

# THE SEARCHLIGHT

VOL 35 NO. 16

COLOMBO

Sept. 15th 1956

## The C.G.R. can be made to pay

THOUGH IT BURNS A MILLION RUPEES WORTH OF COAL A MONTH

*Maradana*

THE Ceylon Government Railway was at one time spoken of as the "best paying railway in the world." Whether this was fact or fiction nobody cared to ascertain. However, it was stated sometime ago, that a cantankerous Ceylon Civil Servant in the Colonial Government days, when the local Secretariat ran the railway, having gone through the Annual Returns, penned the following words on it: 'This is the best paying railway in the world.' Official circles who heard about the endorsement, believed it as true.

It must be admitted that the Ceylon Railway, was a paying proposition—never mind whether it was the "best paying railway in the world"—during the regime of that Sherry drinking and pleasure loving General Manager W. T. Pearce. After he relinquished the charge, and G. P. Greene succeeded him, the railway practically went to the dogs! Next Thomas Edison Dutton, who followed Greene, made a confounded mess of the business from the day he stepped into the Railway Office at Maradana. From that time and right up to Canagasaby's appointment as G.M., the railway progressively deteriorated. And now B.D. Rampala, a man who rose from the ranks—and that is his best and unbeatable qualification—is trying to pull the C.G.R. out of the ditch into which his predecessors had gone and landed it. Rampala is already showing signs, we are happy to be able to state, of retrieving the lost prestige of the railway and to give it a new lease of life and vitality. He

certainly will not, we feel certain, allow the railway, which he joined as a clerk, to drift and become a derelict. Given a free hand, Rampala is capable of adding a glorious chapter to the checked history of the Ceylon Government Railway.

During the last War 1942-45, it was claimed by the Senanayake-Kotelawala government that the Railway made a big profit. This was Prime Minister Sir John Kotelawala's boast. There was an element of truth in that claim, but it was a profit only on paper. Any way, we heard it said that Lord Louis Mountbatten told the late Sir Andrew Caldicott: 'Were I allowed, Your Excellency, I would blow up the Railway headquarters and all, and let my men run a new, hundred per cent better, faster and cheaper railway!' That much for the best paying Railway.

How to make the Railway pay its way without Government having to maintain a non-profit yielding business and a burden on the taxpayer, has been a question that had baffled nine Colonial Governors from MacCallum to Monk-Mason Moore. For one Commission after another had gone into the matter but no way out of the difficulty was found. It is crystal clear that the entire business is top-heavy, the working system too complicated, lop-sided and uneconomic. Naturally the establishment charges and the working expenses, with pensions added, absorbed the best part of the railway earnings. While inefficiency, both in high and low places,

(Continued on page 9)

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Vol 35 No. 16

COLOMBO

Sept. 15th 1956.

## A Move-on with Industrialisation Called for

Specially written for 'The Searchlight'

BY CIVIS ZEYLANICUS

THAT Ceylon, industrially speaking, is a very backward country there can be no doubt whatsoever. This state of things cannot be allowed to continue. We are happy, therefore, that the Prime Minister felt called upon to refer to the matter last week-end when he sounded, what must be regarded as, a hopeful note and said that there is the need for industrialisation of the country. He remarked: "it was unsafe to depend upon the tea, rubber and coconut industries indefinitely, especially as Ceylon was now a free country." The implication of the Prime Minister's remarks would be readily understood and realized by all concerned in the economic betterment and well-being of this Island.

With the exception of a remarkably few commodities of life that are locally manufactured and which, too, until very recently, Ceylon was dependent on foreign sources of supply, all other essential commodities, and they run into thousands, from rice, flour, sugar, slates and slate-pencils to blotting paper, have to be imported from abroad. This certainly is a sad commentary on the genius of the people and a fact to be greatly deplored, shameful though it be to own it. Furthermore, the present dependence amounts to a reflection on the national self-respect and a poor compliment to the organizing ability and business acumen of the Ceylonese who were recognised as fit and competent to be entrusted with the government of their own country. After nearly ten years of self-govern-

ment Ceylon has hardly made any headway or shown any progress of being able to provide herself with her national requirements but needs must look to other countries to supply

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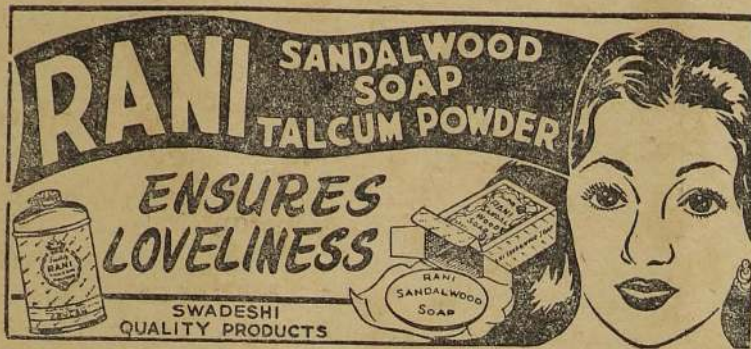
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her with all such needs in food, drink and dress and other articles of daily use.

It is not as if Ceylon was short of capital to start industrial undertakings. It is not as if she had not the brain or the man power to start such industries as could produce her own manufactured goods. But that her people are indolent and therefore content to remain dependent on the foreign manufacturer and merchant who, while lulling us into a false sense of security, keep on making holes in our pockets for their own benefit and thus impoverishing the country.

It is unpardonable for Ceylon which prides in having erudite judges and lawyers, able surgeons and physicians, reputed engineers and architects, astute business-men, clever financiers and wealthy men, who boast of paying in their five to six figure cheques as Income Tax, that she cannot produce a bicycle, a fountain pen, a brass screw or a packet of pins or nails, a cup and saucer or a plate to feed from. If the people are patriotic and really and truly national-minded like the people of India, who since the coming of Independence have shown wonderful progress and started to set up a variety of industries that are helping to increase their country's wealth, and providing employment to a reservoir of men and women seeking work and by so doing benefitting their country, Ceylonese can do the same.

An Indian State publication issued early this year, announces that during the two previous years the intensification of industries, be they of the cottage, small and big scale, under the Cooperative and the Joint Stock Companies Ordinances, had increased by sixty two per cent, and that steps were being taken to embark upon more pretentious undertakings such as production of chemicals, drugs, paints, and many other articles which are at present being largely imported costing hundreds of million

rupees annually. In Bengal manufacturers are turning out surgical instruments and a variety of similar articles which hitherto were imported. Capital wherever necessary, it is understood, being provided by an industrial Credit Bank who is prepared to advance money on Share Certificates in such Joint Stock Companies.

The Prime Minister's call for more industries raises great hopes and opens out vistas for the economic betterment of the people and the general prosperity of the country when the national wealth, about which the Government of Ceylon have been speaking, nay hoping, for during the last quarter century almost, will benefit. To increase the national wealth of the country

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may take some years, but to get along with any industry can be done in a matter of months by those who know how. There was an impression until recently that Government was indifferent to the matter of industrialisation and that for some reason or other the initiation of any local industry, was left to private individuals. But that is so no longer. Now that the Government have realised the necessity for starting manufacturing industries for the production of commodities that have to be imported, the happy note struck by the Prime Minister should be welcomed and seized with both hands by those who are industrially inclined as there is every indication that government support will be forthcoming.

Nowadays it almost seems, at least it used to be until recently, that any effort or attempt at starting an industry cost a lot of money and no doubt it is so. But what those industrially inclined probably do not seem to realize is that this difficulty could be got over by recourse to the Joint Stock Company's Ordinance which limits the liability of the members. For all that is required of those wishing to launch on any industry by floating a company, is to get together 5 or 7 persons of acknowledged probity

and repute and in whom the public could put their trust. And the rest was easy.

Of course those who initiated or sponsored such industrial undertakings had to be themselves men with experience, knowledge and character. With these perquisites forthcoming there could be little difficulty and much less doubt that the public, provided the proposition placed before them was alluring and the facts and figures quoted were such as could be relied upon to strengthen the hope of prospects and profits for the enterprise.

**THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

Group freedom is a primitive, robust, massive thing. It will always naturally assert itself; it hardly needs any special protection. "It is individual freedom that is relatively new and fragile, and that therefore requires every possible tender care."

— Dr. Charles Malik,  
*Libanese Ambassador United Nations*

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"NOBODY could deny the fact the Christian missionaries had done an immense deal of good work for the educational upliftment of the country. It was very unfortunate that religion and language have become very controversial issues. They had been made tools by narrow-minded nationalists to gain their own ends.

"Irrespective of what religion one practised or what language one spoke what the country needed was good citizens."—Mr. T. C. P. Fernando, D. J. Matale.

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## “No Alms for Political Bhikkus”

SAYS A CORRESPONDENT

The Editor  
The Searchlight  
Dear Sir,

**W**ILL you let me state there is an altogether wrong impression that the educated sections of the Buddhist community—the progressive Buddhists educated on Western lines I mean to say—approve the conduct of Buddhist Bhikkus identifying themselves in matters outside their calling, or that we are encouraging them to do so. This is not at all correct.

We totally disapprove our clergy contravening the rules laid down for them in the VINIYA. We even strongly object to our priests going on the political platform for discussing and bargaining over temporal matters with laymen.

Buddhist priests should confine themselves to their pirivenas and must only identify themselves with the people in spiritual matters. The sight of our Buddhist clergy partaking in purely mundane matters and seeking power for themselves, is quite unbecoming. For in doing so anger, disappointment and even hate is engendered.

I have made up my mind to refuse alms, or any help whatsoever, to Buddhist bhikkus who don't confine themselves strictly to their religion duties. If others also make up their mind to do the same, we should see less of our clergy going meddling in matters which do not concern them.

As it is, I note a dangerous tendency has crept into the affairs of Buddhism. There is just now considerable disagreement among the various sections of the Buddhist priesthood. This is going to disunite the Buddhists and weaken their ranks considerably. Politics, of whatever complexion, and religion go ill-together. The Buddha Jayanthi celebrations, I fear, have helped to create more trouble for us Buddhists. This is regrettable indeed.

Please publish this letter

Galle H.W. SAMARANAYAKE

(Our correspondent is another convert to Revd.

Kasapa's way of thinking, we are happy to note. Editor)

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## “Bhikku Government”

“THE Government is being conducted not by the M.P's and the Ministers but by Bhikkus. Therefore it is not a people's government but a Bhikku government”, said Mr. P. Hendavitharane at a public meeting held at the Methodist School, Dondra, under the auspices of the Sinhalese S.S.C. qualified Youth League of Dondra.

He further said that “instead of preaching the doctrine of the Lord Buddha, some of the Bhikkus had started to preach many other kinds of strange doctrines, one of these was Talpavila Seelavansa Maha Thero's ‘bottle sermon’. (“Botala Bana”) The monk had urged the collection of empty bottles as a means of living for Sinhalese S.S.C. qualified youth.”

# Campaign Issues—The Platforms Compared

WITH the adoption of their platforms at the past two weeks conventions, the Democratic and Republicans set forth their formal positions on election issues. Here are the major planks and the background against which they were written.

## Foreign Policy

### LEADERSHIP

The parties agree generally on the objectives of United States policy, but they are sharply at odds as to the Administration's execution of that policy.

Democrats: The Administration . . . has confused timidity with courage and blindness with enlightenment. . . . Our friends abroad now doubt our sincerity. . . . They have been traditional action and boldness in foreign affairs evaporate into Republican complacency, retrenchment and empty posturing."

Republicans: "The threat of global war has receded. The advance of communism has been checked, and, at key point, thrown back . . . It is essential that the vast experience of our proved leader, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, continues to guide our country,"

### FOREIGN AID

Pressure in both parties is strong for tapering off the aid program, but new questions have been raised by the Russians' economic offensive, particularly in Asia.

Democrats: "We believe that . . . America must support the efforts of underdeveloped countries . . . to increase their own productivity so they may enjoy the higher living standards . . . The time has come for a realistic reappraisal of the American foreign aid program."

Republicans: "Where needed we shall help friendly countries maintaining such local forces and economic strength as provide a first bulwark against Communist aggression or subversion. We will continue . . . to assist the underdeveloped areas of the free world."

### 'LIBERATIGN'

"Liberation" of Soviet satellites, for which the Republicans in 1952 promised to work, is considered a powerful issue among certain voter groups.

Democratic: "We condemn the Republican Administration for its heartless record of broken promises to the unfortunate victims of communism."

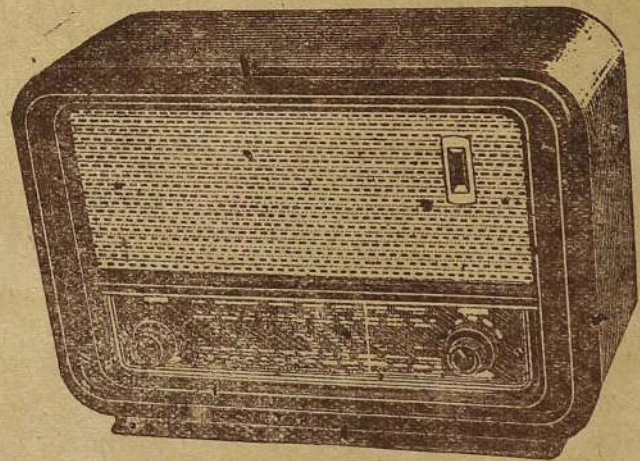
Republicans: "The republican party stands firmly with the peoples of these satellite] countries in their just quest for freedom."

### MIDDLE EAST

An important factor in the Middle East picture has been the Administration's decision to strike a "balance" in relations with the Arabs and Israel.

Democrats: "To prevent war, to assure peace . . . [we will] take such action as may be necessary . . . to prevent any violation of the frontiers of armistice lines . . . The Democratic party will act to redress the dangerous unbalance of arms in the area . . . by

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selling or supplying defensive weapons to Israel.'

Republicans: "We support a policy of impartial friendship for the peoples of the Arab states and Israel. Progress towards a just settlement [of the Arab Israeli conflict] was upset by the Soviet bloc sale of arms to Arab countries. But prospects of peace have now been reinforced . . . upon the initiative of the United States."

## Domestic Policy

### NATIONAL DEFENCE

There has been running controversy in Congress over how much reliance to place on nuclear and air power, and whether the Administration has carried economy too far.

Democratic: "We reject the false Republican notion that this country can afford only a second-best defense. We stand for strong defense forces so clearly superior in modern weapons to those of any possible enemy that our armed strength will make an attack upon the free world unthinkable . . ."

Republicans: "We are determined to maintain [armed force] strength so long as our security and the peace of the world require it. The lesson of [the Korean war] and our lack of preparedness which brought it about will not be forgotten. Our country's defense posture is today a visible and power-

ful deterrent against attack . . . We have the strongest striking force in the world . . ."

### CIVIL RIGHTS

Reconciling the views of North and South has been a prime problem for the Democrats in keeping the party together. The Republicans hope to attack both the Negro voters and sections of the South that might bolt from Democratic tradition.

Democrats: "We will continue our efforts to eradicate discrimination based on race, religion or national origin. Recent decisions of the Supreme Court . . . have brought consequences of vast importance . . . We reject all proposals for the use of force to interfere with orderly determination of these matters by the courts."

Republicans: "More progress has been made in this field under the present Republican Administration than in any similar period in the last thirty years. The Republican party accepts the decision of the U. S. Supreme Court that racial discrimination in publicly supported schools must be progressively eliminated . . . with 'all deliberate speed'."

### TAXES

Democrats have pressed hard for tax cuts for low-income groups. The Eisenhower position has been that tax cuts must await

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balancing of the budget and some reduction of the national debt.

Democrats: "The immediate need is to correct the inequities in the tax structure . . . We favor an increase in the present personal tax exemption of \$600 to . . . at least \$800.

Republicans: "Insofar as consistent with a balanced budget, we pledge to work toward . . . further reductions in taxes with particular consideration for low and middle income families. . . .

FARM

Farm surpluses and dropping farm income have plagued both parties. The difference in their approaches has been the question of price support level.

Democrats: "[We pledge to] . . . repeal the Eisenhower flexible collapsible price supports and restore supports on basic commodities at 90 per cent of parity . . . and regain the full 100 per cent of parity farmers received under Democratic Administrations."

Republicans: "The Republican party . . . does not envision making farmers dependent upon direct governmental payments for their incomes. [It seeks to] provide price supports . . . that protect farmers rather than price their products out of the market."

PROSPERITY

While in general the nation has prospered during the present Administration, several sectors especially the farmers—have not shared in the benefits

Democrats: "This Republican prosperity . . . has been an illusion. . . . Its fever signs are evidenced by soaring monopoly profits, while wages lag, farm income collapses, and small business failures multiply at an alarming rate."

Republicans: "Good times in America have reached a breadth and depth never before known by any nation. Moreover, it is a prosperity of a nation at peace, not at war."

NATURAL RESOURCES

Democrats have pushed regional multi-purpose developments, such as the T. V. A. While the Administration has favored development at the local level in "partnership" with private enterprise.

Democrats: "We condemn . . . this pillaging of our dwindling natural resource wealth . . . by the Eisenhower Administration . . . We pledge the resumption of rapid and orderly multiple purpose river basin development throughout the nation"

Republican: "We commend the Eisenhower Administration for encouraging state and local government, public agencies and regulated private enterprise to participate actively in comprehensive water and power development."

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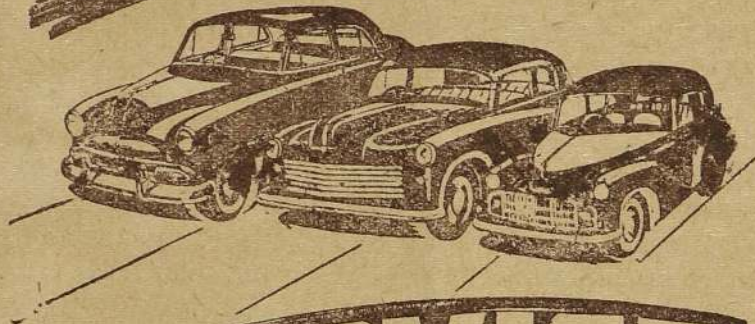
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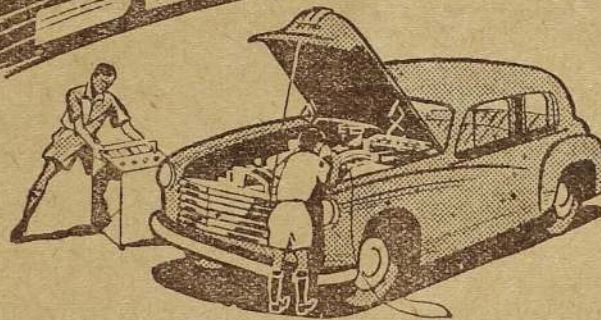
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## The C.G.R. can be made to pay

Though it burns a million rupees worth  
of coal a month

( Continued from Cover page )

and sheer waste and extravagance, have added their quota ending up in a Debit Balance every year. If proof was needed to show what an expensive affair the Railway has turned out to be, here it is. We confine ourselves to one item only.

According to a statement made by the Minister for Transport, the "Railway's Coal Bill for the current financial year (1955-56) is to be Rs. 2,775,000 more on account of an increase of the price of coal which is estimated to bring the total coal bill for financial year 1956-57 to Rs. 12,006,000. The Minister further states that 'the actual Coal Bill of the C.G.R. would have risen this year to about Rs. 20,000,000. but for the extensive use of Diesel Locomotives.' That is to say the Railway consumes One Million Rupees worth of Coal every month or nearly Rs. 35,000 worth of coal everyday for a month of 30 days. And this with certain lines closed down and also with considerable curtailment of trains on all lines. Has the Government cared to find out how it is that a million rupees worth of coal should be needed and used up during a single month? It is believed that for a long time Indian (Bengal) Coal was continuously used. Who was it that switched on to South African (Durban) coal and why? Surely Government had enough of imagination to realize that India is closer to Ceylon than South Africa and hence by all processes of reasoning Indian Coal should be cheaper on the long run. So at least those competent to speak on coal fuel tell us. The Minister for Transport should not find this a hard nut to crack. In any case it is felt that he should give the matter of coal consumption by the Railway some little thought. We need not tell the Honourable Minister that the Ceylon Government Railway can be made to be self supporting. To do that the axe must be drastically applied and laxity and inefficiency rooted out. General Manager Rampala is just now on the right tract, and provided there is no ministerial interference—he will have enough to show when he comes to giving an account of his stewardship.

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# Storm over Suez

BY G. L. ARNOLD

If the matter were not so serious, the spectacle of the Western powers trying and failing to adopt a firm line with Egyptian President Nasser would be distinctly comic. It soon became evident that the real aim of Western policy, underlying the indignant noises now audible on stage, is to secure an agreement leaving Egypt in possession of the Suez Canal but placing its operation under some form of international control.

Before considering the chances of such an outcome while the present Egyptian regime remains in power, it is worthwhile to look at the legal background. The argument, now fashionable in British Conservative circles that the whole upset is due to Britain's abandonment of military control over the Suez base can be dismissed briefly. It is rooted in a misunderstanding of the 1936 treaty with Egypt which concerned defense of the Canal against external (i.e., Italian) aggression, not its administration as an international waterway. The treaty did not entitle the British to stay for the purpose of protecting shipping rights; nor did the Constantinople Convention of 1888 to which Egypt (then a viceroyalty of Turkey) never adhered. On the other hand, the 1954 Anglo-Egyptian agreement under which Britain evacuated Suez, did commit both parties to uphold the convention, thereby indirectly guaranteeing freedom of navigation. This understanding, of course, has been persistently violated by Egypt in regard to ships bound for Israel—without drawing a British protest. Only now has it suddenly been discovered that Colonel Nasser cannot safely be left in sole control of a waterway through which so much Western shipping has to pass.

This, however, leads to another awkwardness. It is now the British contention that unfettered Egyptian control of Suez is not merely undesirable but intolerable. Such control was nonetheless envisaged in the Anglo-Egyptian agreement of 1954 and in the various official declarations concerning the expiration of the Suez Company's lease in 1968. It is now argued that Egypt had only to wait for this event in order to obtain legally what Na-

sser has now seized by force, but it is also suggested that national control of an international waterways is wrong in principle. Somewhere in this argument there is a hole through which great gusts of Arab and Asian nationalist indignation are going to blow in the months to come, whether or not the matter goes to the United Nations or the Hague Court. Sooner or later no doubt some form of international control will be established if only because the maritime powers are beginning to realise that Colonel Nasser is a professional blackmailer. But it will not be easy to sell this line of thought to the burgeoning nationalisms of Asia.

The interim prospect of prolonged deadlock and economic warfare would begin to look really grim if the Eden Government could be trusted to live up to its implied threat to do everything short of war to bring Colonel Nasser to his senses. From the start, those familiar with Sir Anthony Eden's political and personal record did not take these threats very seriously, and their skepticism is now beginning to be widely shared. But quite apart from the evident lack of stamina in official Western quarters, there is genuine puzzlement over the means proper to the occasion.

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That the interim measures hastily adopted to "freeze" Cairo's income from shipping dues are not going to hurt very much is apparent when one considers that Egypt has thus far been able to live without the Suez Company's revenues. It is true that the "freezing" measures interfere with Colonel Nasser's proclaimed intention of using these revenues to build the Aswan Dam, but it is much easier for him to postpone this operation for a year than it is for the maritime nations to do without the Suez Canal. In the event of a total stoppage, that is to say, all the economic advantages are on Colonel Nasser's side: He can hold out longer.

It is just for this reason that the French Government is in favor of resolute action to keep the Canal open under all circumstances, even if it means sending troops and warships. But this is just the kind of thing that no one expects the Eden Government to do, especially in the face of U.S. disapproval. And since Colonel Nasser must be as well briefed about Sir Anthony's constitutional spinelessness as Mussolini was twenty years ago at the time of the Abyssinian debacle, the threats now current here tend to ring somewhat hollow—even to the Tory rightwingers, who at heart do not believe that their government is capable of the kind of drastic action that might have to follow if Nasser and his associates reject the idea of international control.

At the same time, there is genuine pressure on the Government to safeguard Britain's oil supplies, the bulk of which pass through the Canal. This issue must, however, be differentiated from the question of Canal tolls and their presumptive effect on oil prices. On this subject, there are some exaggerations current. If and when the Egyptian Government increases the tolls, the impact on the price is likely to be trifling.

Tolls at present average about \$23,000 per tanker; the estimated cost per ton of oil going through the Canal is less than one dollar. Even a large increase in the tolls need not affect the price of oil to the consumer or to industry. And since the cost per ton of freight charges from Kuwait to Britain, at the present market rate for charter tankers, is \$14—of which less than a dollar is accounted for by passage through Suez—the toll charges, even at double or triple the present rate, would still be only a small percentage of the cost to the consumer; whereas

the extra transport costs of taking tankers around the Cape (if the Canal were closed or the tolls exorbitant) would come to almost \$4 per ton for an average-size tanker. There is talk of building super tankers too large for Suez and capable of economical operation on the Cape route, but this is a longterm prospect. There is talk, too, of building additional pipelines to the Mediterranean, but they are still in the dream stage. Meanwhile, Colonel Nasser is sitting pretty.

The conclusion must therefore reluctantly be reached that very little will come out of all the present excitement. It is nonetheless apparent that Nasser has seriously blotted his copybook and made matters more difficult for his admirers and apologists in official quarters. He has now been publicly stigmatized as an embryo Hitler by the French Government, solemnly lectured by Sir Anthony Eden, and even treated to some gentle admonitions by the U.S. State Department. Though unlikely to harm him in the short run, these verbal rumblings are probably indicative of a change of mind such as preceded the gradual, reluctant extrusion of Mussolini from the select company of European statesmen. It is even conceivable that if and when Nasser embarks on his next adventure—which will probably be directed against Israel, and timed to take place about four weeks after his latest escapade has been officially forgiven—there will be some quite genuine irritation in Washington and London, perhaps even accompanied by a few harmless gestures intended to warn him off.

Anyone who wants the Western powers to do more must find ways and means to stiffen their spines. This is not an easy operation, and perhaps we would all be well advised not to expect them to display more firmness than they did in the Thirties.

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*Letters to the Editor*

## What is Wrong with the M.E.P.?

**Y**OU have asked this question, but you did not give your readers the answer. However, here is what I think is wrong with the M.E.P. government:-

- (1) Meddling too much with Buddhism and the Buddhist Sangha.
- (2) That Mr. Bandaranaike has played into the hands of the Buddhist Monks—who helped to make him Prime Minister and who will soon unmake him.
- (3) The P.M. wants to please everybody. By trying to do this, he will please nobody in the end.
- (4) The Members of the M.E.P. Cabinet are playing for their own hands. Are not Phillip Gunawardena and W. Dahanayake eyeing the Premiership?
- (5) If Mr. Bandaranaike has to go, it will be a Sama Samajist that will get hold of the Premiership. Then what?
- (6) Finally, the public are beginning to lose faith in the M.E.P. government and unless it makes up its mind to stop the rot that has set in, it must go. There is no alternative.

MARADANA

ALBERT ABEYDEERA

## THE INDIAN QUESTION

**H**AS the Indian question been put in cold storage? Your readers will remember that Mr. Bandaranaike, our Premier, once shouted himself hoarse that he will die happy when the last Indian left Ceylon! He even said that he would do everything in his power to remove the stranglehold Indians are having on Ceylon trade. What little, and that is very much I think, the U.N.P. government had done to minimise the Indian menace, the M.E.P. is trying to undo. It is freely said that Mr. Bandaranaike is unwilling to displease Pandit Nehru whose leadership in many matters Mr. Bandaranaike now seems to follow. This is sign of weakness.

Any way why has the Indian question been shelved? Will the Prime Minister explain? Did not his Party tell the public during the Elections that the Indian question

would be one of the first things the Party will take up if they came into power?

RATMALANA

(Revd.) K. D. WIMALAJOTHI

## THE BUDDHIST SANGA SABHA

**T**HE Prime Minister took too much for granted when he, briefed by the Bhikku Exseth Peramune, who is now jockeying him, made a pilgrimage to Kandy to hold converse with the High Priests of Malwatta and Asgiri Chapters and try to win them over for the formation of a Buddhist Sanga Sabha. The P.M was told in plain Swabasha that Malwatte and Asgiriya will not tolerate any such organisation—especially of Buddhist Clergy who did not live up to the rules of the Viniya but are disgracing their sacred calling.

In short, the P.M. got what might be called "a choking off" when he was told that those who followed the leadership of Malwatte and Asgiriya "were not babies" and that they knew their business!

That the Prime Minister got a rebuff at Kandy anybody with half an eye can see. I think Mr. Bandaranaike returned to Colombo with his official prestige considerably lowered rather than enhanced. I say he deserved the short shrift he got.

Borella Cross Road

A BUDDHIST

## KOTELAWALAPURA

**M**Y Masters! How unkind, and what public ingratitude, it is, I say, for the Mount Lavinia U.C. to have carried a Resolution to change the name of "Kotelawalapura" in Ratmalana. Indeed, what a fine little township and suburb it is that surrounds the Aerodrome and the approaches to it. It is quite a beauty spot. I personally think it is. All this was due, in a large measure, to Sir John Kotelawala's initiative and foresight. And anybody will or must admit that the name "Kotelawalapura" was well chosen. It was sheer pique and nothing but envy and jealousy that appear to have prompted this move to change the name of the place to 'KAMKARUPURA.'

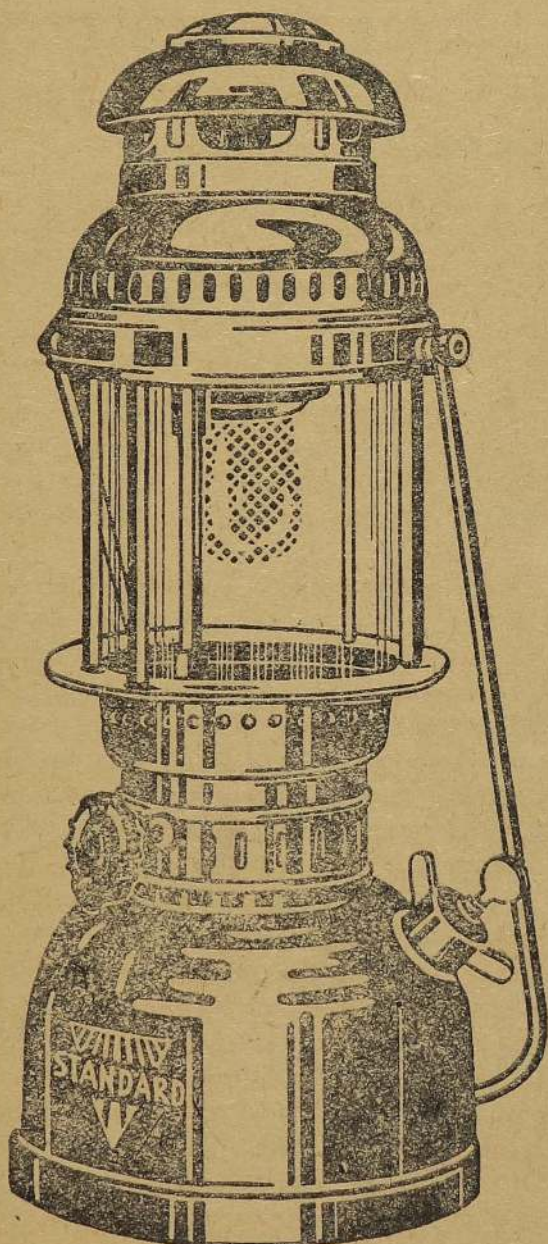
Whatever Sir John's critics might say or do, history has already been written and posterity will never fail to associate Ratmalana—the modern Ratmalana—with the name of John Kotelawala—the first Minister for Communications and Works and the third Prime Minister since Ceylon got Dominion Status.

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## *Nationalisation of estates will have bad effect on economy*

SENATOR THOMAS AMARASURIYA, in his budget speech made in the Senate on Tuesday said there was a threat of nationalisation of estates, but he was happy to say that had been contradicted by no less a person than the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance.

He added:

"We have been told that it is one of the items embodied in the manifesto of the Mahajana Eksath Peramuna or the Sri Lanka Freedom Party. It is one of the



*Senator Thomas Amarasuriya*

items that the Government proposes to consider, but I might tell it that if it does so, it is going to have a very bad effect on the economy of this country.

"As you know, it is the three industries, tea, rubber and coconut which contribute in a large measure towards the national wealth of this country. If the Government tries to tinker with those industries, I feel sure that it will have a very bad effect on the economy of the country.

"If estates that are well managed, well organized by companies as well as private individuals are going to be taken over by the State and run as State concerns, I would like to inquire from the Government whether it can run them efficiently as these people who have been running them and managing them for the last so many years."

### EMERGENCY MEASURE

Referring to the decision of the Minister of Food and agriculture to re-introduce the Food Production Ordinance to rubber estates, Senator Amarasuriya said the Minister should bear in mind that the ordinance was intro-

(Continued on page 20)

# MUSINGS

By  
T. W. Hockly

## BUNGALOW SNEAK THIEVES

↑ HERE is a class of petty thieves whose activities are as mean as they are despicable. These Knights of the road usually appear on a bicycle and are respectably dressed and of good appearance. They usually represent themselves as collectors for some charitable institution.

A friend of mine who lives in a suburb not far from Colombo recently had a visit from one of the fraternity. Being charitably inclined my friend wished to contribute a donation towards the Institution. He went inside the House to fetch some money and left his spectacles on a table in the verandah. When he returned the young man was gone and also the spectacles. Now this pair of spectacles which cost over Rs. 60 were for cataract and therefore little use to

most people. The thief would not get more than fifty cents or a rupee at most for them. On making inquiries around my friend discovered that several other people in the vicinity had had the same experience and had had several small articles lying "pinched." Another friend elsewhere had a brand new Parker 51 pen of which he was very proud. A young man turned up — not on a bicycle on this occasion and pleaded a hard luck story. My friend wished



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THE CEYLON MANURE WORKS  
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to give the young man something and went to fetch some money, leaving his beautiful pen on a table in the verandah. On his return the young man was non est and also the Parker 51 pen.

Some few years ago a young man called here on a bicycle. He brought with him on his bicycle several samples of coir matting from the Coir Factory at Katunayake and wishing to encourage local Industry I selected two samples of Coir Mats and ordered them and my order was duly taken and in due course the young man brought me the two mats for which I paid him and he gave me a receipt. Some little time after I called at the Coir Factory to see it I told the Manager I was very pleased with the two mats I have bought and asked him whether he had received the money I had paid for them. To my surprise the Manager replied that he had given the two mats to the young man but since then had neither heard of nor seen him nor the money paid for the mats Too easy! The Police should keep their eyes skimmed and arrest if possible and prosecute these youthful rogues and make an example of them.

## THE RABIES MENACE

SEE that over fifty people including children have been bitten by rabid dogs in the Panadura U.C. area alone. Many of these unfortu-



nates have been condemned to a hideous and horrible death. Will the Ceylon Government and particularly the Ministry of Health ever move in the matter of bringing in compulsory inoculation of all dogs and the humane destruction of all stray and diseased dogs? There is no question of Ahimsa or Maithriya about this. It is just a matter of commonsense and Self Preservation is the first law of nature. I would suggest that some one in the Health Ministry consults the Japanese Embassy here as to the

organisation in Japan whereby that country was able to rid itself of the menace of Rabies by the introduction and enforcement of legislation for the compulsory inoculation of all dogs and the destruction of all stray and diseased dogs. After all Japan is a Buddhist country and what is able to be done there should also be able to be done here.

KUH LI

IT may perhaps not be generally known that the word Coolie owes its origin to Chinese.



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The word Kuh li in Chinese means literally load strength and describes a labourer capable of carrying burdens. The word coolie has now fallen into desuetude here having a derogatory meaning and the word labourer has been substituted for it. I wonder, however, if in Swabasha the word Kulikaria is still used? It would be interesting to know this. Chinese is a monosyllabic language which makes it the most difficult language in the world to learn. The characters are ideographic which increases the difficulty still more.

Chou en lai has decided, however, to adopt the Roman Script as being easier to read, write, type and print a very wise decision. The word coolie has undoubtedly been derived from the Chinese, Kuhli, both in India and Ceylon. I doubt very much whether an Indian passenger on a train when he arrives at his destination and wishes a Porter to remove his luggage would use any other mode of address than 'Hi coolie.'

There is another word in common use in India derived from Chinese. It is, the word Cha or Chai to denote Tea. This word probably been corrupted into Thee through contact with

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the Portuguese. In Russia the word used for Tea is Chai.

BISCUITS

As I have said previously there is good money and employment in Biscuits. Always provided that a Company is well organised and the quality packing and presentation of the goods leave nothing to be desired by the consuming Public. I give the last Report of the Bri-

tannia Biscuit Company at Calcutta, and old and long established and Indian owned Company. The Company earned a profit of Rs. 814,261 for the year ended 31-3-56 providing Rs. 503920, for Depreciation and Rs. 452000 for Income Tax and Super Tax. The Tax contingencies Reserve gets Rs 200000, while a sum of Rs. 167,000 has been transferred to General Reserve. A final dividend of 7% Making a total of 10% including the interim of 3% has been declared. The Carry Forward is Rs. 179,277. Altogether a very healthy position. The Rs. 10 shares stand at present at Rs. 15½ This is something for Ceylon to emulate.

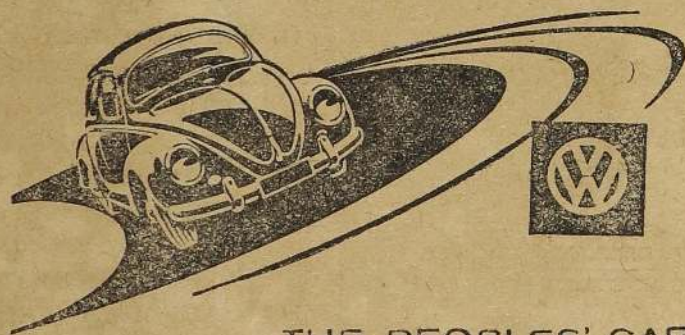
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'SOON beyond the harbour bar,  
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are the oppressed. No matter what a Policeman does right or wrong even to giving his life in the service of the country fault is found with him by some hypercritical Politician anxious to make a name for himself and hungry for power. But why not be fair and just to the Policeman and treat him like a human being and not as an unprincipled devil or ogre?

After all Politicians should remember that these same Policemen whom they hound at every opportunity are of the same race as themselves, not foreign devils and have feelings as they have. What I ask for is fairness and consideration towards our Policemen if we wish to have a Police Force worthy of the country and not a body of whipped curs who cannot call their souls their own. A better understanding is badly required. *Tout sait c'est tout pardonner*—to know all is to forgive all.

**COLONIAL SNOBBERY**

I was told the other day that the reason he was so deficient in a knowledge of his own language, particularly as regards reading and writing, was because when he was a child his European Governors was given strict orders by his doting parents that on no account was he to speak Sinhalese to the servants at school, later Sinhalese books were debarred and in fact if any boys out of class were found talking to each other in Sinhalese they were fined

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or otherwise punished. Can anything be conceived to be more snobbish?

This insular system has greatly impeded a knowledge of Swabasha particularly as regards Burghers and the European domiciled community. Ceylon has been nurtured on a purely Colonial Diet. The idea apparently being to make "brown Englishmen" of the people.

In India it has always been far different. I speak of North India as I know nothing about South India. In all the big schools of North India, denominational or otherwise, the pupils were taught by Indian expert Tutors or Ministers to read and write Urdu or Hindi and examinations were set in this subject. The

result was that all the pupils were able to read and write the language of the country. Out of class there was never any restriction against pupils speaking to each other in the country. Domiciled Europeans and Anglo Indians—the latter equivalent to Ceylon Burghers—spoke in English to each other and Indians in their own mother tongue. As regards servants few if any whether house boys, or ayahs know a word of English. All children European born or otherwise always conversed with the domestics in Hindustani and with their parents

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RATNAPURA

of European or Anglo-Indian, in English and so they became bi-lingual—a great advantage.

Had this system existed here it would have greatly facilitated a knowledge of Swabasha. In the Indian Government Service all officials whether in the Civil Service, Police or otherwise were expected to have a sound working knowledge of the language of the country. I have myself heard and seen an European Supreme Court Judge correct an interpreter when he wrongly translated the words of a witness. A Civil Servant when he went into Camp in the cold weather and visited various villages in his district used to hold Court under a shady tree and interview the V.H. and all the villagers who had any complaint or grievance. All this was done in the language of the country and never through an interpreter. But in Ceylon it has been far otherwise. Here Civil Servants and higher Police Officials invariably are accompanied by an interpreter. The official speaks in English and the interpreter translates. I have seen Ceylonese Civil Servants to be in the vogue accompanied by an interpreter. Can anything be more absurd.

How can officials expect to establish real contacts with the people if the method employed through an interpreter who can trust anything as how he likes and place quite a different complexion on the words of the official.

Its about time all this farcical nonsense was done away with. When I was a child in India, before I went to the U.K. for my education, I could speak fluently to the servants and others in Hindustani and to my parents of course in English.

This recalls an incident several years ago in Colombo when I called on a European lady who I think must have been in Ceylon as a child. I had not been long in Ceylon at the time. The lady gave an order in English to one of her servants. "Do you always speak in English to your servants?" I inquired. "Yes, of course, what else? I don't know their filthy language and I take care that none of my children learn it either" shortly after I left the house and the lady betook herself to the back premises. As I was getting into my car I happened to hear considerable vituperation and argument from the back premises.

"Who is that speaking?" I asked my Malay driver. "Oh, that is the lady. She very angry with the Appu, she speaking plenty Tamil, and Sinhalese very nicely, Sir." Tableau Vivant—there's a picture for you. Ceylon for Colonial Snobbery. As General Girdwood once remarked to me. "Its the Colonial Idea' nowadays everyone including Burghers refers to a 'Nanny' never as an 'Ayah.' It just isn't done.

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## Industrialisation

**T**HE Prime Minister, speaking at the new Aqueanas Hall at Bambalapitiya last week to the undergraduates of St. Joseph's College, made what must be regarded both as a remarkable and forthright statement. Mr. Bandaranaike in his talk on the problems that face Ceylon prefaced his remarks by referring to the subject of Industrialisation and in so doing said:

"The Educational system of the country was in a real mess. There was a great deal to be done in reforming the entire system as the benefits that they were deriving now were not commensurate with the money spent on education."

This was precisely what 'The Searchlight' had advocated for the last fifteen or twenty years. For in one of our direct appeals to the late Prime Minister D. S. Senanayake, we stressed the imperative need for the Ceylon educational system to be so altered as to admit of a technical training, with an industrial bias, being given to boys leaving school and desiring to get employed. We suggested that our schools and colleges should concentrate on giving students an education that will fit them for taking up jobs of an industrial nature. We had in mind when we made this suggestion, the case of that excellent institution, the Boys Industrial Home at Wellawatte. Young men from this institution have gone forth and made splendid printers, carpenter-foremen, engineering and electrical or technical assistants and such like, who are today holding responsible positions with good pay and prospects in workshops and big engineering establishments.

There is bound to be in our colleges and schools quite a large number of boys who, having gone through their school curriculum, would prefer such a training in arts and crafts, so as to fit them for industrial and technical positions of employment rather than looking for white-collar jobs, which are already becoming increasingly difficult to secure, while there is a dearth of candidates forthcoming for positions involving technical knowledge and workshop experience.

"The economic problems that faced the country should be solved efficiently, effectively and expeditiously. Ceylon could no longer afford to depend on tea, rubber and coco-

nuts indefinitely, for it was unsafe to do so" said the Prime Minister. Everybody will agree with this view. Baring perhaps a few hundreds of our college or school educated youths, who are able to take to the professions, the majority usually look for employment in offices or establishments that specialise in handling the above products. And when the Prime Minister emphasised the need for the country to concentrate on developing other industries like the cottage industry, the fishing and salt industry and other industries, he threw out an excellent advice which the country should hasten to accept and act upon, and in which industries the youth of the country could find useful and certainly remunerative employment with opportunities to develop their knowledge and faculties instead of vegetating as clerks and shop assistants with no great prospects for personal betterment. With the multiplication of local industries which have become imperative, since they have been long neglected for various reasons, we realize that the time has arrived for government and the country to speed up industrialisation when avenues will open out for our young men to find ready employment apart from helping to retain the money that now goes out of the country for commodities we use but which could be turned out in Ceylon.



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## Nationalisation of estates will have bad effect on economy

(Continued from page 13)

duced during the war as an emergency measure.

He said that proposal sought to make out that the rubber industry was very prosperous.

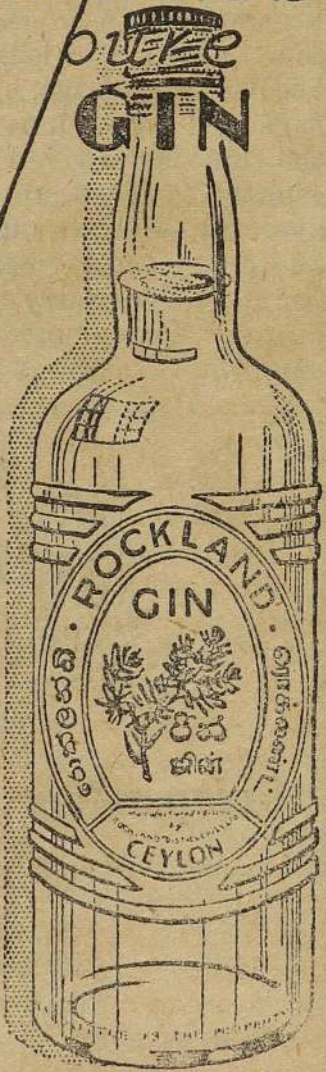
"In view of certain developments in the Suez Canal dispute one never knows what may happen to our industries—tea, rubber and coconut. If there is a sudden blockade we will have no medium of transport at all. This will have an adverse effect on the prices of these three commodities", he added.

Senator Amarasuriya said: "As one who represents the planters of this country, I would like to ask that the Minister should give consideration to our point of view. He should at least hear us instead of trying to re-introduce a measure which was withdrawn, without consulting those who are interested in the matter. We are prepared to respect our Ministers, but we do not think that they are the pundits of this country. There are various advisory boards for the sake of the industries and those who are interested in them"

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He said a measure like that was a form of indirect taxation. "The Government realizes now that the deficit is much more than it expected as a result of certain new measures introduced during the committee stage of the Bill. Out of this deficit, I find that Rs 150 million alone is in respect of money spent on the food subsidy. Thanks to the previous Government which left behind a large legacy, this Government finds itself in the present position financially; otherwise, I am prepared to take any bet, the deficit would have been entirely different" he added.

Speaking about the proposed motion to dissolve the Senate, Senator Amarasuriya said: "There is already a motion in the name of the Honourable Member for Panadura, who, is a member of the L.S.P., that this Senate should be abolished. According to what I have read in the papers there appears to be some controversy because a member of the Government has asserted that he gave notice of a similar motion two months ago and wanted to know why the Government had not taken any action on that.

### RIVALRY?

"There appears to be rivalry even over the question of our existence! However I feel that this Senate has in the recent past shown that it has justified its existence. It has proved its usefulness as an upper chamber. We have shown that the Senate is here to act as a buffer, if I may say so, against hasty legislations."

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## VAGARIES OF THE MEAT TRADE

### FALSE AND DEFECTIVE SCALES

**O**WING to the vagaries of a mysteriously manœuvred combine and the callousness of the officers of the Municipal Council the City's Meat Trade is in a deplorable state. When will the public be rid of such an evil, is the question that is being asked in many quarters.

It is abundantly clear that one set of butchers are up against another set, and this invariably ends in a clashing of interests. Then up goes the price of beef. And the public have to pay the piper! Our City Fathers do not appear to see this awkward side of the situation in its correct perspective. It is of no consequence to them whether or not the public is exploited owing to the rascality of a set of butchers who do not care "two hoots" for public opinion. The time has long since arrived for the Municipal Council to put its foot down and take a firm hand in the matter to see that the public are not continuously exploited.

There is another matter which calls for special attention of the officers of the Municipal Council who are expected to supervise the meat trade. That is to see that proper scales are used when meat is sold to the public. There is a dirty game going on at every market which appears to be unnoticed and unchecked. Numerous complaints have been brought to our notice of the manner in which meat is weighed in practically all stalls in the City. There have been occasions when the supplies purchased from these stalls, have been returned immediately on account of short-weight. We gather, from the information

brought to us, that to enable the butchers to carry on this game with impunity, they bribe the servants with a cent or two on every pound of meat purchased and thereby make up for it by false weights.

If a census of the number of people who purchase meat daily, and the shabby methods adopted to cheat them are taken, the results would reveal the rascality that is being practised at these City beef-stalls. The need for effective supervision of Market Inspectors too is called for. It is generally known they are privy to the dubious practices of butchers and their salesmen. It is to be hoped that steps will be taken in the right direction and that cheating of consumers will be quickly detected and offenders brought to book. There must be a sudden and systematic inspection of all scales in meat-stalls. It is a matter for serious consideration and the Mayor and the Commissioner should move quickly in this direction and let Municipal Markets serve the purpose they are meant to serve i.e. to give the public a straight deal.

## The Insurance Bill

### WHY HAS IT BEEN PLACED IN COLD STORAGE ?

**A**FTER years of agitation in the press that Government should keep a vigilant eye on foreign insurance companies doing business in Ceylon, especially Indian Companies which were increasing, and that funds collected in Ceylon should be controlled by government to provide a greater safeguard, a Commission was appointed. This Commission was presided over by Mr. L. M. de Silva, Q.C., presently of the Privy Council in England. Its sittings were many and prolonged. All shades of view and all, or almost all, insurance companies, or their representatives in Ceylon including local companies, were heard and their evidence recorded. At length the Commission drafted an elaborate report and forwarded the same to Government along with its recommendations. And that was all the public heard of the matter. The Commission, it was understood, pointed out in its recommendation that immediate legislation should be framed and introduced. This has not been done. And why has it not been done?

While we hear such a lot about nationalisation of this, that and the other thing, even about the nationalisation of newspapers, it does

seem inexplicable why the Government is sitting upon the Insurance Report and doing nothing to implement the recommendation of the Commission. What is the Government's explanation for the unseemly delay?

In India, not very long ago, the Government following several insurance company frauds, acted promptly when it was known that the accumulated funds of certain companies were being gambled with by the Directors of such companies. Without much ado, therefore, Government set about investigating into such instances and even had top-ranking Insurance magnates arrested and prosecuted and ended up by taking charge not only the companies whose Directors were up to nefarious practices, but also of all other insurance companies and their funds. The result is that insurance scandals, where funds were utilized by those who controlled the same for more money-making,



are now not heard of, not even remotely suggested.

The M E P. Government, which calls itself a Socialist Government, should lose no time in taking such steps as will bring Insurance Companies, be they foreign or local flotations, under its strict supervision and see to it that their accumulated funds, are carefully expended, the profits or dividends of the share holders, limited and a better and more satisfactory alround supervision exercised.

Moscow rules this minority of 20 million with the strong hand of a colonial power, yet it has won extraordinary support among their co-religionists

## The Fate of Soviet Moslems

BY MURRAY POLNER

**D**URING their last Haji to Mecca, an elderly Moslem worshiper in that Arabian city asked a group of Soviet Moslem pilgrims from Central Asia why their country had weakened Mohammedanism. "Well," answered the Soviet spokesman, "it was as the Koran had established. When the Jews were bad God punished them. That is what also happened to us."

More disturbing than the sophistry of the reply was the fact that it took an obscure Moslem to point up the failure of many of his coreligionists to read the guideposts of Communist behavior over the past four decades. For the Soviets have recently won extraordinary sympathy in Islam. Asians in general, and Moslems in growing numbers, are unable to accept the fact that the USSR is a colonial power which rules 20 million Moslems. Indonesian President Sukarno's observation that

Islam, nationalism and Communism could cooperate was certainly indicative of this trend.

Soviet propaganda has been remarkably astute in capitalizing on this situation. It has created so much controversy and confusion elsewhere that Asia's popular press has tended to ignore the fact that no Soviet Moslem sits in the Presidium and no major Soviet ministry is headed by a Moslem. Only in the innocuous republic Supreme Soviets do they appear in their colorful costumes as models for Sovfoto photographers. Moslems occasionally rise to chairman of this or that regional bureau or soviet and remain there in high impotence. But a non Soviet Moslem scanning the roster of Moscow's Stalinist and post-Stalinist Foreign Ministry or UN delegation will find no co-religionists included.

(Continued on page 23)



What happened to the political ambitions of Moslems in the Soviet Central Asian republics Kirghizia, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tadjikistan and Kazakhstan? To find the answer, one must return the years when Moslem Central Asia was changing sovereigns—from the imperial pomp of the Romanoffs to the austere zealotry of the Bolsheviks. Following the Bolshevik coup in 1917, Lenin gave support to the principle if not the practice of national self determination, mainly because he felt that nationalism among dependent peoples would be a powerful factor in the coming world revolution. Encouraged, Moslems maintained the political parties they had formed under the short lived Kerensky Government. Their National Council, founded a few months earlier in Kazan, took the Bolsheviks at face value and insisted on national autonomy. What then occurred was important for the history of Central Asia.

The Russian settler—skilled worker, soldier and petty official—formerly loyal to the Tsar, reacted sharply. Long accustomed to a master-servant colonial relationship between Slav and native Moslem, he now struck back at this attack on his privileges. The Party, while it regarded many of these settlers as "Tsarist parasites," soon found common ground with them in opposing Moslem ambitions. The national Council was compelled to disband, and the briefly awakened Moslems returned to their quiescent state. The result was Soviet colonialism in Central Asia; the federalism and autonomy granted to the Moslem republics are as meaningless as their fictitious "right of secession."

In the ensuing years, Russians and Ukrainians poured into the mushrooming industrial and urban areas of Central Asia. Overt opposition was of course, quickly eliminated, and the Moslem religion was drastically curtailed. Redistribution of the land, so loudly trumpeted by the Party when it was bidding for power, was scarcely attempted. When collectivization arrived it, was accompanied by as much sorrow and blood as in the Ukraine. And all the while a new, unskilled and underprivileged proletariat was being created out of the former nomads, the illiterate farmers and their children.

In the years before World War II, Moslems continued to be used for unskilled work and managerial duties. When a Moslem became a technician, engineer or Party funct-

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ionary, he always remained subordinate to a Russian. Today, in each Central Asian republic, the Premier is a Moslem but the First Deputy Premier and Deputy Premier are Russian. Russians also control the key posts in the areas of state security, communications, water supply, fuel, manufactured goods, and metals. Even in the middle and lower echelons, Moslems in responsible positions are watched by Russian head bookkeepers and managerial personnel. The Soviet Army troops garrisoning all main urban centers in Central Asia are under a Russian commander, Colonel-General Luchinsky, and a Russian chief of staff, Colonel General Susaikov.

There is no doubt that remarkable strides have been made in education in Central Asia under Soviet rule. Uzbekistan, for example, with an estimated population of 6.9 million, has 2,700 grade schools, 29 colleges (with 56,000 students), and 110 technical and normal schools (with 23,000 students). The ratio of students to population is five times as great as in neighboring Iran.

The question, however, is whether the local Moslem population is benefiting from these educational advances. A Pakistani visitor to Alma Ata, the capital of Kazakhstan, reported on his return that only 17 per cent

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of the students at the State University were Kazakhs. This is hardly a substantial figure, even when one considers that the Moslem population of Kazakhstan had dropped to 57 per cent by the time of the last official census in 1939 (800,000 Kazakhs having vanished since the previous census in 1926) and to an estimated 40 per cent in 1956, thanks to forced resettlement, deportation, voluntary migration and the influx of Slav settlers under Khrushchev's virgin-land scheme.

Today, the Slav population of Kazakhstan is more than 55 per cent, that of Kirghizia 40 per cent, of Turkmenistan 29 per cent, of Uzbekistan 25 per cent, and of Tadjikistan 20 per cent. According to the observer cited above, the Tajik Agro Institute last year graduated 14 students, none of whom were Tadjiks. And another Pakistani visitor to Alma Ata wrote recently:

'60 per cent of the students and 69 per cent of the persons in responsible jobs.....are western Russians who have come to settle permanently. It was also observed that the better dressed and better fed children and adults were as a rule western Russians.'

In line with its general policy of Russification, the Soviet regime substituted first the Latin and then the Cyrillic alphabet for the various regional Arabic alphabets. It also granted full status as a literary language to every dialectical subdivision of the basic Turki tongue, thereby forestalling any possible move toward unity among the various national groups and making Russian more essential than ever as a medium of general communication. Russian words, their since knowledge is indispensable to a successful career, are increasingly infiltrating the native vocabularies. In 1923, for example, 37 per cent of all foreign words in the Uzbek language were Arabic or Persian. By 1940, that figure had dropped to 25 per cent while the corresponding proportion of Russian words had risen from 2 to 15 per cent.

Moscow has done much to improve the position of Moslem women, combating in particular such institutions as child marriage and polygamy. In 1951, there were 15,000 Uzbek women teachers, 3,000 engineers, technicians and industrial managers, and 4,000 members of local soviets. Yet, letters to newspapers frequently complain that Moslem women are unable to obtain the positions for which they are trained.

Other charges of discriminatory treatment belie the official Soviet claim that racial bias does not exist in the USSR. A Turkmen newspaper printed a series of letters complaining bitterly of the treatment Moslems received at rest homes and sanitoriums. One related how a group of new arrivals were forced to spend the first night of their rest cure at a railway station because no one had taken the trouble to meet them. The next day, after walking several miles to the sanitorium they left in horror at the filth, poor food and inadequate care. Other letters charged that Russians were far more readily admitted to rest homes than Moslems. One woman told of being sent to a gynecological sanitorium and finding twenty male Russian patients there!

All too many non Soviet Moslems have allowed themselves to be dazzled by the undoubted technological progress which Soviet rule has brought to Central Asia. They would do well to recall the thousands of Central Asians who willingly joined forces with the Nazis after being captured during World War II—not out of any ideological sympathy for fascism but because it seemed the most effective way to strike a blow at those whom they regarded as their colonial masters in Moscow

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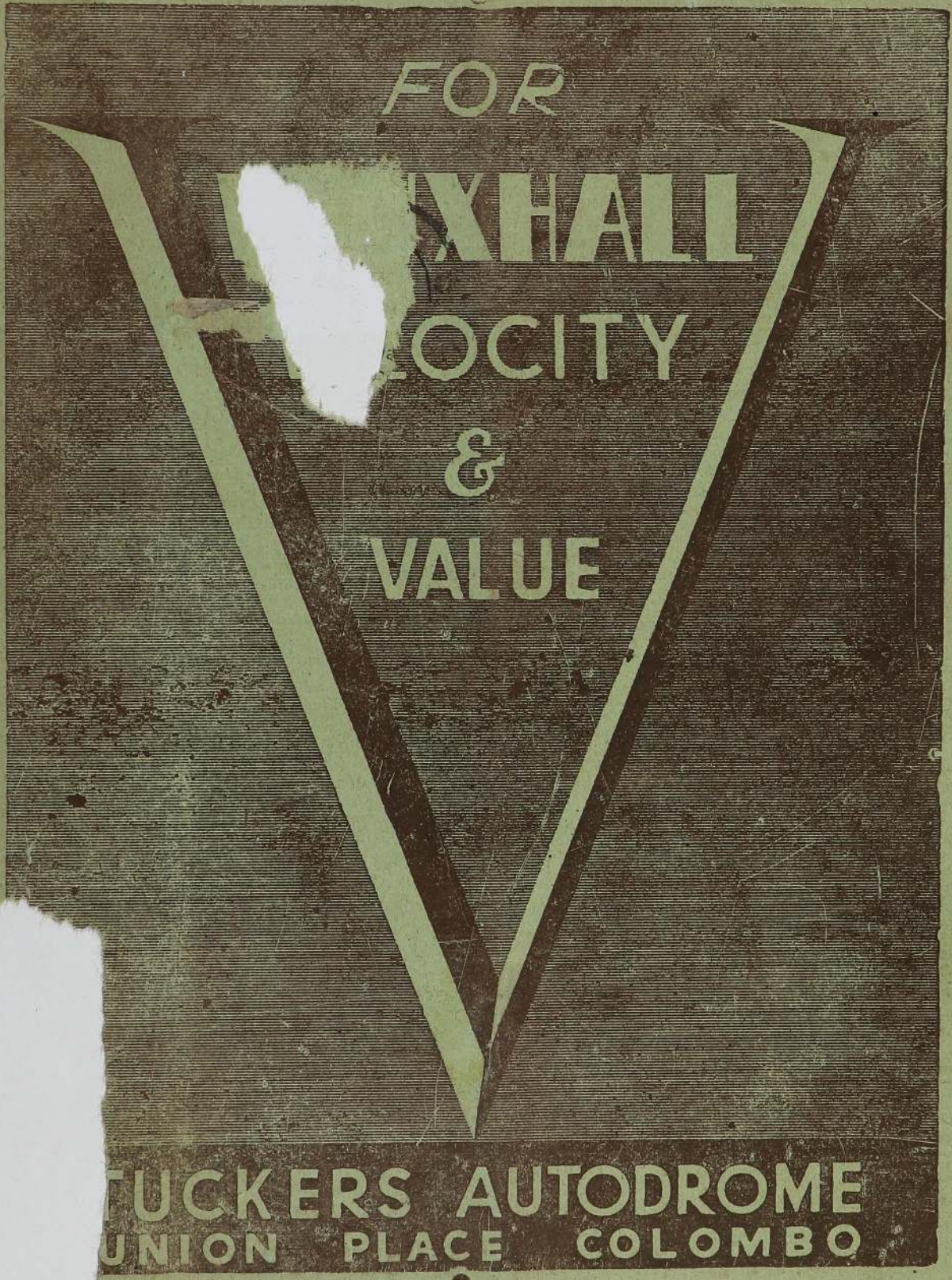
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