold to say the bridge would have been completed within a year or so after receipt of the order. But the P.W.D. just love to dawdle over and waste money unnecessarily. The old Indian adage holds good:

"Sarkar ke Mal Daria me dal." Its the Government's money so just Leave it into the river.

TOO MANY HOLIDAYS

SEE that some parents are complaining that their children are given too many holidays. Whether this be so or not the children

usually pass their various examinations. Holidays do not do much harm if any to school children provided they have plenty of exercise and are in the open air. It is really the parents who are irked at having their children about the house and just cannot be bothered with them. The root cause, selfishness.

PHILATELIC

ONE of the prettiest and most attractive of recent issues of Ceylon Postage Stamps is the blue 25 cent stamp depicting a Sigiriya Fresco. Of course it can only be used for surface mail letters to Foreign countries outside the Commonwealth but it is good propaganda for Ceylon. I hope this stamp will not be withdrawn from issue for some time to

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come as it is both unique and attractive and as a Philatelist myself I have nothing but praise for it. I do hope the Director of the Tourist Bureau will not have this particular stamp changed for his Propaganda Stamps. It would be a very great pity if he did as I do not think this stamp can be improved upon.

ABOLITION OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT IN THE USSR.

READ in the Press that the Russian Soviet Government are contemplating the abolition of Capital Punishment. This may perhaps sound all right in the case of humanitarianism but the wily Muscovite is not so simple as all that or as it may appear.

There are many other ways of avoding punishment which he has up his sleeve. There is for instance the imposition of hard arduous slave labour for life in some concentration Camp. or for a lifexile in the frozen waters of Siberia or within the Artic Circle.

Death by hanging or shooting would be far preferable to such a ghastly exile under conditions too awful to contemplate. There is a catch in all this and things are not always what they seem.

GLASS FACTORY.

I wonder what has happened to the Government Glass Factory. This was one of Prince Ponna's pet projects which proved a dismal failure and a sink for money. It was aid that a team of glass experts from Japan were coming here to reorganise and recondition the Glass Factory. Since then a veil of silence has fallen. Then again what has happened to this failure or paper factory at Valliechenai—another of prince Ponna's projects paper was to have been manufactured from Iluk glass and many millions have been

spent over it. This iluk concept came from the fertile brain of one Grierson a protege of Prince Ponna. Five hundred acres were to have been planted up with iluk and manured. This idea, I believe, has now been abandoned and it has been discovered that there is a great scarcity of water there. There is no labour force at Valleechnai so extensive buildings for housing labour and also for workshops would have to be erected at colossal cost. The paper made from iluk would only be course stuff and no fine quality paper. So where would be the advantage? The World Bank I believe warned against the project as utterly impractical, but of course no notice was taken of the warning and Ponna and the UNP Government just went ahead regardless. This Paper Factory is just another useless White Elephant and

will never give any favourable results—just a figment of an imaginative brain. The present Government should make up their minds and scrap the whole scheme and cut their losses as it is useless to throw good money after bad.

#### A GAOL FOR LIFERS

I see it is proposed to erect a new gaol to house all murderers. This will take a very considerable amount of the taxpayer's money. Our sentimental humanitarianism will wish that such a gaol is up to date and replete with every comfort for our Killers. They may even go so far as to insist that the cells be Air Conditioned for these poor darlings and of course everything else in keeping. Although in the USA there are sentences extending to as long as 99 or 100 years, in England and Ceylon, Law there is really no such thing as Life Imprisonment. A convicted man will be given the Maximum of 20 years but through good conduct this is reduced to 15 years. The



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question is what is to be done with such men when they come out from Prison? By then many of them will be too old for employment or to learn a Trade or a Profession. I suppose the authorities will let them idle. Sufficient unto the day, so why anticipate difficulties? Another question which will call for consideration is the personnel of the Warders. These will require to be picked and selected men of courage and resource yet nevertheless humane in their outlook. Just another Problem for the Authorities to tackle.

#### COLOMBO TRAMWAYS

I am sure all of us are glad and thankful that at last the old dirty, decrepit and ramshackle tram-cars are now a thing of the past. The whole Colombo Tramway system has for long been a standing disgrace to any self-respecting and progressive City of the standing of Colombo. I have seen nothing worse in any town or city and I have visited several in my time. The whole thing was conceived by the Municipality in the spirit of Pride of Pos-

session and they paid dearly for this bauble. They have paid through the nose to the original company owner for a rotten and effete system quite unworthy of a City like Colombo. And yet Mr. H. E. Newham CCS (retired) who was Mayor of Colombo, a position which he occupied for no less than seven years, was quite proud of and enthusiastic about Colombo.

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"A splendid thing" he once said to me when I pointed out to him the disgraceful condition of Colombo's Tram Cars. 'What is wanted "he continued" is to keep the people moving along and the Tramway is the best medium for this 'This he declaimed in his usual and debonair way. I pointed out that many of the thoroughfares through which the Tramway passed were far too narrow to allow it. The very narrow road leading from Maradana to Borella where pedestrians had to stand in the gutter to allow a tram car to pass and were in danger of their lives and that such roads, required to be materially widened. But Newnham just brushed it aside very lightly in his debonair Civil Service manner. Civil Servants were veritable tin-gods in those Colonial days.

RABID RADIO

IS there any sensible reason why Sinhala Marikar should restrict programmes of Western Music and confine them only to Oriental Music? I used often to look forward to listening in to a programme of lunch time

occidental music but now this is allowed on Sunday which is very stupid and vexatious. After all if many others, both Europeans and Ceylonese like to listen in and enjoy programmes of occidental music from the BBC station in London and also from all other Foreign Stations such as New York, Paris, Bonn, Moscow etc. But it is high time Sinhala Marikar lifted this stupid ban.

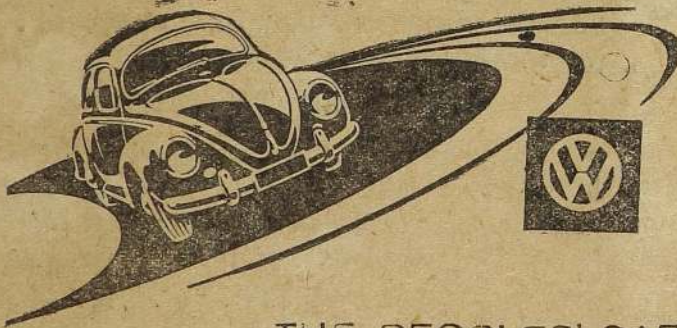
CEYLON DISHES

HERE is a suggestion I made to all hotels-restaurant keepers and caterers, why

not open a bright clean comfortable and airy restaurant on a favourable site to supply special Ceylon Dishes to visitors and tourists? I am sure this idea would catch on. When I visited Algeria, Tunisia and Moscow, at all the hotels and restaurants there was always available a dish of Cous Cous, that delicious Moorish national dish and there was always a keen demand for it among the patrons. Cous Cous, is not unlike a good and well cooked Buryani, only Semolina or millet is used instead of rice.

Ceylon can make several delicious dishes which could easily be popularised among visitors and tourists provided they were well and cleanly made and served. I remember years ago when my dear friend David Rockwood was alive he had a cook who excelled in making various dishes. His curries of chicken, fish, prawns and lobsters were superb. But what I specially liked and appreciated was a dish of Lamprais or Lump Rice. Truly

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a dish for the gods and David used often to have this prepared for me when I visited him. Cannot the Director of the Tourist Bureau do something to popularise Ceylon special dishes for the consumption of tourists and visitors? Why not? In my time I have been a great traveller and have visited many countries. I have always, wherever I went, tried to find out what was the particular or special national dish and asked for it to be served to me and enjoyed it thoroughly. It is quite useless to serve visitors with the usual

stereotyped dish which they can get in their own countries and probably better cooked and served

They want novelty. Very often I have seen a so called Ceylon Curry served here, in a hotel or restaurant, a mere travesty of the real dish, quite tasteless and more like a badly cooked stew. Have we no imagination or initiative and are just content to go on with the same old thing unchanged? "As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end ! Ceylon must really try to wake up and avoid this inherent and fatal complacency and mediocrity and laissez faire. We can do it so, why not make an effort ?

But where are Cooks of yester year? Very few are to be found now. Most of those who now call themselves cooks are mere ignorant Yakkos with their heads stuffed with cotton wool and politics. By the way what about establishing a School of Cookery ?

This was promised by either the Minister of Industries or the Minister of Labour. I cannot quite recall at the moment. I suppose as usual it will all end in the nothing all things. end in and we shall hear no more about it.

TRIVIALITIES

SO many of our Politicians and People appear more interested in trivialities rather than in more urgent important problems affecting the country such as alteration of place names etc. A certain section wish to abolish

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the name of Victoria Park and give it another name. Some demand that Ceylon should be definitely known only as Sri Lanka and not Ceylon. Others are interested in designing a new national head dress and a national dress reform. All such questions are merely a sign of small mindedness by small minded people and a waste of time

THE SUEZ CANAL

I SEE a Conference is shortly to be held in London to consider the vital question of the Suez Canal. Doubtless there will be "great argument about it and about" but the outcome of the solution is very doubtful. With regard to the question of inter-nationalising the Suez Canal I wonder how the USA would react to the suggestion that the Panama Canal should be inter nationalised? I rather imagine the reply would be in the negative. "What is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander." So what? This is the Acid Test.

CEYLON'S BANIAN INDUSTRY

( Continued from Cover page )

BANING OF FOREIGN BANIANIS

The new legislation though judiciously framed and useful, was not altogether benevolent, or of sufficient strength as to effect a sudden change in eliminating the foreign product altogether, or suppressing competition. Government was placed between two fires. The one represented by a contemplated loss of revenue from

Import Duty, were too drastic a change be effected, and the other the need for encouraging full scale local manufacture. Therefore Government approached the matter in a half-hearted manner when it had recourse to the expedient of accomplishing its objects by stages. It did not ban the import of foreign importation of this class of goods altogether. While providing protection of a sort for the local article, Government also issued Import Permits for the foreign article, limiting such permits to a particular size the selling price of which was to be stipulated.

#### WHAT IS HAPPENING

Obviously the issue of Permits for the importation of foreign banians of a limited size and its sale locally at a stipulated price per dozen, though it had the appearance of a partial prohibition to aid the local manufacture, was not one calculated in the best interest of the Ceylon produced article and hence the local manufacturers appear to entirely disapprove it. And justifiably too. They submit that by allowing such a concession Government was not treating the Ceylon industry liberally or as it ought to. They say by allowing foreign imports to come in, competition from importers was operating to the disadvantage of the local manufacturer. They even assert that a rollicking racket is going on. They, therefore, demand a total prohibition or ban of foreign Banians the selling price of which per dozen should not be below a certain price. Such a request seems to us quite legitimate and "practical politics" since the local manufacturer is assured of no competition owing to the price factor.

(Continued on page 23)

## What the Punters Say

BY GAB

THAT the August Meet was ushered in with a new Creation of Fashion

THAT the feminine gender was in their element

THAT the Garliners carried away four trophies

THAT Ted and Brother-in-law Renga have done exceptionally well

THAT Shell Pink lost the Lawyers Cup on an objection lodged by Ted Fordyce

THAT Ted's objection was a trivial one against Shell Pink

THAT all winners so far deserve full marks

THAT Joshua proved that he is a champion of champions

THAT the Frenchman hacked his rivals in a common canter

THE A. R. M. Zarook has at long last fulfilled his ambition by winning the Blue Riband of the Ceylon Turf

THAT the In and Out running of Ranaq, Pearl of the East, and many others was very strange and queer

THAT what is happening to Mr. Robert's string?

THAT comparing their previous victories it appears to be a downright scandal

THAT when "gundus" are not given horses dont work wonders!

THAT it is time the Stewards held an inquiry into the running of these horses mentioned above

THAT Hilal Ahmad proved his mettle in winning the Robert's Cup.

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THAT how did the highly spoken Neon Lights win on the 4th day?

THAT it is alleged that the rider of Neon Lights told certain connections that he had no chance in the Robert's Cup

THAT it is alleged that Somapala said that Little Babu was unbeatable

THAT are Jockeys also earning their livelihood in the vocation of Astrology?

THAT they seem to know more about racing than the Trainers themselves

THAT what's wrong with Benjamin?

THAT the likes of this horseman has never been seen in the Winner's enclosure

THAT is Benjamin paying for his sins of omission and commission?

THAT Mr. C. S. Sathanantban's motion was highly commendable

THAT no Steward should be allowed to own a Race Horse

THAT by Stewards owning race horses there is a lot of hanky panky going on

THAT why not the Stewards consider the feasibility of donating a cup to perpetuate the memory of the late Mr. Stanley Obeyesekere

THAT the late Mr. Obeyesekere was one

of the finest G. R.'s Ceylon has ever had

THAT he has been long connected with the Ceylon Turf

THAT the Briggs-Fordyce episode has ended in smoke

THAT what was it due to?

THAT T. Fred Jayawardene ought to be highly complimented for his forthright action in removing his horses from Trainer R. Selvaratnam

THAT'S how owners should act without fear or favour

THAT why not the Stewards take the case of Trainer Galustan and Jockey Russell?

THAT Jockey Russell got his deserts for the indifferent riding on Nicostratus

THAT why not our great Moguls?

THAT Trainer Galustan was on toast too for his tactics in Bangalore

THAT this is how our Stewards too should function and sit on judgment without fear or favour

THAT then only will Ceylon Racing regain its former prestige and Glory

THAT let's hope the newly elected Committee Members will act and get busy before it is too late

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# The Searchlight

(ESTABLISHED 1921)

For the wrongs that need resistance  
 For the cause that needs assistance  
 For the future in the distance  
 For the good that we can do

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August 15th 1956

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## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

### BREAD AND POLITICS

"I do not want to say in every case the taking of Soviet aid would involve a great danger, but certainly when you see an area as impoverished as the Soviet bloc is, and that is highlighted by the recent riots in Poznan, when... the workers are rioting and risking their lives to get more bread - when you see such a country diverting its economic wealth to other people, there must be a strong political motive behind it and that is a warning."

- U.S. Secretary of State Dulles

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## Nationalisation with very Little in the National Cash Box

**N**ATIONALISATION, as recent events proved, was an effective slogan for vote-catching. In a large way, it helped in putting the M.E.P. into power. But it is bound to prove dangerous if it is going to be treated as a hobby-horse or regarded as a potent like the famous phrase "OPEN SEASAME" associated with the "Arabian Night's Tales." At any rate it must not be applied as a panacea for the country's political, social, economic or even religious ills. If carried too far, it may turn out to be a boomerang that will knock out its protagonists. And when that happens, as it must as night follows day, Mr. Bandaranaike and his party men will find themselves in the jungle.

This Nationalisation and the Banning craze, is being carried a bit too far. It is well to remember that Socialism cannot flourish in a country such as Ceylon whose people want everything, speak only of rights but hardly think of the obligations they owe to themselves and to the country. Consequently their own indifference, lethargy and indolence, have contributed to their abject dependance, poverty and misfortune.

Nationalisation of the 'Bus Industry is estimated to cost Government something like Three Hundred Million Rupees. This is an underestimate. If the carrying out of the entire programme with the proposed addition to fleet, workshops, garages, the necessary buildings, equipment and other provisions are taken into consideration all this will cost another Fifty Million Rupees. Then there is the Nationalisation of the European owned Tea estates. This would require anything up to Six Hundred Million Rupees. That make a sum nearly. One Thousand Million Rupees. Now where is all this money to come from? Assuming that the Nationalisation schemes are to be done in different stages, even then large sums of money would be necessary. It must be admitted that the two schemes cannot be financed from the country's current revenue. It would be sheer madness to attempt that. Ceylon finances at the present time and for a few years to come, are not too good.

Ceylon has already been depleted of capital that accumulated and circulated for years in the country. All that has vanished. It had been taken away by fair means and foul. And there is no earthly hope of fresh capital investments coming to Ceylon when we are hurrying those whom we look upon as 'foreigners' who should live here no longer. Further, we propose to nationalise foreign owned business establishments. So that with what little capital that is left and with very poor prospects of Government raising internal loans - and the Tamils are already calling upon their people not to contribute to such loans - what is going to be the position? With the Ceylonisation or Nationalisation of trade and all it connotes, will the country be able to finance the two big Nationalisation Schemes? We certainly don't believe she can. Already there are scores of matters to which Government is committed. There are several more important problems that are pressing on for solution. These, too will cost a lot of money. What then is going to happen? Let us look facts in the face and not dream dreams.

All the above matters must be considered in the light of the country's resources and against her political and economic background. Ceylon is bound to be confronted with increasing competition in regard to her Tea, Rubber, and Coconut products. World markets favour our competitors. That is the present tendency. Our chances therefore of retaining our foreign patrons are being narrowed down year by year.



In such circumstances the outlook for Ceylon is not too rosy. Ceylon's takings from the sale of her products to other countries will therefore, as years advance, be considerably lessened. Further we have to keep sending out millions of rupees annually for our Food and thus there will be very little in the National Cash Box left. Let the Government not be too much in a hurry to think of nationalisation. It is time it learnt the lesson about cutting its coat according to the cloth! The wiser course to follow is to postpone this nationalisation business for better times. That way lies wisdom.

## Ceylon's Banian Industry

(Continued from page 20)

### AND NOW A ROLLICKING EXCHANGE RACKET IS ON

Here we feel compelled to refer to a matter that has developed suddenly - though not unexpected by those who had eyes to see and ears to hear. Government must take the blame for what has happened. The Import Control Department must also be taken to task by the Central Government. The Minister for Trade & Commerce, too, cannot escape entirely from a share of the blame for what is happening, even though he may not be aware of how the game is being played. Anyway, this is how the Racket we refer to has been occasioned. How or why the Import Control failed to realise that any departmental laxity or lack of forethought or vigilance on its part, or giving any loop-hole to Importers, in the licences issued, would lead to nefarious practice, we cannot quite understand.

We would, indeed, be surprised to be told that the Import Controller, or his Deputy, or any other responsible officer of that Department DID NOT anticipate what has happened. Such a thing is too good to be believed.

### IMPORTERS GET AWAY WITH IT!

According to a Gazette notification of the 10th Feb. 1956 imports of oversize banians were permitted Sizes over 34. Importers connived with the suppliers in Hongkong and hatched this plan. They imported the banians over size in breadth only while the neck size, sleeves and height were of standard size banians (30, 32, 34"). Appraisers merely looked at the Breadth of the Banian only and passed the goods as OK according to the permit issued. Once the goods were passed and brought into the Importers stores

or warehouse the two sides were cut to bring them to the standard size and the sleeves were reattached, relabelled and sold at prices far below the imported price and local buyers bought it without a question.

Gazette Notification under date of 8th June 1956, went a step further when it helped the Importers even better. Here the CIF value for sizes from 28 to 34 was fixed at Rs. 4 each Banian and for sizes up to 26 at Rs. 3 each and below Rs. 2. Nothing was mentioned or stipulated in the Permit issued about the quality of the Banians to be imported under this Notification.

Here it must be understood that the manufacturers in Hong Kong, from where the imports came from, working in collusion with the local importers, inflated the Invoices and priced each Banian at Rs 4/- Of course the Importers worked through their agents in India. The money paid for the imports being sent to Hong Kong and from where, by arrangement the difference in the price of the imported Banians was sent from Hong Kong to Singapore and from Singapore the money came to India where the difference was retained by the agents of the local Importers who are hand in glove with them.

So that these Banians after going through a 'local operation' were sold openly in the Pettah market at prices ranging from Rs. 3/- to Rs. 2/50 each. Thus the Exchange Control is hoodwinked and defeated and the local Banian manufacturers are confronted with unexpected competition owing to Government indifference. Will the Import Controller deny that this is not what is happening?

While it is certainly bad and regrettable that a young and hopeful Industry should be made to suffer and likely to be ruined, we think it is doubly worse that Ceylon money should be sent out by dubious means and methods which, some people even allege, are facilitated by the Ceylon Government's own negligence and want of forethought. All this seems to us to be scandalous. We ask that it be forthwith stopped. Will the Minister for Trade and Commerce give the matter his Immediate attention. He is not the man who will tolerate any hanky panky. He certainly is not the type of Minister who will help to jeopardise Ceylonese Industry. One word more. He must see that the local industry is not crippled and unfair advantage or competition allowed to occur.

We are informed that since this Exchange Racket began Importers of Banians have increased in number. These importers we are told never before handled this class of goods. Is the Government going to allow the Indians to get away with it? Already vast sums of Ceylon money have been sent out by dubious ways.

## American or Russian Aid which is Better?

Apropos of the article elsewhere "Looking a Gift Horse in the Mouth" the following excerpts taken over from the "American News" of the 16th Instant are both instructive and interesting.

Addressing the summer forum of the University's School of International Relations Kenneth T. Young, Jr., Director of the State Department's office of Southeast Asian Affairs, stressed the interests of the United States in helping the free nations of Asia. He said: "Emergent Asia challenges our wisdom and ingenuity to try to understand what the Asians are seeking, help them over their hurdles where and when we can and with them move toward the better living which modern means of all sorts make possible."

Young pointed out: "Needless to say, we do not seek the exact image or replica of our own way of life, for we cherish the infinite variety and endless possibilities of freedom's diversity."

Discussing so-called Communist "economic assistance" for less-developed countries, Young said that while Communist aid is "still a novelty, too recent to evaluate with any assurance...it is certainly not disinterested. Communist aid is designed to promise the influence and power of Russia and China by exploiting tensions and stresses in Asia, penetrating key political and social groups and attracting trade, training and technological dependence toward the Soviet orbit."

While the United States cannot afford to ignore Communist manoeuvres in this field, she continues to stress her concern and im-

proves her support for the independence and development of the less developed countries per se."

Young stressed that the United States can only supplement the efforts of the Asian people themselves "to nourish and safeguard what they value most."

Noting progress already made by newly-independent Asian nations, Young said "the returns on the present arrangements have hardly started to come in and they are encouraging so far."

In regard to Asian development, Young stressed the following points:

(1) The whole Free World, including the United States and Asia must work together to promote economic progress and stability in a total world.

(2) The Free World should try to assure an adequate flow of skills and capital into Asia for national development programs.

(3) Effective external aid should proceed evenly and flexibly in Asia to assure stability, impact and efficient absorption.

(4) Training of a sufficient number of competent leaders and experts to produce results is a key feature in assistance for Asia.

(5) There are a variety of approaches to promoting economic growth. Time and experience will test their relative efficacy. "Vast forces are moving and changes only now are beginning to take shape, Asian leaders and technicians have an intense, idealistic will to achieve their goals. Therein may lie the ultimate answer."

Young concluded "Young America and new Asia, both now independent, have emerged into the general stream of world affairs in the twentieth century at a time of rapid change. Conditions of life in America and Asia may vary extremely, but the pace and passion for betterment are shared. At many points the basic human values and social purposes of Asia and America coincide. On many current issues of political outlook, economic forms and foreign relations, important divergencies exist and more may arise. Yet it would be tragic and unnecessary to miss the opportunity to establish a harmony of purpose and an area of cooperation where there appears to be, for a while at least, a community of ideals and a frontier of action."

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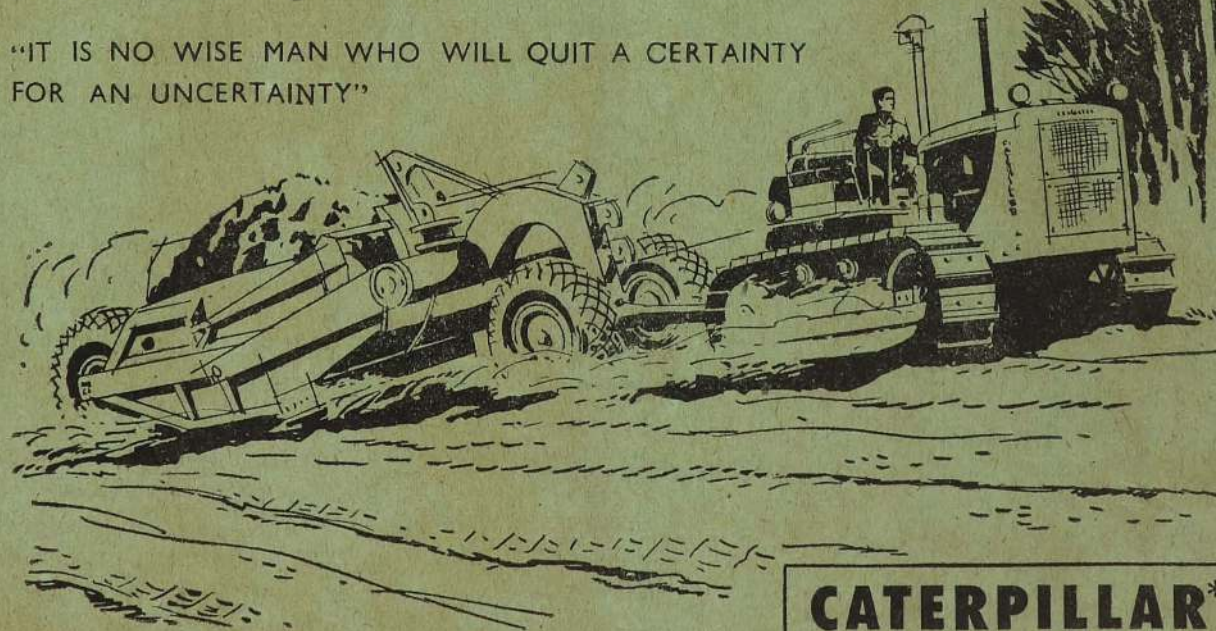
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