

The SEARCHLIGHT

36th YEAR OF ESTABLISHMENT

VOL 86 NO 11

COLOMBO

15th July, 1967

Great Britain's Achievements in Her Former Colonies

BY E. B. WRIGHT

IN his interesting talk on "Recent Developments in the Commonwealth" to the Planters of Kurunegala on the 29th June, Sir Cecil Syers, High Commissioner, for the United Kingdom in Ceylon, said that those of his countrymen who had in the past, helped in developing the countries of the Empire were men and

not gods, and that their work bears the imprint of their frailties as well as their virtues, and that the latter easily outweighs the former. He also posed the question whether these countries had not gained more than they have lost as a result of British colonialism upon which fact Britain can look with justifiable pride.

No one denies or disputes the truth and correctness, in a broad and comparative sense of what His Excellency has said, but I might

in all humility say that with a little more self-denial, forethought and understanding, the frailties would have been much less and the results of this self-imposed task a grander success than they have proved to be; at least here in Ceylon.

When the British took over they found Ceylon in practically its original condition, except for a little superficial confusion and much disorganisation in the maritime districts caused by their predecessors, particularly the Portuguese.

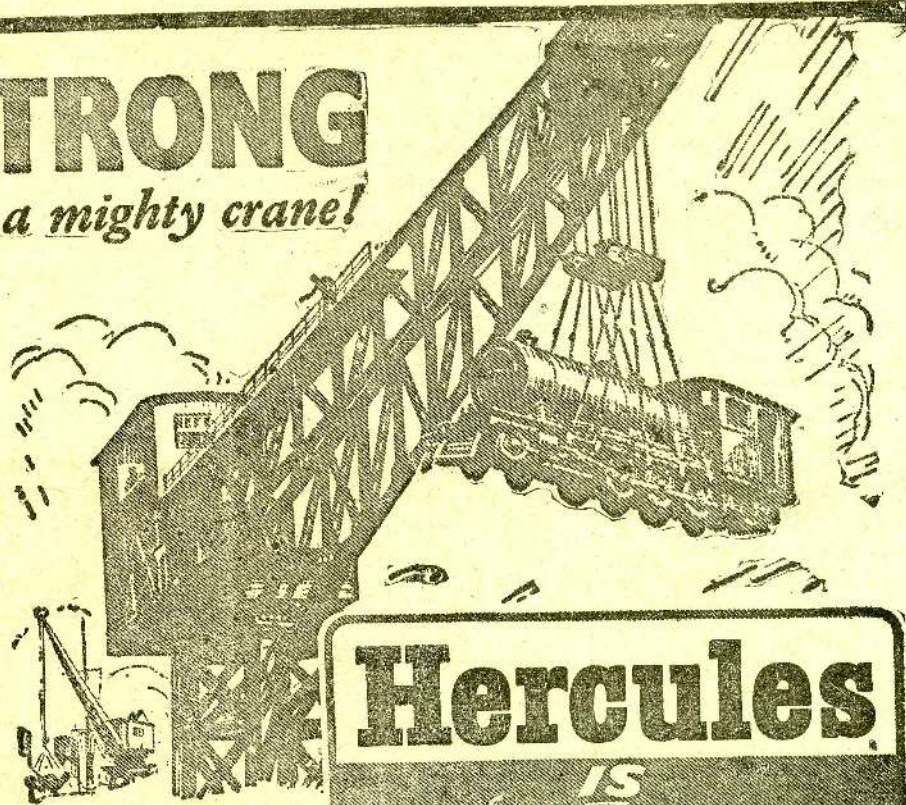
Was it I ask, necessary then for the Colebrooke Commission to have interfered with the social structure and tested, ages old indigenous customs and institutions to the extent they did in order to foster a more modern form of economy that mostly suited Great Britain? The jerry-built social structure that sprang up thereafter had its base neglected and did not in fact spring from it. Instead its joints and parts were held together by a very inferior brand of cement that cracked and crumbled as soon as the imperial props were withdrawn.

No doubt land that would still have been in jungle, together with land that would not have been opened up in tea and rubber that bring in a lot of money; good roads, comfort-

(Continued on page 4)

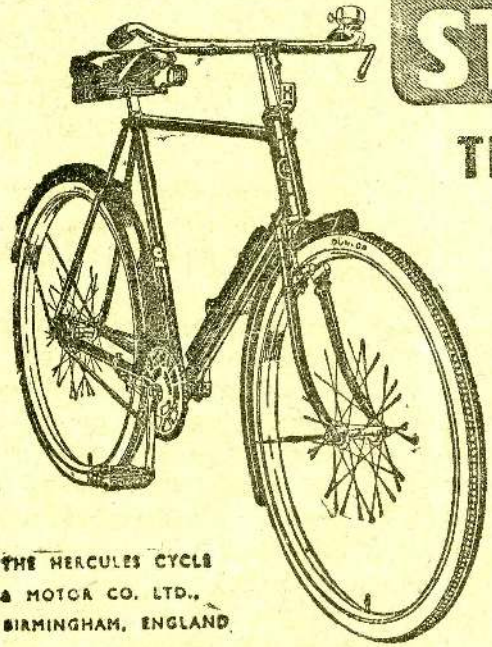


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Vol. 36 No. 11

COLOMBO

JULY 15th 1957

OPEN LETTERS

To Local Celebrities, Personalities and, Occasionally, Nonentities

STANLEY DE ZOYSA, ESQ., M.P.
Minister for Finance.

Dear Mr. Minister

YOU are reported in the newspapers as having said that "nothing could be gained from me by threats and scoldings." Such a frame of mind as you appear to assume, is ill-becoming of and comes with ill-grace from, a Minister of State, my dear Sir.

You are a member of the People's Government and as such a servant of the people whom you have dedicated to serve. You, therefore, must not put on airs or show any trace of arrogance. Besides, no sacrosanctity or infallibility is attached to a Minister.

As for "threats and scoldings," which you complain of, these are common ills that ministerial flesh is heir to. You have to take them as they come. But, let it not be said, or believed, that your elevation to a Ministerial position has turned your head. In these days of socialism, the haughty utterance of a Minister of a fast-becoming socialist government, must be regarded as a crime. Please control your tongue.

MARMADUKE

M. A. S. MARIKAR, M. P.
Minister for Post & Broadcasting

Dear Mr. Marikar,

TAKE no offence, and I state it for what its worth, some people look upon you as the joker in the M.E.P. pack, while others say you are a talker. I reserve my opinion as to what you are.

You who claim to a knowledge of Buddhist culture and lore, appear to me to be blissfully ignorant of Ceylon history, or, shall I say, the history of the times of the Sinhalese Kings. You said the other day that "descension was introduced into Ceylon among its rulers by the foreigners;" meaning thereby the Portuguese, the Dutch and the British and that before their advent everything in the garden was lovely.

Now this is a statement that must be characterised as due to ignorance or sheer perversity or both.

Take any history book and when you read through it, you will be amazed how "descension," following upon intrigue, resulted in regicides fratricides and the like; when brother conspired against brother son against father and cousin against cousin, right through the various reigns and until the eventual downfall of the Sinhalese Dynasty.

Take care, Mr. Marikar, that when you open your mouth, you don't put your foot into it? Ministers of State should know what they are talking about.

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A. M. A. AZIZ, ESQ.,

President

Democratic Workers Congress,

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Dear Aziz,

YOUR request of the Prime Minister that the Democratic Workers Congress should be represented at the talks between the Government and the Federal Party in the negotiations for a settlement of the Language Issue will complicate matters.

The Federal Party's demand cover the interests of the eight lakhs of the estate Tamil population in regard to language and citizenship rights. There is, therefore, no need for the representation you seek.

You state in your letter to the Prime Minister, that you desire to see a peaceful settlement of the matter under dispute. If so the wiser course for you to take is not to insist in your demand. If the negotiations prove successful, as everybody believes they would, then you will have gained your object. My advice to you, therefore is to wait and see how things shape.

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V. A. SUGATHADASA, ESQ., M.B.E.

Mayor of Colombo.

Dear Mr. Mayor,

AT the last meeting of your Council, a member accused you of misusing or misapplying Municipal Funds. He further said that you are responsible for the bankrupt state of the Council's finances. Now that is a serious accusation. You uttered not a word in your defence. Why?

Now comes the rumpus about the erection of a boundary wall, 6 ft. high, at the Stadium grounds, at Prince of Wales Avenue, costing Rs. 45,000. Sanction for this expenditure was obtained but in view of your Treasurer's warning of the depletion of the Municipal coffers, it would have been prudent of you to have diverted this big amount of money, say for Slum Clearance or Shanty demolition, etc.

Since various rumours have gained currency regarding this matter, whether true or false, I dont undertake to say, your action in incurring the expenditure, before full Public support for the Stadium was forthcoming seems, in my opinion, questionable. Now that storm clouds are gathering over you. I do not propose to add to your discomfiture by any criticism except to say that the ratepayers of Colombo are disappointed with you over this matter. You must, therefore be prepared to face the music when the subject is raised by the M.E.P. Section of your council shortly. This is timely warning.

MARMADUKE

SIR CYRIL DE ZOYSA

Colombo.

Sir,

YOUR attention is drawn to an article on the Law Society by a Proctor. It deals with the election of the President of the Law Society.

From the article it would appear that your conduct as the sald meeting, when you found there was no earthly chance for you to be elected President, was to say the least shocking. It was unbecoming of you as a member of that body. You have made yourself the laughing stock of the public. What the general body of lawyers think of your conduct is not difficult to say. Shame on you, Senator. Your exhibition at the election gives one the impression that you are a social climber. The letter referred to speaks for itself.

MARMADUKE

MR. P. DE S. KULARATNE
Moratuwa.

Dear Kularatne,

YOU are evidently on mischief bent. You want all Denominational Schools taken over by Government. I note you make an exception in the case of Buddhists Schools. Why is that? You suggest that compensation should be paid. Good. Now where is the money to come from for that. Do you know that Billions of Rupees, would be required?

Why don't people like you, Mr. Kularatne, think a bit before you speak? Is it your idea that any stick is good enough to beat the Missionaries with?

MARMADUKE

THE HON'BLE MR. S. S. GUNAWARDENE
Ceylon's Ambassador at the UNO. Colombo.

Dear RSS.

IF you expected our politicians to play the game of Politics according to any recognised rules you are grievously mistaken. You have been away for three and half years from this Island. In the interval a host of charlatans have taken possession of the political stage and pretend they are serving the country. What they seek is power for themselves. They want to hob-nob with the greats. An opportunity which they will not get otherwise. Time was when Ceylon had patriotic men who laboured with single-minded devotion for the country's good.

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Ceylon's public life today is composed of politoons.

Did you notice how Dudley Senanayake is being abused and insulted because he sounded a note of warning that Ceylon was likely to lose her Independence.

And these are the very men who called you a "stooge of the Americans" and even suggested worse things about you. They forget the tremendous good you have been able to do by getting the Americans to feed Ceylon's under-nourished school population and helping her in many other ways. You refer to the "low down tactics" of some these 'gentlemen' when they tried to upset your lecture at the YMCA. Don't run away with the idea that those who eulogise you at public banquets are your friends. Avoid them as you avoid the plague. Remember, they carry a dagger in their coat sleeves!

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Great Britain's Achievements in Her Former Colonies

(Continued from cover page)

able railways and efficient health services, were at least then, provided; missionaries with an eye to conversion were encouraged to produce a surfeit of cheap clerical labour; there was a tremendous increase of the population with the influx of Indian labour that now refuse to leave, and many other material benefits accrued to the country.

But I am sure, Britain cannot with any honesty claim to look upon the fate to which she left this country, with any measure of pride. Facts are too obvious to need elaboration. The grant of the Donoughmore Constitution, against the advice of all the responsible patriots of the time, was a colossal mistake which even Governor, Sir Andrew Caldecott had admitted was so (vide New York Times, International Edition, Weekly Review, dated 15th & 22nd April 1956).

I have also noticed, with some amusement, that Dr.C.W.W.Kannangara had on another occasion admitted the floccinaucinihilipillification of his "Pearl of Great Price". Surely, he knew this before he produced it! Is this not proof of the folly of the untimely grant of universal adult suffrage despite its undoubted benefits to the common man? After allurements were exhausted, passions are now being exploited by crafty, greedy, designing people.

As long as the government is based on something foreign to the country and in imitation of practices that took other countries years, nay centuries, to evolve, there will be a "transitory period of chauvinism and ultra-nationalism."

I must here say a word about the Burghers caught in this vortex of errors and designs. When the Dutch ceded their territory in Ceylon to the English, it was mostly those Dutchmen (or Burghers) who had immovable property and other vested interests that stayed behind. They could not sell their properties for anything like their true value, and were indeed, prohibited from doing so by the English.

There is the proof of this in the Archives. The English found in these Dutch Burghers—I do not mean the occupants of that musty building in Reid Avenue—an useful and loyal ally who served them faithfully and at the same time served as a link between them and the

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"natives," whom the Burghers never betrayed. The Burghers soon rose to positions of eminence, trust and responsibility again, not through nepotism or favours, as some people seem to think, but by their own efforts, endeavours and merit. They served in Government Departments with such acceptance that Sir Emerson Tennent Lieut. Governor and Colonial Secretary, of the time sang their praise in the following terms: "They have risen to eminence at the Bar and occupied the highest positions on the Bench. They are largely engaged in mercantile pursuits and as writers and clerks they fill places of trust in every administrative establishment, from the Department of the Colonial Secretary to the humblest Police Court. It is not possible to speak too highly of the services of this meritorious body of men by whom the whole machinery of Government is put into action. They may fairly be described in the language of Sir Robert Peel as the 'brazen wheels' of the executive which keep the golden hands in motion."

I wonder whether Great Britain can seriously claim to be proud, even though it is a comparatively small matter, of the way she had exploited the Burghers for one and half century for a mere pittance and then suddenly abandoned them to a fate that they have no by means earned or deserved in the very country that they have till quite recent times graced and grown to legitimately consider their homeland; the danger of which and other events taking place today, Great Britain had been forewarned about.

One does not have to be a critic or an ingrate to see that Great Britain has not made the grand job she thinks she has made of her former "primitive and uncivilized" colonies, judging by what is happening in them since she weaned them.

Colombo
30th June 1957

MUSINGS

BY
T. W. HOCKLY

AFTER a long hiatus caused through a lengthy and trying illness from which I am still only convalescent and by no means back to normal, I am trying to stage a come back for, these, "Musings."

Whether I shall succeed in this or not I cannot say but at any rate, I shall endeavour to contribute if not regularly as previously but periodically, as far as possible.

I am really the victim of mal-nutrition which has been the cause of my bodily weakness and through which I experienced



Mr. T. W. Hockly, J. P.

two bad falls at night in succession. Fortunately there were no fractures but I have been badly injured internally and it will take some time before I can hope to return to normal. What has caused me most anxiety and trouble, is that this illness has greatly affected and impaired my eyesight and although I can write say one letter a day, I can no longer read the newspapers except for the headlines nor any books or periodicals and this is what makes life for me dull and monotonous.

I might have avoided much of this trouble had I consumed more imported food and less local food. This lack of vitamin sufficiency in local food with the exception of fresh fish, is very noticeable in the lack of stamina of many of the people, and fresh fish is now an expensive article of diet which many cannot afford.

It is incorrect to say the soil of Ceylon is very fertile. The soil is uniformly poor but it is a forcing or hot house climate which promotes rapid growth. Ceylon cannot compare in quality

and variety with the products of other countries such as India &c. It is true Ceylon has a plentiful supply of pineapples, plantains, mangosteens and a limited supply of mangoes, Ceylon oranges are not really oranges but sweet limes.

On the whole, too, the vegetables grown here are poor in quality due to lack of proper culture and sloth on the part of cultivator. Ceylon grows rice it is true but wheat is not grown here.

Here, then, you have the causes of the lack of stamina among the people. If the soil were as fertile as many people imagine it to be, it would not require much fertilizers for the various crops, as are used now.

NOISY CULTS

IT is curious how so many religions depend on noise for their popularity. Even the ancient Jews were exhorted to blow up the trumpets at the new moon but on the whole Judaism and Islam are the greatest of cults. In China the beating of gongs and drums is heard everywhere. In Tibet the Lamas blow long telescopic copper trumpets at their Festivals. In India, Hindu Festivals are celebrated with the beating of large drums or dhols, smaller drums or "naubuts," and cymbals. Here, in Ceylon, Festivals are celebrated by the beating of tom-toms.

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Not far from here is a Buddhist temple and on festival or Poya days the drummers beat their drums incessantly all night through. I sometimes wonder if they think they are pleasing Lord Buddha by this constant and incessant drum beating.

Again the Salvation Army loves a big brass band with plenty of brass and drums. It is true that in many Christian churches, cathedrals &c. there is the noble and impressive organ to be heard but this may not appeal to other races in the same way. But silent prayer or adoration is I consider the best form of religious observance. It must be borne in mind that most people are children at heart and like plenty of noise to accompany their orisons.

VOLUNTEERS

THE Lord of the Treasury in other words the Prime Minister. Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike has recruited 100,000 volunteers to help guard against any Tamil menace that might arise. It may be airily said that volunteers will receive no pay and therefore will be no expense. But volunteers have to be fed, clothed armed and equipped. Who will foot the bill for this? The answer is obvious "the Lord of the Treasury" the P.M.

REVOLUTION OR A FINANCIAL CRISIS

SOME people predict that unless the political situation improves Ceylon will be faced either with a Revolution or a Financial crisis. Whence is the extra money to be procured?

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Russia states she can lend no money only technical aid. The U.S.A. seems reluctant to lend more money except with strings.

As for China she already owes Ceylon 100 million rupees for her rubber purchases and is unable to foot the bill but offers various commodities which we don't want instead of money. But what on earth is the good of continuing to supply China with rubber when she is unable to pay for what she has got. Sheer madness.

As to the prediction that we shall have either a Revolution or a Financial Crisis, a revolution will never occur here. There may be some small riots but never a Revolution. The People of Ceylon have not the guts to stage a Revolution but there might be a Financial Crisis which

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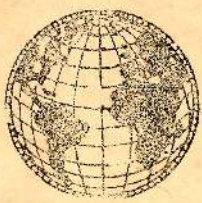
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would not be too good. It might raise the spectre of inflation in which case the Ceylon Rupee would be hit for six and the rupee decline greatly. This would mean we should have to pay double the price on every imported article. Ceylon to combat this might still further increase the Income Tax or have a Capital Levy. But why should Ceylon be reduced to such straits? Ceylon by rights should have plenty of money and there was no reason for her increasing her Income Tax to a par with that of the U.K. It must be borne in mind that the U.K. had reason to increase her Income Tax She was fighting for her very existence and needed every resource. Meanwhile Ceylon was sitting pretty and making money.

The fact is Ceylon frittered away all the money she made in all kinds of ambitious and wild-cat schemes and now she feels the pinch. Dreams, idle dreams.

PRINCE PONNA'S GLASS AND PAPER FACTORY AT VELLACHENAI

ONE never hears now of either of these schemes. The Paper Factory which has cost many millions and will cost yet more millions before completed should be abandoned. It will never be of any use. Shades of Ponna and Grierson. The idea was to make paper from Iluk. But no matter what is done only the very coarsest paper can ever be made from Iluk. As for Ponna he just does not care now what happens he is free of all that for good and Grierson has probably betaken himself elsewhere.



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NATIONALISM AND NATIONALISATION

THE great idea seems to be to nationalize everything. There is a suggestion that the Tea Industry should first be nationalised, Rubber and Coconuts to follow in due course. But where is the money to come from to pay compensation to the owners? "Compensation be damned" says Philip G.—The Government will pay nothing." We shall expropriate everything." Expropriation of course means depriving others of what they own. A kind of highway robbery or outright theft. But even if Tea Estates are nationalised the output and the quality are bound to suffer. To trifle with Ceylon's chief source of Revenue—the Tea Industry—is not wise.

The result of tampering with it might mean as I think would be certain a decline in both output and quality with a consequent

(Continued on page 9)

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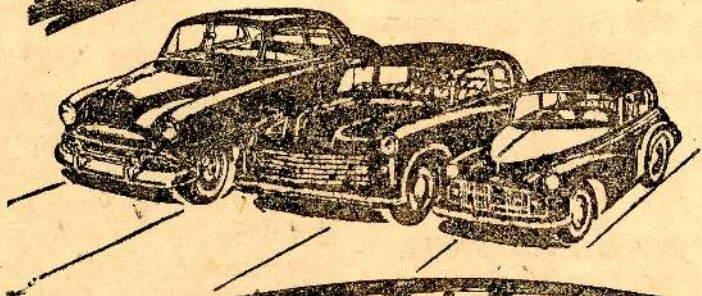
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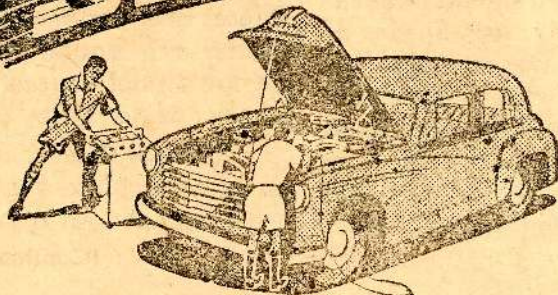
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MUSINGS

(Continued from page 7)

loss in name and Revenue. Where would Ceylon go for honey? It must be borne in mind that Kenya is making very rapid strides in her Tea production both as regards quantity and quality.

The U.K. which is Ceylon's best customer, might switch from Ceylon to Africa for Tea Supplies. Then there is always China in the background as a competitor and China Tea will always be a favourite with some consumers, and of course, there is always Assam and Darjeeling.

Unless Ceylon is prepared to go all out as regards quality and production, she will find herself among the "also rans" in the Tea Industry. But if this happened would Banda or Philip G—care much? I trow not. Ceylon Tea could always find a market in Russia. Britain would not and could not take Ceylon again and the U.S.A. would be reluctant to do so. There remains only the U.S.S.R. or Free China. I can see in the future Ceylon becoming a satellite to Russia and going "Comi" altogether. But what about Banda and Philip? Their position would improve possibly and they both might finish up by becoming Commissars. This would give them both what they deserve—unlimited power. As for the People, they just dont count. They are only pawns in the game. A pleasant prospect to contemplate.

T.W.H.

Make Crown liable in tort

NOW that the nationalising of buses (does it include lorries?) is to take place early next year, will the Government consider one aspect of this venture which has apparently been overlooked?

From the daily papers the reader learns that transport companies are obliged to pay various sums of money by way of damages for injuries sustained by bus travellers and the road users on account of careless negligent, or reckless driving of buses and lorries. When the Government takes over this mode of transport, the drivers of those vehicles will be Government Servants and the injured parties will have to sue the Attorney-General as representing the Crown for damages sustained by them for careless driving or driving vehicles with defective mechanism.

As the law stands today the Crown is immune for damages for tortuous acts of its servants, and the injured parties will have to grin and bear however serious or irreparable the damage is. To be just and fair the Government should immediately amend this provision of the law, making the Crown liable for tort as any ordinary citizen.

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CLEARING UP OF THE CO-OPS

A QUEER SOCIETY AND ITS QUEER METHODS

BY SHERMAN A FERNANDO

UNDER banner headlines wide publicity has been given to the proposals of the Hon. Mr. Philip Gunawardena, Minister for Food & Agriculture, to amend the Co-operative Act to expel from the panel of office bearers those who refuse to resign when the majority of members do not want them, and to tighten up legislation to compel them to hand over the books of the societies to newly elected office-bearers, and to confer wider powers on members of Co operative Societies to probe into accounts themselves.

At a time when the M.E.P. Government is cracking-up by reason of the lack of public confidence and other causes both, political and otherwise, Government Ministers are very busy making all sorts of promises though those promises remain unfulfilled.

As one who has spent considerable amount of energy to expose the scandalous state of affairs of the Central Moratuwa Co-op Stores Society Ltd. I think I should place before the readers of THE SEARCHLIGHT some startling information of which Minister Gunawardena is himself aware.

MEMBERSHIP REFUSED

An ex-M.P., and a resident of the area in which the Society is established was induced by the Secretary of the Society to join it, and after the Secretary himself had got a rupee note from the ex-M.P. as his subscription, and got him to sign an enrolment form, his application was turned down by the Committee! This fact was revealed at an official inquiry that was held when the fact was proved. The Secretary admitted the facts.

REFUSED TO ISSUE A DUPLICATE PASS BOOK

Somewhere in June 1956, this Society lost my Pass Book while it was in their custody, and when I asked them to issue me with a duplicate thereof, they refused to do so I reported the matter to the Minister by

my letter of 3rd August and also brought to his notice various other irregularities and malpractices and demanded an inquiry. He ordered an inquiry but the day before the inquiry, I received indirect messages threatening me with bodily harm if I came to the inquiry. I braved those cowardly threats and attended the inquiry. After about 40 minutes when the President found that the Society was being badly exposed, he walked away on the pretext that he had an appointment to keep. The inquiry was adjourned for another day.

HUSH, HUSH METHODS

Before the next date, I requested the Assistant Commissioner, who conducted the inquiry, to call upon the Secretary to pro-

TOBY



LAGER ALE STOUT

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duce certain books, files and minute books which were material to the inquiry. This the Committee and the Secretary refused to produce, although the Commissioner had every power to order their production. I CHALLENGE THE MINISTER. PHILIP GUNAWARDENA, TO DENY THIS.

When the inquiry was resumed on the next day, I was surprised to learn on arrival that the Secretary had obtained a postponement but the Co-operative Department had not the decency to inform me. I refused to have the inquiry postponed and demanded the Asst Commissioner, Mr. J. P. E. Siriwardena, to record my further statements which he was compelled to do. Eventually, the Society was ordered to issue me with a duplicate pass book on the orders of the Minister, and the Commissioner was directed to probe into the affairs of the Society under Section 35 (I) of the Co-operative Societies Ordinance.

ILLEGAL PAYMENTS TO COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Just before the first inquiry was held, I published a booklet setting out the various irregularities and methods employed by the Committee to deceive the members. In order to discount what I had said in my booklet, the Secretary made a complaint to the C.I.D. that I had attempted to throw mud on a

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Society that had a good name but when the Police recorded my statement they found that if anybody had the right to seek the interference of the Police, it was myself and not the Society! When the Society found me an obstacle to their nefarious tactics, they implicated me in a case of intimidation and insult but that too fizzled off.

In order to get round the Minister, the Society invited him to preside at the 13th Annual General Meeting of the Society which was held on 22nd April, 1957. I wrote a letter to Mr. Philip Gunawardena, well in advance bringing to his notice that in the 13th Annual Balance Sheet of the Society, a sum of Rs. 440 and Rs. 600 were shown as bonuses to the Secretary and the Treasurer and questioned the Minister by my letter dated 11.3.57 the legality of this payment. For the information of your readers, I quote below the appropriate Sections of the Co operative Societies Ordinance.

“RULES UNDER SECTION 37 OF THE CO-OP SOCIETIES ORDINANCE NO. 34 OF 1921 AND CONTINUING IN FORCE BY VIRTUE OF THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 52.

Rule 15. No member shall be qualified for election to the Committee if:-

- (i) he is under 21 years of age; or
- (ii) he holds any office of profit under the Society or
- (iii) in the case of a credit society, he lends money on his own account.

Rule 16. A member of the Committee shall cease to hold office, if:-

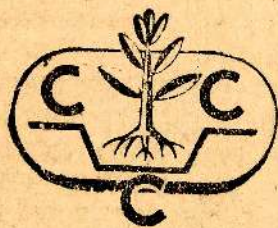
-
-
-
- (iv) he accepts any office of profit under the society or receives any honorarium;

The Honourable Minister is fully aware that the Secretary and Treasurer of the Society have all along drawn bonuses and remained members of the Committee. WHAT ACTION HAS THE MINISTER TAKEN ON MY LETTER OF 11. 3. 57 REGARDING THIS MATTER? DOES HE SUGGEST THAT THIS LAW IS OBSOLETE? Why try to amend, tighten, and straighten the law, when the existing law can very easily be enforced?

MINISTERIAL INDIFFERENCE

There are hundreds of transactions like these which the Minister is personally aware but so far he has done nothing to bring this Society to account. Now he insists on my attending an inquiry to suit the convenience of the "majority" on a Sunday which is "dies non for" a public inquiry. The Committee took the upper hand and refused to attend the previous inquiries but after the Minister was invited to preside at the 13th Annual General Meeting, he has completely changed his attitude. Co-operative officials are exploiting the members and boring into the very cores. This is not due to the laxity of the law but to the lethargy shown by the Commissioner right down to the last Inspector and the OVERALL INDIFFERENCE SHOWN BY THE MINISTER.

Moratuwa 3rd July 1957



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THE UNPAID PLUMES OF SUNRISE SPORT CLUB

WHO IS THE AUTHOR OF THE HONORARY SECRETARIES REPORT?

THE public have often heard, with disgust the severe indictment, SPORTS STINK. We owe the Americans a lot of gratitude and a lot of money. We can be grateful to them, but can we adequately compensate the American who gave us the apt word, STINK? Ever since he shocked our sense of national pride, the word has been in constant circulation and when we got hard up for a suitable word of condemnation we copied the benevolent American donor. For sheer aptness the Linklater epitaph, CEYLON STINKS, is a classic one.

Recently, the SUNRISE SPORTS CLUB attracted considerable attention of a small section of the public with a brochure, attractive in appearance but ugly in the story of its make up. As an advertisement of the various activities of the club, the profuse pictures and the Secretary's Report served this purpose. And when all the warmth of the jubilation of the honorary secretaries had cooled, their feelings got frozen with the angry ripples of ridicule caused by the knowing ones.

An outsider was commissioned to write the Secretary's Report, to caption the pictures, to write various other articles of men and matters of the club, and the Printer's Manager demanded the services of this writer to read the proofs. otherwise, he threatened that he would not be able to release the brochure from the press in time to circulate it at the Annual General Meeting of the Club. All these services were obtained by the promise of generous remuneration, but once the job was done and the production presented to the people at the meeting, the obligation to pay the worker was put into cold storage although the secretaries keep getting pats on their backs for the "surprisingly" good report written by them. One of them, like a bashful philosopher, blushes at the compliment but does not dare to reproduce, orally, the contents of this report, but the other, with the feelings of an old lady when told that she is looking

Man can improve on nature in making food – and he must do so or face starvation

Road to Abundance

Jacob Rosin

As told to Max Eastman

GIVE us bread' has been the terrified plea of large sections of the earth's population from the dawn of history. There has never been a moment when people were not dying from lack of food somewhere.

Today this situation is growing worse. World population is now increasing at a rate which, if continued will double it every 70 years. And this rate is being accelerated by the "wonder drugs" of chemical science. Where is the food coming from? What are we going to do? Several books have recently disturbed us with this question, but none has really answered it.

The answer is simple. The reason all history has been a struggle for food is that man has had to depend upon plants to produce it. Even meat is

developed from plants. And as food factories, plants are slow, inefficient and wasteful beyond belief!

If you think of agriculture as a gigantic food factory, it becomes an industrial monstrosity. The "floor space" needed is prohibitive. The manpower required is staggering in some countries almost the entire population is employed in it.

In the United States nine million people were employed in agriculture in 1948 cash receipts reached 31 thousand million dollars. The chemical industry, employing only 700,000 produced more than a third as much. This was possible because industry, unlike agriculture, goes on producing rain or shine all the year round and does in days what it takes a plant months to accomplish.

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and
Healing
for your
skin

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SOAP

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A factory puts its whole effort into producing the goods required. With a plant the "goods" are usually incidental. How much of a wheat field goes into bread? How much of an apple tree into apples?

Man will solve his problem of food supply when he liberates himself from his age-old bondage to the plant. In matters other than food this liberation has already travelled far. It began with dyes and perfumes. In the 19th century 1,500,000 acres of land were covered with indigo plants. At the end of the century the tinctorial principle in indigo was isolated and a cheap method of manufacture developed. Within 20 years indigo plantations practically disappeared; yet the total consumption of indigo has increased from seven to 18 million pounds a year. Synthetic dyes have now supplanted "natural" dyes almost entirely.

Violet blossoms used to be worth 1s 4d. to 2s. 1d. a pound; it took 2500 pounds of blossoms to produce one pound of violet absolute, worth from £175 to £235. Synthetic ionone, the essence of the fragrance of violets, now

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costs 46s. a pound.

These things were achieved by the competitive ambitions of individuals. What can be achieved under pressure and by collective effort was proved during the war. Two things were desperately demanded of chemists: synthetic rubber and synthetic quinine. Result the tread wear performance of synthetic-rubber tyres is now 20 to 40 per cent better than that of natural rubber tyres, and the price 20 per cent lower.

Once the bark of the cinchona tree was the sole source of quinine. Not only was a synthetic quinine produced to order, but by the time it had appeared, new and more effective antimalarials were already in manufacture. As these lines are written a new series of antimalarials 500 to 1,000 times as active as quinine has been announced by the Burroughs Wellcome Research Laboratories.

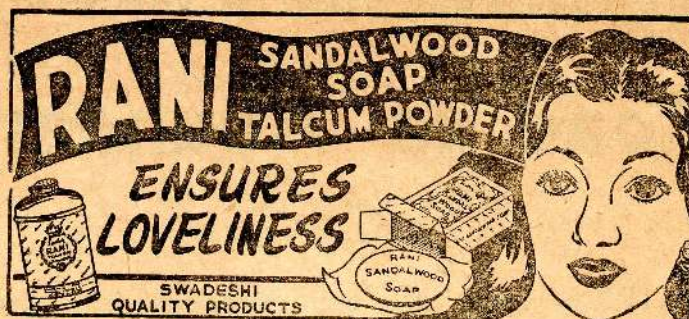
After these triumphs over agriculture in the field of dyes, perfumes, rubber and drugs chemistry opened its attack on the vital necessities of life, clothing and food. In the field of clothing, the world production of synthetic fibre has already reached approximately three thousand million pounds a year a pound and a half of synthetic clothing for every man woman and child on earth. There is not one of the natural fibre-cotton, wool, flax, hemp jute-which cannot be equalled by synthetic fibres in all essen-

tial qualities: strength; resistance to shrinkage, moths and mildew; warmth, beauty and abundance.

When it comes to food the problem is complicated by a prejudice: a feeling that "natural" foods are better, or more wholesome, than "artificial". As a matter of fact "natural" foods are a mixture of chemical compounds and, in most cases, we make them unnatural by the time they reach our tables. Few indeed are the natural products we eat without modifying them, either by processing or by cooking, to suit our taste and digestion. These modifications are chemical changes made with the purpose of improving on nature.

We care very much how food looks and tastes. These factors will, of course, be taken into consideration by the chemist, and startling successes have already been achieved. People who imagine that synthetic food means eating pills are thinking in terms of penny thrillers rather than the natural progress of science.

Our food is of three main kinds: carbohydrates, fat and proteins. Carbohydrates, the most important, supply about two-thirds of man's basic requirements — including our "daily bread." This is a comparatively easy part of the problem to solve.



The Bristles
won't come
out...!



Harris...
the paint brush with
a name to its handle

One way is to imitate the operation performed by the plant. Plants employ the energy of the sun to transform the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere into starch. This is called photosynthesis, and to learn how the plants do it has been one of the major efforts of modern chemical research. Until the war it was running neck and neck in America with the problem of splitting the atom. The bomb came first only because two thousand million dollars was spent on it. Even with the modest budgets of a few university laboratories, photosynthesis is on its way. Professor Arnon and his associates at the University of California have accomplished the essentials of the process in a test tube. With an expenditure of far less than two thousand million dollars we could be taking our daily bread straight out of the air with only the sun's help, as the plant does.

But we don't have to imitate plants. Enough has already been done to make it practically sure that modern chemistry will synthesize carbohydrates, as it has rubber and textiles, in ways that are better than photosynthesis. Indeed, I think the reason why we have synthetic rubber and textiles, but not synthetic starch is purely economic. Natural rubber and textiles are expensive, and the corresponding synthetics happen to be cheap. Wheat, rye, corn, rice are cheap, and it will require a major effort to produce a cheaper synthetic. When the effort is made, the success will be as rapid as it was with rubber.

The problem is not so simple with regard to meat. The proteins of meat are among the most compounds known. It will take a long time to determine their structure and synthesize them. But our bodies do not need proteins as such; they need only the amino acids out of which the complicated protein molecules are built up. All the proteins we eat are broken down into amino acids in the digestive tract, and then rebuilt into proteins of its own kind by the body. These amino acids are relatively simple compounds which can be prepared synthetically in several different ways. At present a diet of natural proteins is cheaper than a diet of amino acids. But that again is because the emergency has not arisen which would cause us to go in for their production in bulk.

The third main kind of natural food, fats will probably be the first to be replaced by synthetics. For here we deal with simple compounds whose structure is entirely known to the chemist. A partial synthesis, called "hardening," of fats has already gained technical importance. One of its products, oleomargarine, is the first man-made product to threaten the existence of a major natural food.

Oleomargarine is not a substitute for butter; it is butter made by industry. Except that the industrial product is cheaper and more uniform, the two substances are practically identical. This will soon be true of the other so-called 'natural' methods of producing this third main kind of human food. For



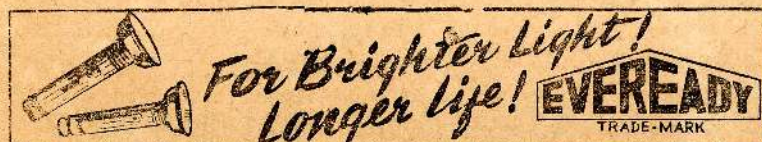
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chemical research is now on the very threshold of the total synthesis of fats.

The only question is: How long before we shall get going under full steam down this road to survival which is also the road to abundance? All we have to do is shake up our mental habits, and realize that the chemical industries, sufficiently subsidized, can do the same thing the plants are doing, and do it a thousand times more efficiently and cheaply. And why not do it before we are faced with starvation?



IN THE PUBLIC EYE

TRADE circles rejoice in the appointment of Mr. E. S. De Silva, C.C.S. as Deputy Controller of Imports and Exports succeeding Mr. G. O. Nicholas, his worthy predecessor, who counted valuable service in steering this department in the sphere of Ceylonizing trade.

Mr. De Silva has no doubt acquainted himself with the running of this department while at the Ministry of Commerce and Trade and we believe that there could not have been a better choice made than Mr De Silva for his present position.

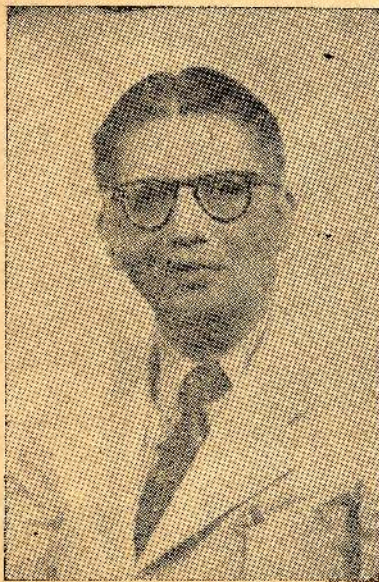
Mr. De Silva, as we have known him in

the past decades, was a very promising officer of the Government. He had the push and ability to do any work that devolved on him and his efforts and drive in those directions have merited him the present official elevation.

His charming manners and willingness to guide others when in difficulty, have been quite characteristic of him and we are confident that his present link up with the public will help to improve the trade relationship between the Government and the Public.

The larger business interests in this country owe a great debt of gratitude to Mr. De Silva for the many missions that he undertook on behalf of the Government of Ceylon in the purchase of essential commodities, and particularly the historic mission to Peking along with his Minister, The Hon'ble Mr. R. G. Senanayake, who was able to cement Trade Relations between Nationalist China and Ceylon, in spite of vehement protests by Power Blocks.

St. Joseph's College has every reason to be proud of Mr. De Silva, for his alma mater has been instrumental in giving the public of Ceylon a product of quality combined with high integrity and devotion to duty.



Mr. E. S. de Silva, C.C.S.

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

BEST

BREWED BY

The
Ceylon Brewery

NUWARA ELIYA

A RED LETTER DAY FOR A LOCAL BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENT

FRIENDS and well wishers of Messrs. W. F. De Silva & Co., Fort. were delighted at the news that the firm was going a step further in the business sphere by putting up a two storey building in Main Street, Pettah.

It was only last week that the genial proprietor of the firm. Mr. P. D. S. Wimalasundera, assisted by his wife, laid the foundation stone. The new building, we are credibly informed, will conform to modern and up to date standards and will consist of many amenities for the firm's patrons.

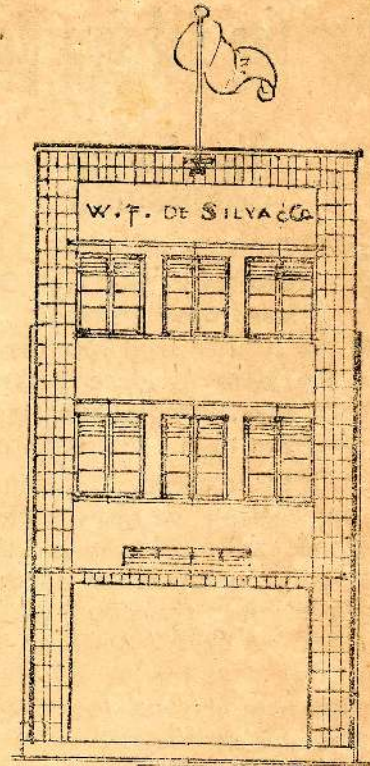


Mr. P. D. S. Wimalasundera.

Messrs W. F. De Silva & Co. whose high standard of business acumen and integrity are so well-known, will be adding a

new chapter in commercial strides when the new building will be declared open. Thanks to the proprietor and founder, the late W. F. De Silva, who was able to give it the impetus and blessings which has been carried out successfully by his son, Mr. Wimalasundera, the present head of the firm.

As specialists in the Watch Trade and experienced Jewelers of high repute, the firm



The New Building in Main St. Pettah

goes from strength to strength. The branch at Kandy also serves its patrons in a manner quite in keeping with the reputation which the firm had built up.

We wish Messrs. W. F. de Silva & Co., all success in their endeavours.

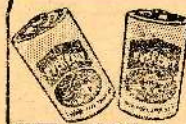
THE UNPAID PLUMES OF SUNRISE SPORT CLUB

Continued from page 19)

— x —

young, feels that he can cash on his knowledge of the English language without fear of the masquerade being revealed.

It would appear that the President of the Colombo Football League is not aware that a false promise has been made to a writer, known to the member clubs of the League, that he would be 'well' compensated for any work done by him for the League. And on this barren promise one of the joint secretaries had some letters composed and typewritten by him. But the promised remuneration has not even been broached upon since then.



For Brighter Light
Longer Life **EVEREADY**
TRADE-MARK

Whether the League is, like most of us, hard up for money need not be left to the judgment of Hathy & Co. the League's Auditors, as it is well known that the League is in clover. What the League appears to be hard up for is perhaps an office-bearer of integrity. Now that he would be off to Moscow, in a few days, the Council of the Colombo Football League would be acting prudently and economically if it could contrive to get him transported to Siberia if not before at least after the Youth Festival at Moscow.

After the Gal Oya Board Dismissals



THE Prime Minister made no secret of the reason why the Gal Oya Development Board was "dismissed" And the reason is that the Board "had not the confidence of the workers." Hence Messrs. Weerasuriya, Amaratunga, Kanagasunderam and Company had to be given their 'marching orders.'

Of these three, Mr. Amaratunga essayed an explanation which was neither convincing nor true, as to the why and the wherefor for the abrupt termination of their services. The work began in the good old days (or is it in the bad old days?) of the U. N. P. regime and which went on for just over an year under the Boards new masters, the M. E. P. Here started the picking of holes. For little need be said that the Prime Minister had his knife into them all and naturally, he had his way and the Board had to go.

In these matters one has to look at both sides of the picture if the reader looks through the coloured glasses of the U.N.P. it is just possible to see sufficiently to enable one to prop up the Gal Oya Development Board with all its work and pomp. If how-



Mr. Wijayabahu Wijayasinha

ever, if you look through the M.E.P. glasses, one is just able to see sufficiently well and enable him to arrive at a verdict quite independent of the sayings and doings and happenings of the immediate past. But then one cannot divest from the Gal Oya Valley that this great human reservoir of labour of all sorts, who according to the Bandaranaike code of ethics, had to be appeased even if the Heavens fall!

This was probably where the Board was accused of not having been able to realise. Now Messrs. Weerasuriya, Amaratunga and Kanagasunderam obviously had quite a different conception of what their responsibilities were and, with it, how they were to comport themselves. They may probably have justly felt that they were called upon to serve a specific purpose and that in the public interest. Nor could they forget, they were entrusted with a four hundred million concern with umpteen millions more to be expended with wisely and well

If in such circumstances, they took the line of least resistance towards Government and the entire body of workers, who were virtually pawns in the game of ding-dong politics when tendencies inclined towards the new socialism had to be faced and practised then frankly, the Board was not able to adopt themselves that way One even would hardly dare to suggest that the Board had any knowledge of labour or labour conditions to begin with. Much less, were they sympathetically inclined to it. The Board had been entrusted with a little too much of the capitalist tendencies and that is where they fell short of expectations. No wonder then that the Prime Minister should have had to declare that "it had not the confidence of the Workers." and declare their innings closed. They forgot that they had to be just before being generous.

They were only concerned, perhaps, on the business side first and foremost and if they could not blend their business with the politics of the hour, it stands to reason that the Prime Minister was not far wrong in pronouncing his judgment on the Board and asking them to go their way.

We are certainly not attributing any thing over to covert Messrs. Weerasuriya or Amaratunga, and Kanagasunderam. They probably forgot, for the nonce, that they were there not as custodians only of a four hundred million investment, but to see to the appeasement of the workers. That was the main thing. And everything else comes after. For the Gal Oya Valley is not to be regarded as one vast workshop of machinery and capital invested there alone. For there was

the human element working under trying conditions may be putting their hands to producing plenty and engaged in a work of national reconstruction. The need, therefore, was for men who could enter into the spirit of the whole thing and if workers themselves; to work with them, to talk with them if need be to fight with them and to blend them to good purpose. None among the outgoing board, we verily believe came up to our expectation of the kind of men that were actually needed.

Here we come to consider the claims of one at least who had succeeded being sought and appointed to the Board. He is Mr. Wijaya bahu Wijayasinha. He is a new star in the political firmament, or rather in the firmament of the Board and what's his record? Here it is, so that those who run may read. There is no question. He will fill a large place, indeed a very large place on the Gal Oya Development Board. For he seems to be made of the right stuff with the right spirit. For proof here it is:-

He was Superintendent of a large Agency, controlled Tea and Rubber Estates in Sabaragamuwa, Southern and Central Provinces. Was Honorary Secretary of the Southern Province Planters Association for six years

in succession. Was a Justice of the Peace for the Matara District and an Un-Official Hospital Visitor and Un Official Excise Official for the Island. Has taken a keen interest in the Co-operative and Rural Development Movement being President and Honorary Treasurer of the Co-operative Societies and Unions and President of Rural Development Societies and Unions, both in the Southern and Central Provinces. Was first Ceylonese Chairman of the Ceylon Planters Society Kandy Branch and an Executive Committee Member of the Kandy District. Planters' Association. An Un Official visitor to the Kandy Civil Hospital and a Justice of the Peace for the judicial district of Kandy. Valuer of Agricultural property for the Land Commissioner under the Land Redemption Ordinance Valuer to the Ceylon State Mortgage Bank, the Agricultural and Industrial Credit Corporation, also a Valuer to the National Housing Department. A Visiting Agent of Tea and Rubber Estates. Is now a Director of the Ceylon Estate Agency and Warehousing Co. Ltd and allied Companies associated with Senator C. Wijesinghe and Mr. H. Lloyd Jones controls and manages several large tea rubber and coconut estates He has closely studied Tobacco cultivation and once owned Cigarette Tobacco plantations on a large scale. A member of the General Committee of the Low Country Products Association and represents his firm on the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce. A Justice of the Peace of the Judicial District of Colombo. Member of the Ceylon Coconut Board and Wages Board for Tea growing and Manufacturing Trade Has visited large agricultural and land development schemes in India, Australia, Indonesia and Malaya.

Isn't he the type of man who will deliver the goods—given the necessary co-operation and backing. His practical turn of mind, his experience, his wide knowledge of field work and above all his intimate acquaintance with the worker is a guarantee that he will and can do the job expected of him.

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cheapest prices

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IN THE PUBLIC EYE

ERRATA

Mr. E. S. de Silva was educated at St. Benedict's College. He was promoted recently to Class 2 Grade 2 of the Civil Service.

What People Say

WHO helped John Bass to get his Tamil servants to England?

OTHER people would like to get their old servants to Ceylon

WHY did Albert run away from the B.T.S. Meeting?

WAS the pace too hot for him?

WHAT has happened to the Rent Restriction Act?

THE appointment of the D. P. W. was another scandal

THAT the Ceylonese Hens at the Women's "Hinterland" Club are getting too cocky

IT is time they amalgamated with other communities

THAT the Scindi girls are bossing at the Yeighy Club with the Indian Boys

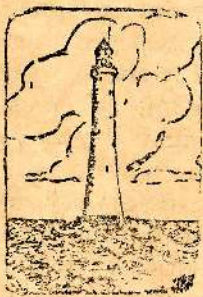
MITCHAM NALLA VELLAYADE!

HAS Themitcho Kikily retired?

WHAT happened to the Hot dogs?

THAT Scindi Merchants in the Textile

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**De Vos Exchange Tables and John
S de Silva's Interest Tables.**

Trade are steadily spreading their trade along the Galle Road

THAT new faces are seen daily in business areas.

THAT how are they able to procure telephones, houses and even licenses to trade

THEY produce these like the Conjuror does rabbits from a top hat!

THAT a Scindi Textile Merchant who was fined a big sum of money by the Custom for smuggling currency notes was granted Distinguished Citizenship.

WHO is the Memmon Textile Merchant in Pettah who has gradually given up dealing in Textiles and has now embarked upon a more lucrative trade of money lending?

THAT his rates of interest are exorbitant and he is out-distancing the usurious Afghan money lender

THAT his connection with the Cinema business is a cover-up for many ruses

THAT the C.T.C. elections are drawing nigh and plans are in the offing to secure as much votes as possible

THAT Sir, E. G. P. Jayatilleke and Mr. R.L Pereira should peacefully retire and give better men a chance of doing some good for the club.

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

JULY 15th 1957

“The Greatest Constitutional Hoax Perpetrated on the Country”

UNDER the above caption we published in the last issue a communication from Mr. C. M. Edwin de Silva, General Secretary of the Public Services Aid Association which revealed the kind of political legerdemain indulged in by the brass hats of the Ceylon Civil Service of the Colonial regime, whose extraordinary powers, used in quite the bureaucratic manner without the least compunction, the Donoughmore Commission sought to curtail by transferring responsibility to the elected representatives of the people. This was in regard to all appointments and dismissals of Public Servants. The high ranking Civil Servants of the time were practically the rulers of the country. They twisted the liberal terminology of the Donoughmore Commissioner's Report to serve illiberal ends, thereby completely flouting the Royal Instructions and reducing the Ceylon State Council to a screaming farce.

For exposing or unfolding, the true facts governing the relative Donoughmore recommendations distorted by the tin-gods of the local Secretariat who so manipulated those recommendations as enabled them to continue to hold undisputed sway over the entire body of Government Servants. Mr. de Silva deserves every commendation. It is this feature of deliberate misinterpretations and verbal jugglery imported into the recommendations that enabled the **Three Officers of State** whom the late E. W. Perera, described as “Three Policemen in plain Clothes” to continue to wield power which made them the monarchs of all they surveyed and whose rights there was none to dispute.

This perverse and vicious manipulation naturally reduced the State Council into a petty government department over which the Chief Secretary, who was the Chief Executive Officer of the government, presided and as a result of which chaos and confusion reigned supreme within the legislature and the entire public service of Ceylon.

For bringing the real truth to light after a lapse of fifteen years of arbitrary authority abuse of power, misgovernment and constitutional mockery, Mr. de Silva must be given the credit. How it was that the representatives of the people were unable to discover this scandalous state of things, we are unable to understand. However the cat having bobbed out of the bag, the Soulbury Commission to whose notice the matter was brought in the year 1945 by Mr. de Silva acknowledged the representation as correct.

Here is what the Soulbury Constitution in their report, vide para 324, says:-

“The Donoughmore Report sets out in detail the various functions which the Commissioners recommended should be assigned to the Executive Committees and to the Officers of State. These functions were laid down in the Ceylon (State Council) Order in Council, 1931 (First and Second schedules) with certain departures from the Donoughmore recommendations **NOT IN OUR OPINION ENTIRELY JUSTIFIED IN THE LIGHT OF SUBSEQUENT EXPERIENCE.**”

Be that as it may. Fifteen years having elapsed since the Soulbury Report saw the light of day, one is indeed bewildered that no action was taken by the U.N.P. Government to remedy a deplorable state of affairs until pressure was brought to bear on the M.E.P. Government by the new discovery made by Mr. de Silva. We are happy that the Government is now getting ready to amend the present constitution so as to bring it in line with the actual requirements of the original recommendation in respect of the Public Services Commission and thus redress the long standing grievance of the Public Services of this Country.



The Election of the President of the Law Society

Sir,

I am writing to you to solicit the medium of your valued paper to offer a comment



Mr. S. R. Amerasekera, M.B.

on the proceedings of the Law Society at the Fourteenth Annual General Meeting which was held on 29th June 1957 under great tension and discord. For the first time in the fifteenth year of existence of the Law Society there was a contest caused by the following circumstances: The retiring President Sir Cyril de Zoysa

was anxious to continue as President but he was not eligible for re-election owing to the following By Law.

By-Law 4 (2)

The President and Vice-President shall be elected from among persons who are members of the Council and have been such for at least two consecutive years but no President or Vice President shall be re-elected to the same office more than twice in succession

Sir Cyril has been re-elected President twice in succession.

It is of interest to note that it was Sir Cyril himself who sponsored this By Law to prevent the re-election of Mr S. J. C. Kadirgamar, the Founder President.

Sir Cyril sought to revoke or amend this By Law as it stood against his re-election as president this year. But though he sent his emissaries up and down the country he got no support for this move. For many Senior Proctors were approached but they did not approve the proposal. Among these was Mr S. R. Amerasekera who was generally expected to be elected President

Meanwhile Mr S. R. Amerasekera had been nominated for election as President. Sir

Cyril then adopted another device. His supporters inquired from Mr Amerasekera whether he would, if unanimously elected President through Sir Cyril's influence resign within three months and thus enable Sir Cyril to be elected President. Mr Amerasekera refused to agree on principle.

Thereupon Sir Cyril persuaded Mr S. Somasunderam to agree to nomination assuring him of his backing. Mr Somasunderam, it is reported, agreed to resign within three months and make way for Sir Cyril.

Thereafter it was a contest between Sir Cyril and Mr. S. R. Amerasekera. Sir Cyril canvassed support for Mr. Somasunderam. He actively canvassed for one candidate against the other in the election of his successor. He persuaded many members from Kalutara, Panadura, and Jaffna who never took any interest in the Law Society, to attend the General-Meeting. At the Meeting Sir Cyril proposed Mr. S. Somasunderam for his (Sir Cyril's sake), "give him your vote for my sake" were the words he used but he said no word in the favour of Mr. S. R. Amerasekera. Mr. Somasunderam was eventually elected with 73 votes against 61 votes for Mr. Amerasekera. He etc for no occasion were speeches made in proposing or seconding a candidate for this office.

Sir Cyril thus has been instrumental in creating a contest for the office of President for the first time in the long history of the Law Society. He has created a Tamil Sinhalese discord at a grave moment in the history of this land.

Mr. Amerasekera himself came under the operation of the same By Law in 1955 when he had served as Vice-President for three years in succession and could not be re-elected Vice President. Mr. Amerasekera did not seek election on that occasion and this is the tribute Sir Cyril paid him from the Chair at the twelfth Annual General Meeting held on 25th June, 1955.

"Mr. S. R. Amerasekera had not offered himself for re-election as Vice President in view of the By-Laws of the Society. Mr. Amerasekera had done his work conscientiously and attended meetings of Committees and of the Council very regularly. He hoped that at the next election Mr. Amerasekera would be elected President."

Further comment is superfluous.

COLOMBO PROCTOR

We deal with this matter briefly Editorially—Editor)

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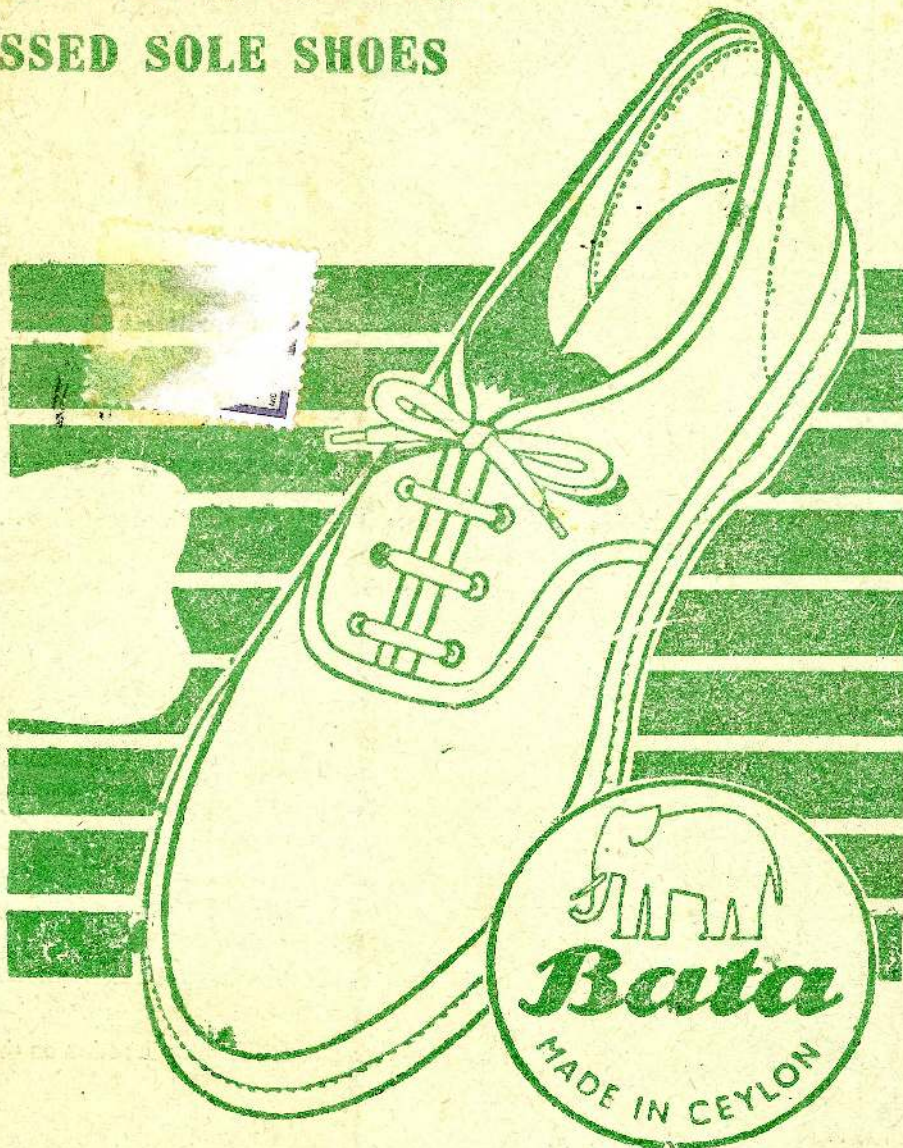
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