

# The SEARCHLIGHT

36th YEAR OF ESTABLISHMENT

VOL 36 NO. 12

COLOMBO

31st July 1957

## 'CEYLON WELL AHEAD OF REST OF ASIA'

**S**IR OLIVER GOONETILLEKE is certainly not one of those who belong to the category of dreamers or fanatics inclined to indulge in rash statements. Whenever he has occasion to speak on public matters, he generally is regarded as speaking sound sense and makes his listeners think and think hard about what he said.

Early this week he spoke about our Educational System and the degree of its excellence. He said:

"Ceylon is on the right road. It will take the rest of Asia a thousand years to catch up with Ceylon in the field of Education and in various other fields. Ceylon won her freedom not as a result of a revolution or of long suffering of our national leaders but across a Conference Table. We proved to our rulers that we were fit for freedom"

We can think of nobody more competent to speak on such a matter as Education as Sir Oliver who was at one time a school-master. This was when Ceylon's educational firmament was studded with such illustrious luminaries as Highfield and Hartley, Harward and Collin, LeGoc and Long, Fraser and Darrel, Small and Senior, Woodward and De Saram and quite a host of lesser lights among Ceylonese educationists who it were who produced those outstanding men in every sphere



His Excellency, Sir Oliver Goonetilleke

of learning, be it in the Civil Service or in the professions today. That Ceylon's seats of learning continue to produce such as them, is only too obvious. Then we have the University which also continues to add its quota of brilliant products. Judging from such glorious

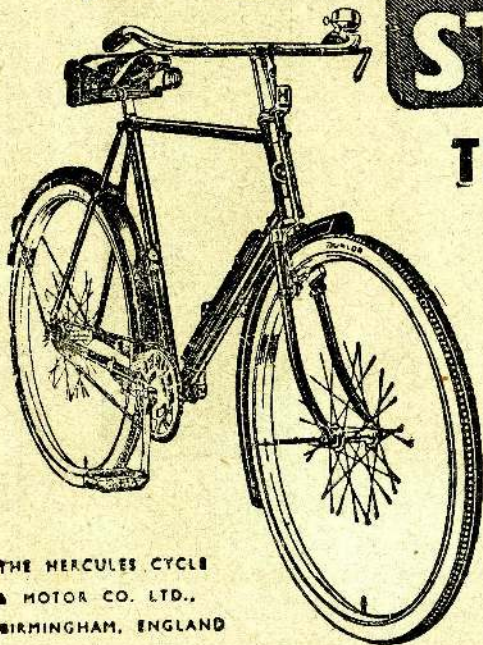
(Continued on page 17)

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Vol. 36 No. 12

COLOMBO

JULY 31st 1957

## Public Servants who meddled with the Donoughmore Constitution

I AM thankful to 'The Searchlight' for its editorial comments on my article under the caption 'The Greatest Constitutional Hoax perpetrated on this country' published in your valuable journal of 15.6.57

The crux of the article is that under the Donoughmore regime the State Council functioned without the Three Officers of State and the Public Service Commission, which the Donoughmore Commission recommended should be set up, operated like a guillotine.

The conduct of all those Public Servants who impersonated the Three Officers of State over a period of nearly 15 years, calls for serious notice by the People's Government as it was the experience of their elected representatives that the presence of the Officers of State in the State Council, far from being of any assistance to them in evolving schemes to ameliorate the conditions of the people, or helping in the good Government of the country was a serious impediment.



Mr Peiter Kueneman, M.P.

Secretary and the Financial Secretary who first came to function as such from 1931, which was the year the State Council was

inaugurated, could not have been so ignorant as not to know that Public Servants were debarred from being elected, appointed or nominated as members of the State Council. As such any misdemeanour or miscon-

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duct on their part when brought to the notice of Government should be taken serious notice and of condign punishment meted out to them to serve as a deterrent to those who flout authority with impunity.

Article 9 (C) of the Ceylon (State Council) Order in Council, 1931, which deals with disqualification for membership of the Council reads thus:-

"No person shall be capable of being elected or appointed as a member or of sitting or voting in the Council as an elected or nominated member who holds any public office under the Crown in the Island".

and Article 11 which refers to the penalty for unqualified persons sitting or voting in the Council reads as follows:-

"A person shall be liable to a penalty of Rs. 500/- for every day on which he shall sit or vote in the Council knowing or having reasonable grounds for knowing that he is disqualified by this Order for sitting or voting or that his seat has become vacant".

On the face of these two articles, it is crystal clear that the Chief Secretaries, the Financial Secretaries, the Deputy Chief Secretaries and the Deputy Financial Secretaries who sat in the State Council and who were all Public Servants, had deliberately contravened Article 9 (C) and were, therefore, liable not only to dismissal from the Public Service with loss of all pension rights but also to the penalty of Rs. 500 for every day they sat in the Council.

When the last Three Officers of State were indemnified by Article 84 of the (Soulbury Constitution) Order-in-Council they were rendered immune from being sued by anybody for damages for contravening Article XI of the Order-in-Council of 1931, which prescribes a penalty of Rs. 500/ for every

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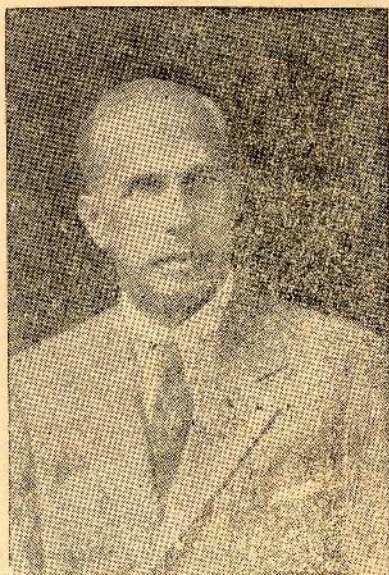
day on which a person not qualified to sit in the State Council had sat; and also from the consequence of being dismissed from the Public Service with loss of all pension rights for having sat in the Council whilst remaining as Public Servants. But none of their predecessors were granted this indemnity and therefore they should now be called upon to pay the lesser penalty of having to forfeit their pensions for impersonating the Three Officers of State in the State Council whilst being members of the Public Service.

#### THE IRREGULAR PROCEDURE

The Soulbury Commission Report which was published in 1945 in referring to the irregular procedure followed in framing the Donoughmore Constitution commented thus:

"The Donoughmore Report sets out in detail the various functions which the Commissioners recommended should be assigned to the Executive Committees and 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 recommen-

dations not in our opinion entirely justified in the light of subsequent experience."



Sir Herbert Eric Jansz Kt.

Viewed in this light the elected representatives in the Finance Committee of the Old Legislative Council wielded considerable power over Heads of Departments which played the part of an united opposition, where it was the practice for Heads of Departments to be treated as hostile witnesses, against whom it was permissible to employ all the forensic arts of cross-examination.

The most striking feature of this Constitution was the divorce of power from responsibility and therefore the Donoughmore Commission had to devise a scheme in devolving on to the shoulders of the Ceylonese themselves as great a degree of responsibility for the management of the affairs of the country as was compatible with a system which would inevitably fall some what short of full responsible Government.

So when the framing of the Order in Council of 1931 came to be handled by them they did not scruple to tinker with the recommendations of the Donoughmore Commission by twisting liberal terminology to serve illiberal ends for the sole purpose of maintaining the status quo of the Ceylon Civil Service. The sequel therefore was 15 years of misgovernment and maladministration which had serious repercussions on the progress of the country.

Who really was responsible in entrusting the task of framing the Order-in-Coun-

The 'subsequent experience' of both the people and their elected representatives was most humiliating as the State Council was reduced to a mere Government Department under the iron heels of the three highest Executive Officers of the Public Service.

oil of 1931 to the members of the Ceylon Civil Service when we had a great wealth of legal talent in the country particularly among the members of the un-official Bar. In fact it was the wish of the members of the Donoughmore Commission that in framing the constitution based on the recommendations set out in their report, **Expert Legal Advice** should be sought.

Here is what they said in this connection in the opening para of Chapter IX of their report.

"The Constitution which we propose will, of course, necessitate the issue of a New Order in Council and the revision of the Letters Patent and Royal Instructions. We have not regarded it as part of our duty to suggest the precise terms in which these instruments should be drafted since the preparation of them can only be undertaken with expert legal advice. We have therefore confined ourselves to a general statement of the principles on which we recommend the new constitution should be based and of the provisions which we consider necessary for the translation of those principles into constitutional practice."

Now that a People's Government has been voted into power it becomes its duty to probe into all the misdeeds of those Public Servants who impersonated the Officers of State or the Appointed Ministers and to take such steps as to treat them as having been dismissed and to forthwith stop paying any pensions to them.

C. M. EDWIN DE SILVA  
General Secretary P. S. A. A.

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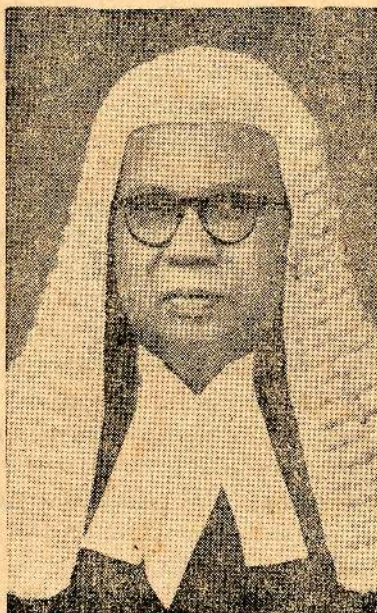
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# The Case of Ceylon Base-Workers Cham- pioned by the UNP in London

**T**HE General Secretary of the United National Party, Sir Ukwatte Jayasundera, who is just now in England, will lobby in the House of Commons the case of the 10,000 employees who will be discontinued when the British leave the Trincomalee and Katunayake bases.

He will meet both Government officials and Conservative M.P.'s and request them to press the Government to enhance the gratuities that are to be paid these employees.

Last week the acting General Secretary of the UNP, (Mr J. R. Jayawardene.) cabled Sir Ukwatte to meet representatives of the U.K. Government and



Sir Ukwatte Jayasundera, Q.C.

Government MPs in this connexion.

Mr. Jayawardene received a cable from Sir Ukwatte stating that he would do his utmost to persuade Conservative MPs to support the case of payment of higher gratuities for the employees of the British bases in Ceylon.

Sir Ukwatte is expected to meet the Conservative MPs during the week end to lobby the case.

It is learnt that he will also contact Sir John Kotelawala, who is also in England; to advocate the cause of the Ceylonese employees on the Ceylon Bases with leading members of the Conservative Party.

## TO MEET WHIP

Sir Ukwatte is expected to meet Mr R.D.

Milne, Secretary of the Overseas Conservative Bureau and the Whip of the Conservative Group, who is a personal friend of his

In his cable to Sir Ukwatte Mr. Jayawardene has stated that the gratuity that is being offered is totally inadequate and therefore a higher sum should be paid as many of the employees are too old to seek other avenues of employment.

Mr Jayawardene told that representatives of all organisations of employees at the bases at Trincomalee Katunayake, Diyatalawa and Kochchikade had met officials of the Party and had appealed to them to take up their case for enhanced gratuities.

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# THE MORATUWA HOME FOR THE AGED

It is doubtful whether the benevolent public of Moratuwa and the other philanthropic people and public institutions such as the Ceylon Turf Club and the Sri Chandrasekera Trust, are aware of what is going on within the four walls of the Home for the Aged run by the Moratuwa Social Service Society Ltd.

Many a member who has had the courage to criticise the management of the Home had his name removed from the Subscribers Register on flimsy pretences. It is the practice with the Society to expunge from its Register members whose subscriptions are in arrears. A ruse is adopted for the purpose. The collector, who usually goes round with a book to the various subscribers, evades calling on any particular member who find fault with the management and thus allowing his subscription to get into arrears. Then his name is removed from the register.

## PROPERTY OF THE HOME

There have been instances when property belonging to the Home's have found their way to the residence of certain people. Here is an instance how the Home property is used by Office Bearers for their private purposes.

One day a certain member of the Home was taking a push-cycle out of the premises. He met with a nasty accident with a van on the main road opposite the Home. He sustained severe injuries, including a fracture of his arm, and the cycle was a complete wreck. Up-to date no action has been taken to recover the value of the cycle. Like this, there are many instances where the Home's property is being misused. Nobody looks into such matters

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## STAFF INSISTS ON BEING FED

Very often dinners, lunches, morning teas and other gifts, are made to the inmates of the Home by generous folk but the "good joints" and the delicious sweetmeats—at least the major portion—find their way to the residence of the members of the staff. Several such instances have been brought to the notice of the management.

About a month or two ago somebody complained to Rev Mendis that when he offered to provide a meal for the inmates of the Home as an almsgiving in memory of one of his beloved ones, the Matron had insisted that unless the meals for the staff were also provided, his offer would not be accepted. After all, the Staff are paid employees and there is no reason for the public to give them their meals. Rev. Mendis was surprised at this high-handed and cheeky suggestion of the Matron. The matter was reported to one of the Joint Secretaries. Nothing came of it.

## INVESTMENT OF THE FUNDS OF THE HOME

A few months ago a certain lady arranged to purchase a block of land in Charles de Soysa Place, (Idama) After the title deeds

were examined a survey of the block was made by a Retired Asst. Superintendent of Surveys who is practising in Moratuwa. This land is under a mortgage to the Moratuwa Social Service Society Ltd. and it was after writing several letters to the Society's Notary that the purchaser's lawyer managed to get the deeds. The encumbrances being searched the surveyor superimposed the sketch on the title deed attached to the original deed, he found that a part of the block which the lady proposed to buy was not covered by a deed. On the Society's lawyer being questioned he said that that deed was being written but up to date the legal discrepancy has not been adjusted.

Here is a case where the funds of the Society had been badly invested. These funds have been collected out of the PUBLIC and the Trustees of the Society are expected to exercise care in investing the same. Supposing the mortgagor defaults payment and eventu-

ally the property is put up for sale, the sale can be confined only to that portion covered by the deed and not the portion for which there is no title. How did the Society's Notary come to execute a mortgage bond for only part of the land? This is a very serious matter. There have been similar instances in the past I am told. It is very unsatisfactory that the Society's lawyer should hold office in the Committee of the Home.

This Home for the Aged is today more or less a means for title-hunters to seek recognition for themselves as Mudaliyars, J.P's etc. And in fact there had been instances in the past where aspirants for honours had claimed the Home as being the fruits of their individual labours though it has been built and founded out of donations from philanthropic persons.

SHERMAN FERNANDO

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## JOHN CITIZEN DISCOVERS WHY beer is best

**CITIZEN** My doctor tells me to drink beer. May I ask you a few questions?

**EXPERT** Certainly, anything you like.

**CITIZEN** Well, you are an expert brewer. You ought to know what beer is made of and why it should do me good.

**EXPERT** I certainly do.

**CITIZEN** I see they advertise that beer is brewed from the finest malt, hops, and yeast. Is that true?

**EXPERT** Yes. For hundreds of years pure barley-malt has been recognized as one of the purest and most digestible forms of nourishment.

**CITIZEN** And why are hops used?

**EXPERT** Hops not only give a delightful flavour but act as an appetizer and a magnificent antiseptic.

**CITIZEN** Antiseptic?

**EXPERT** Yes. Many medical testimonies endorse this, and during certain epidemics in by gone years beer was made compulsory on account of its nutritive and antiseptic qualities.

**CITIZEN** That's Interesting—and why is yeast good?

**EXPERT** Surely you don't need an expert to tell you that yeast is now known as one of the greatest rejuvenators and restoratives.

**CITIZEN** Yes, I've heard that.

**EXPERT** Well, there you've got it. In British beer you get the perfect combination of the finest food value possible. It is a body-builder and restorative, an antiseptic against most common ailments, and full of nourishment in the most digestive form. Our country has thrived on it from time immemorial. So will you. Your doctor is right.

**CITIZEN** Why has beer become so popular of late?

**EXPERT** Medical science and the knowledge of food values has increased enormously. Our ancestors drank beer by instinct and tradition. Now dietetic research has proved that their instinct and the tradition were sound. While other drinks come and go, beer remains and is by far the most wholesome drink in the world.

And Now **YOU** Know Why **BEER IS BEST**

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# MUSINGS

BY  
T. W. HOCKLY

## THAT AFFIX 'SHRI'

THE Minister of Transport has acted very unwisely in introducing the affix 'Shri' to be placed on motor car numberplates. He did this on his own and in the absence of the P.M. who was in London at the time. By his ill-advised and foolish action the Minister has stirred up a veritable hornet's nest. But in any case why adopt the Sinhalese or Pali form of the symbol. It is only an adaptation from the Matrix Sanskrit. Had the plain Sanskrit Form been adopted there would probably have been no objection raised.

In Tamil they have a symbol for Shri but is much simpler and more akin to the Sanskrit symbol. But the Minister of Transport was apparently imbued with the idea of forcing the Pali symbol down the throat of everyone, a most foolish and reprehensible action and now he has to face the consequences of his thoughtless action.

## BUTTER

SEE the Milk Board have decided to make Butter from August this year. But sufficient milk for requirements is more important than butter. Why use up a large quantity of milk to make butter? We should concentrate on increasing the country's milk supply.

Imported Butter from Australia or New Zealand including Freight and Duty can probably be supplied here cheaper and better than Ceylon butter. We are always trying "to paint the lily" often quite uselessly.

## THAT MARATHON SPEECH

THE Member for Vavuniya intended to make a two hour speech was prevented from doing so by the Speaker and was finally ejected from the House.

I often wonder whether people who make these inordinately long speeches when they are allowed to do so, if they think their audience is listening to every word of wisdom which drops from their lips. It is not natural to expect that people are going to listen to a speech extending to some hours however clever or plausible the speech may be. Surely speakers cannot expect that such lengthy speeches how-

# TOBY



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ever brilliant or clever they may be can receive attention for hours. It may be and is most probable that such speakers love to hear the sound of their own voice irrespective whether others do so or not. We should probably have better speeches were a time limit imposed on all speeches.

"Mulum in brevis"

Some people, of course, are obdurate and will not listen. I remember once when the speakers at a meeting were given five minutes and most of us fully intended to act accordingly. But there was one man the worst and dullest who got up and meandered on through a lot of foolish irrelevancies and would not stop. The result was there was no time left for the other speakers to say a word and their speeches had been excised or cancelled altogether from the program through the stupid selfishness and obstinacy of one man who was himself a poor and hesitant speaker. This man was a M.P. at the time but how he ever came to be a M.P. is another story.

## SINHALESE AND TAMIL

**D**ID the egg come first or the chicken? Similarly who arrived first in Ceylon—the Sinhalese or the Tamil? We know



The Chinese and Japanese however consume large quantities of Soya bean curd a most nutritious substitute for milk. In this respect I do not know whether the people in the Jaffna Peninsula being Hindus are milk drinkers or not.

Being born in India of Hindu stock, I should imagine that Prince Sidartha—the Lord Buddha was himself a milk drinker but not so among the majority of his followers. I have been told though cannot vouch for it, the reason being an aversion to deprive calves of their mother's milk.

#### • THE RABIES MENACE

THE Japanese Government by insisting on the compulsory anti rabies inoculation of all dogs periodically and the destruction of all ownerless dogs, although a Buddhist country, have succeeded in stamping out the incidence of rabies completely in Japan. If only the Ceylon Government would adopt similar measures and make a real effort the menace of rabies would soon be reduced or eliminated altogether. With a view to try and combat this menace to some little extent for over ten years the Government now instituted the following arrangement. I first contacted the Government Veterinary Surgeon Negombo requesting him to fix a suitable Sunday Morning for the purpose and to send his Assistant who is an expert, to inoculate dogs in this vicinity. But first of all he was to advise the various D.R.O.'s concerned to inform their respective V.H.'s to tell the villagers such an operation would take place on a given date. The response was most encouraging and I have seen as many as 80 dogs inoculated on a single morning. But this year unfortunately the whole scheme proved an utter fiasco. The Assistant Veterinary Surgeon arrived here on a Sunday Morning but there was not single dog to be seen. The D.R.O.'s had evidently failed to advise their V.H. at least that is the opinion of the Government Veterinary Surgeon and if that is the case then it is most reprehensible and G.A.W.P. will have to be advised as regards this apparent laxity which must be remedied.

I myself have now fallen a victim and have to undergo a course of anti-rabic injection for 21 days at the Negombo Hospital daily. Ill as I am, I must attend, as I dare not take the risk of neglecting to do so. It happened in this wise. One of my neighbours had

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a dog which used often to come here. A most gentle, affectionate and lovable animal. I grew very fond of him as he was so gentle and good natured. But suddenly one day he developed dumb rabies. I at once requested the Government Veterinary Surgeon to see the dog and decide. He duly came and decided it was case of dumb rabies and advised the immediate destruction of the dog. The owner then shot the animal but as I had been patting and fondling the dog the Veterinary Surgeon considered it advisable I should undergo a 21 day course of injections which I am doing at the moment, ill as I am. But whenever I attend the clinic every day I see several others, men and women, waiting to be injected. Some have been bitten and some have had only close contact with a suspected animal.

This particular dog need not have been destroyed if the owner had it inoculated a year ago but he was too ignorant or too lazy or too careless and so it was the poor loving and affectionate dog that had to die otherwise it might have been alive and well today. Just an example of Ceylon's "laissez faire."

## WHAT PEOPLE SAY

THAT Wace has lost his appeal but is in full command of the S.P.C.A. building

SO what can be done ?

THAT R.S.S. has gone

THAT a probe is necessary at the Mental Hospital, Angoda, and the sooner the better

A Board of Management should be appointed

THAT John Bass has thrown a big party in London to his satellites and friends.

Who put up the money ?

THAT R.S.S. has had his bottom spanked

THAT the Turf Club meeting was a frost  
E.G.P. R.L., Soma and Vernon voted the wrong way—as they usually did

THE two great tumblers Eric and Jones were silent

THIS won't help racing in Colombo.

R.F.S. is trying to stage a come back

IS it true that the Labour Minister has issued a circular to all Government Departments that vacancies for the working class should only be recruited through the Employment Exchange.

IS it also true that quite recently the Minister for Food directed the authorities to take in drivers and cleaners for the Food Department overlooking the circular instruction of the Minister for Labour ?

"Under the UNP regime a simple meal for a family of ten persons had cost Rs.4.93. After the first M. E. P. budget it was Rs. 7.22. Now after the second MEP budget the same meal for the same number of persons would cost Rs. 8.22"—Major C.A.Dharmapala. Member for Hakmana

IS it also true that the Minister for Food has sent in a list of names to the Food Commissioner asking him to select the men mentioned in his list ?

IS it also true that all these men hail from his electorate

THAT a Cocktail Party was thrown in to a host of friends by a recent appointee to Distinguished Ceylonese Citizenship

THAT people say clever ruses are adopted after citizenship is obtained to further their own business ends

TO have one foot in Ceylon and another in a foreign country is one of the methods pursued

ONE brother gets his distinguished citizenship in Ceylon while the other brother is scouring Europe in search of agencies for his brother in Ceylon and even using unfair tactics to pinch agencies from Ceylonese who have right along represented these firms in the local business sphere

WHAT an ugly state of affairs this is

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AND still they are adopted by the 'patriotic' men granted citizenship by Government

SOMEBODY at that Embassy 'misfired' when he called in the CID to 'straf' the Editor of The Searchlight

THAT somebody said 'You, silly, are you off your head'?

THUS the matter passed off

AND so no more 'night-outs'

AND so much "for the good we can do" in "the cause that needs assistance"

AND the wrongs that need resistance"

SO 'Nuff' said the better. Mr. "Perkins"

Now for those Gold Bars that were dropped into the Sea

YES, in the Colombo Harbour

DO you know that the Harbour Police was taken to task

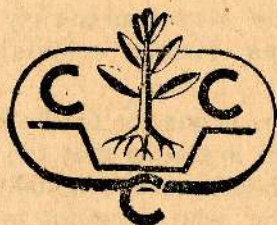
AND by whom?

NEVER mind, somebody or bodies were taken to task and that's all that matters

AND what about that Ship Captain?

HE did not know a thing, poor devil. Not a thing!

DO our readers know that there are heaps of 'Gold Diggers' in the Fort of Colombo?



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THAT those Flats at New Chetty Street have been completed

BUT the Owner is not in Ceylon to take them over

AND those Flats at Ragama, well that's quite another story

NOBODY is going to be 'straffed' for paying out such huge sums without sufficient warranty

NOT anybody in the UNP anyway. Much less in the MEP

THAT the Presidential Election of the Law Society was an unmitigated scandal

THAT those who were persuaded to 'vote for my sake' for the Knight's nominee are now regretting that they were taken in by—you know whom

THAT certain Proctors are now suggesting to have a fresh Election since the last Presidential Election was all ultra vires

THAT the Knight who staged the whole affair is being taken to task by Proctors everywhere

"Have the Government and the Minister forgotten the M.E.P. Manifesto which stated in Clause 90 under the heading Nationalism; "All essential industries, including foreign-owned Plantations, Transport, Banking and Insurance will be progressively nationalised"? Though the Government has forgotten its election promises, and in many places, even broken them, neither the people of this country nor the foreign investor have forgotten," Major C. A. Dharmapala.

# The Burghers

BY E. B. WRIGHT

ON the 26th. of March this year an inquiry to the following effect appeared in one of the morning papers:- What is the origin of the Burghers and whence come they? Who were the original Burghers and who christened them so? Were they settlers from another country or how did they come into being? Was it in the time of the Portuguese or the Dutch in Ceylon? I should like to be enlightened'.

In fairness to the inquirer and the Burgher Community, the "enlightenment" sought must be given, but before I do so, I must state that I was surprised that such an inquiry should have been made until I realized that the inquirer is either a foreigner or a post-Donoughmore product, as in Ceylon it is hardly necessary as yet to enlighten people as to who the Burghers are or what their achievements and proud record in this country have been, for they are still being held in grateful and high esteem by their Sinhalese, Tamil and Muslim compatriots, especially of the pre-Donoughmore era, and particularly by the better classes. They have not forgotten that C. A. Lorenz was in the forefront of the struggle for a better deal and independence or that it was Advocate Grenier who on the 12th. November 1880 gave the English District Judge of Colombo a sound telling off for repeatedly stating that the morality of the Sinhalese was very low and comparable to that of the poultry yard (vide Ceylon "Observer") Nor have they forgotten that it was the Burghers who served as the link between them and their erstwhile English masters with such acceptance to both sides, although they now lie fallen between two stools, for no fault of theirs.

I do hope that the Burghers of today too will try to maintain the same high standards as their ancestors in everything and continue to enjoy the same trust, respect and affection of all the other communities in Ceylon. But this they will never achieve as long as they act like cowards and are selfish individualists, who want to please everyone in everything, right or wrong, and are only

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too ready to criticize and condemn the younger generations but not to help and guide them. It is high time they divested themselves of the slave mentality fostered in them by their former colonial masters, in any case.

However, in answer to the inquiry, I have much pleasure in stating that the Burghers, as the name implies, were originally Dutch citizens in Ceylon, who were not servants of the Dutch East India Company. Besides the Dutch nationals, there were many from practically all the different countries in Europe who had enlisted in the Dutch military and civil services and adopted Dutch nationality. Now, when the Dutch conquered Ceylon the Portuguese, except for a few families who swore allegiance to the Dutch, were not allowed to remain in Ceylon. But they left behind a large number of their offspring by women of this country who were known as Mistises (or mixties) and considered natives of Ceylon. The Sinhalese interpreters and those Sinhalese who identified themselves closely with the Portuguese were known as Thupasses, hence Thuppahige names, besides other Portuguese names in the maritime districts. These Mistises were mostly artisans or domestic helps in Burgher households and

were treated as social inferiors by the Burgher But they being Christians and more accustomed to European ways than the "natives" the Burghers married respectable Mistisa women and "native" women of good social standing, when women of pure European extraction, of whom large numbers came, were not available, especially among the rank and file. Church registers show that there have been mass marriages between Burghers and women bearing names like Silva, Perera, Fernando, Dias, Fonseka etc. Whether they were all Mistisa women, or whether some of them were Sinhalese converts to Christianity, is difficult to say. Up to recent times there have been many marriages between Burgher men and Sinhalese women of good families. Even the late C. A. Lorenz's wife was a half Sinhalese on her mother's side.

The headquarters of the Dutch East India Company was at Batavia and there was constant traffic between the two countries, so that the Dutch Burghers got their wives from that country too; which explains the Malay features in some Burghers—and of course, the Malay mercenaries, who form an important minority in this country today. When a Dutchman married a "native" woman, she automatically became a Dutch national, but such unions, I must reiterate were not frequent.

The Dutch were strictly against concubinage and fornication and even carried their puritanical ideas to ridiculous lengths, which tradition

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is still being observed combined with faulty eugenics, by some of their descendants to the detriment of their issues as well as their community. The English to whom the country was ceded by the Dutch, married some of the Dutch women they found here among the Burghers who were forced to stay behind, and that is how I, for instance, have an English name and am entitled to call myself a Dutch Burgher.

One of the few good things that the Dutch Burgher Union has done is to have preserved the identity and good name of the Burghers. If anyone is interested, I shall be only too pleased to show him authenticated genealogies and proof of everything I state here. There are many Burghers amongst us today who can prove legitimate descent from some of the noblest, oldest and proudest aristocratic families in Europe.

And now that the English have also gone away, they have left behind a not inconsiderable

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or insignificant community known as the Eurasians, quite apart and distinct from the Burghers. The Burghers of today, are proud and glad to identify themselves wholeheartedly and completely with the Mistises and eurasians and act as one body in all matters affecting them politically, economically, culturally etc. The indications are that they are also willing to throw in their lot with the more enlightened, refined and sober elements of the country, but certainly not cheaply or for purposes of improving the strain of any other race.

In his enthusiasm for an united Ceylon, Bishop de Mel had recently, perhaps overstated facts about Burgher girls marrying Sinhalese and Tamil men, but there certainly was not any insincerity, malice or disrespect in what he said. But a subsequent writer to the press takes the Bishop to task for his utterances and seems to be puffed-up with ideas of the importance and "purity" of the so-called majority community, to which he evidently belongs, and is quite mistaken in his belief that the Burghers are insignificant or that they are anxiously waiting to get "absorbed" and lose their identity. Such stupid utterances do not help inter-communal harmony. This idea however, seems to be gaining ground and it behoves the fathers and brothers of Burgher girls to be more watchful about the friendships and alliances of their daughters and sisters. In this context I would urge that the Buddhist concept of a woman's position in life and Oriental modesty are far more sane and sensible than the latest Western fashion where women, generally speaking, ape or ride their men bare back to perdition.



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There is no question of superiority. Man and woman are like two halves of a sphere, and each have their own individual functions in life which the other cannot perform. But as the more responsible, difficult and creative functions falls to the lot of man, he is entitled to more respect, obedience and consideration, while man must honour, provide for, and protect woman. A woman's place is essentially in the home. She is the foundation of the family and the architect of the nation. She cannot afford the freedom of the male, as according to the laws of nature, a man sows and a woman reaps.

Whilst on the subject I may be permitted to say a few words on the future of the community. There certainly is a strong feeling of the awareness of impending doom among all sections of the community, but they are waiting stupified and helplessly for the correct leadership. In my efforts to get those capable of doing so, to take the initiative I may have been misunderstood and hurt the feelings of

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people for whom I have the highest personal regard. It has all been to no purpose, but what I have said has been proved to be correct. The plight of the Burghers today is largely due to political activity in the country and their being completely outside the political arena. As such, I fail to see how the problems of the community can be solved by their fearing to touch politics and those in the upper crust fleeing the country as soon as they are ready to do so. Merely scratching the surface in the middle with some hair-brained, high-faluting impossible schemes will act as a lullaby for some time, but it certainly will not help the community or the country I am not for a moment suggesting unconstitutional measures or even active protests for so small a community as Burghers. but we should have the honesty to denounce what is wrong and harmful and not acquiesce in it.

The so-called leaders also need to be saved in spite of themselves by someone in the rank and file, who would otherwise be left to stew in their own juice. later on. I refuse to believe that the Burgher community is helpless and incapable of doing anything for themselves without the "traditional leaders", who have sacrificed the community times without number in the past.

What the country needs most today is

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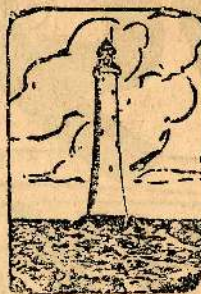
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that all minorities should whilst preserving their identity and individuality and working for their own betterment band themselves together and offer a strong opposition to the majority. There should be a balance of power and a change of the Constitution for the better backed by a strong armed force if necessary. That is the country's own salvation. Those who compromise and cadge for power in their own selfish interests are traitors who cut the ground under their own feet. The time has come for us to decide and decide quickly the form of government we want before there can be further chaos and ruin, resulting in utter collapse and the loss of our independence. If the country opts for a Democratic form of government, left us evolve progressively into a consolidated nation of Ceylonese starting from the twentieth century and looking towards the future, but having our roots deeply and firmly planted in the soil of the country. Releasing forces that the country is not ready to utilize and doing nothing to discourage the phenomenal increase in the population, is just asking for trouble. Moreover we will, do well to remember that crime began to rise and morality fall low after spiritual (not only religious and sentimental values were debased and the accent on nationalism was emphasized.

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## Ceylon well ahead of rest of Asia

(Continued from cover page)



achievements of the past, Sir Oliver's statement at the Dinner of the Government Pensioners' Society must stand unchallenged. But he did not refer to the precise circumstances under which such magnificent results were made possible. Perhaps Sir Oliver left that to be inferred. In any case it is clear that it was due to the free and untrammelled educational system that obtained until Ceylon got her Independence and when Government did not go poking its nose or interfering with the discretion of the educationists who were the best judges as to the type of education that was best suited for the youth of Ceylon. Hence if the same set of circumstances is allowed to continue in the future and Government does not meddle with educational bodies, missionary and non-missionary, in their work of imparting education according to the lines laid down in the Educational Code, it is just possible that Ceylon will continue to and even outdistance the rest of East Asia. But are the prospects for the future favourable? Is there any grounds for hope that our schools and colleges will go on producing intellectuals as heretofore? The answer to that question must remain in doubt.

For it is becoming increasingly evident that the present trends, trends which Govern-

ment seems to encourage, unmistakably point to the fact that the great and glorious work of the educationists of the pre-Donoughmore and pre-Soulbury periods, is going to be nullified, as Ceylon will no longer produce such intellectual stalwarts which our schools and colleges produced before the inauguration of the present dispensation. What is being sought to be done by the "new bureaucracy" of education, is to hybridize the present educational system by super-imposing a "national bias" to education. In fact the Lanka Jatika Guru Sangamaya has by an unanimous resolution demanded that Government should re-organise the educational system on "national lines." What is one to understand by this term? How this "nationalisation" process is going to be worked in, is difficult to understand, for we note the Minister for Education himself complains that

"there were too many educational specialists in Ceylon who tried to meddle with all educational matters and thereby polluted the whole educational system of the country."

While Dr. N. M. Perera, the Leader of the Opposition who is no less a nationalist than the nationalists who clamour for a "hybulization of education," has this to say:-

"Problems which were cropping up were tackled in a half-hearted way with the result that our edu-

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cational establishment were left at sea"

Here was clear evidence that Government was placed between the "Devil and the deep blue sea" swayed as it appears to be by a whole army of vociferous and unthinking Donough more cum Soulbury nationalists who are assuredly going to let the future of higher education in this country to be jeopardised. Thus the great success Ceylon Education had achieved as to "place it a thousand years ahead of the rest of East Asian countries", as Sir Oliver has correctly observed, is obviously going to be ruined. Unless Government takes care to place education above politics chaos is inevitable.

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Mr. Sadique was appointed.

Here are the relative qualifications of the two candidates:

**MR. PHILIP MOTH**

**Present Post:** Assistant Government Valuer Special Areas Development Board.

**Qualifications:** BSc. Honours (Ceylon). Placed first in BSc. General 1947, BSc. Estate



Management (Lond.) 1954 Awarded scholarship by the Chartered Auctioneers' Institute in 1952, to the best student reading for the degree.

**Experience:** Seven years in the Valuation Department as Assistant Valuer.

**MR. M. H. SADIQUE**

**Present Post:** Director of a ship-handling firm.

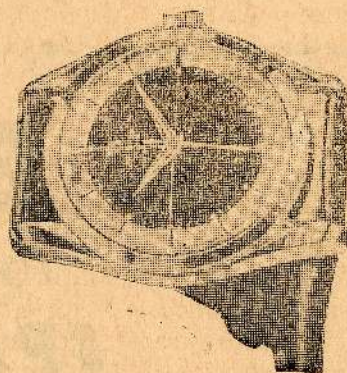
**Qualifications:** B.Sc. (Estate Management) Lond, 1956 Unsuccessful in 1954 and 1955

**Experience:** Nil

**P.S:** The degree of B.Sc. (Estate Management) is equivalent to a pass in the Final Examination of the Institute of Chartered Surveyors.

Mr. Sadique is a brother of Mr M. H. Mohamed, MMO (UNP), and a son-in-law of Dr. M.C.M. Kaleel, former UNP Minister.

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# A REVIEW OF THE JULY RACE MEET

Way to Paradise's Magnificent Victory in the Queen's Cup

AYMAN SA'AD THE MOST CONSISTENT PONY

**G**ONE is the glamour. Gone is the wave of keen enthusiasm that used to surge round the Havelock Race Course during any season. And gone, indeed, are the days,

when willing patrons flocked at the portals of the Ceylon Turf Club to capacity to witness clean racing and to salute and honour the great heroes for their great deeds dazzling and crowning achievements.

**T**O DAY racing has taken an entirely different pattern as compared with the past.

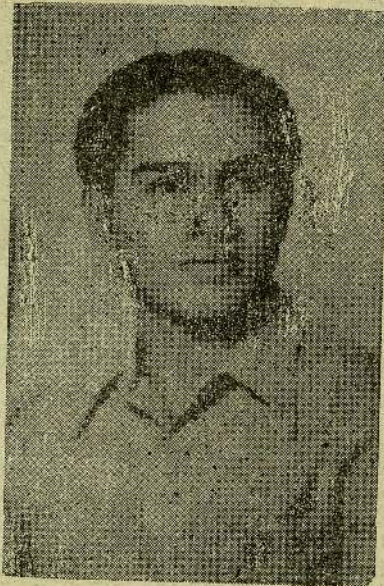
The end has never been nearer than now. All these platitudes about racing which is termed as the "Sport of Kings," is gradually deteriorating. The racing public has come to the conclusion that "big money" motivates the pulling of favourites and other such anti-social evils corrupt clean sport and thereby has brought disgrace upon those who indulge in it in the name of sport.

**N**afarious practices dominate the race course and it is not one bit surprising to see that the entire racing fraternity has dwindled down to nearly quarter of its former size and strength. Many, in fact, have gone out of racing, some are on their way out, and the remainder is only a 'Devil's Choice.' This is the picture of Ceylon Racing as we find it today.

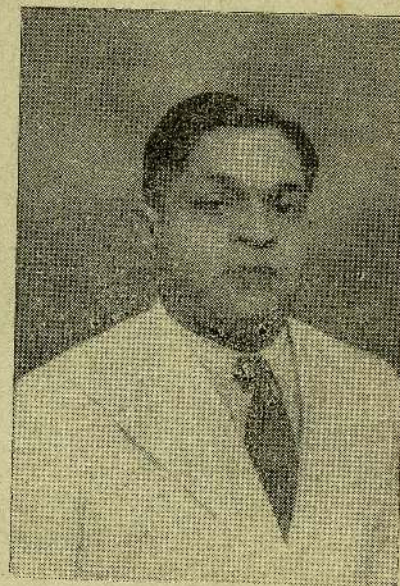
When one examines the merits and demerits one is left to compare the ignominious and amazing reversals of form which has stupefied the racing public of Ceylon, reversals

as that of **FRIENDLY ISLE** and **VENUS** on the last day of the July Race Meet. When one looks into the Form Book, the well bred English gelding **FRIENDLY ISLE** who had previously proved beyond doubt that he was the unbeaten champion at seven starts during his racing career. His achievements have

been one of the finest in Ceylon. But lo and behold it was rather disappointing to see that gelding of beautiful action and poise beaten. It was the severest defeat that the animal tasted at the hands of its stable mate **Way to Paradise** in no unmistakable manner.



Renga Selvaratnam leading  
Trainer of the July Race Meet



Dr. G. Wignaraja  
Owner of Ala Malak II

Now let's come to examine the case carefully. What could be attributed to this ignominious display? Could it be due to the unfortunate mishap on the part of the rider or what? Surely the reason could be explained by that horseman Jockey Raffaele or Trainer A. Selvaratnam to safeguard the reputation of this gelding who has had an illustrious and brilliant record of victories to its credit and what is more to that most amiable and popular sportsman Mr. Thaba Cassim.

This sordid episode is still fresh in the minds of the racing public of Ceylon and it is a downright scandal of the highest magnitude on the part of Jockey Raffaele to have accepted the mount on **Friendly Isle** when he was quite prim and proper. To have the choice of the ride was a clear indication



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of the geldings capabilities to annex the valuable trophy. But to the utter surprise of the racing public Jockey Raffaele fell short of that expectation when he staged a camouflage which perpetrated to be the biggest farce in Ceylon's racing history for a horse man of his calibre to have been dislodged from a horse in whom he had won the previous two outings. What is more surprising is that having sustained a nasty knee injury to have pursued his mount when he fully well knew that he was unfit was unmitigated bluffing. Wouldn't it have been better had the animal been a non acceptor rather than devalue the animal on an abominable performance such as witnessed by the racing public when the colours of this unbeaten and illustrious gelding was lowered by running him off the board.

Our Stewards blink while Trainers have their own way. Jockeys rule the roost, and the rapacious Book-maker reaps a rich harvest and the poor punter pays the piper. This is how racing is conducted in Ceylon.

The desert of form-reversals were occasionally with an oasis here and there while hardened punters had brought back fresh memories of the irrevocable past. When looking into the glorious history of the immediate past and to think of those great superlative giants that



Jockey Fairweather  
Who rode Way to Paradise the  
winner of the Queen's Cup 1957

raced on the local turf and conquered feats of magnificent and scintillating victories amidst thunderous applause and proved to be really class champions of standing and repute in their day, today all this is a sad commentary on Racing in Ceylon.

To mention one, the illustrious COTTON HALL, the horse that broke the clock to victory in the gruelling long distant race, the A. E. de Silva Cup and brought fame to Ceylon and carried away the most glittering

trophies of the local turf and to cap it all won the Burdwan Cup at Calcutta or in the words of Julius Cæsar **VENI, VIDI, VICI**

Before I wind up this review a passing reference must be made to that sensational and dazzling victory of **WAY TO PARADISE** the property of Mr. Thaha Cassim who carried away the most coveted trophy the Queen's Cup of 1957. **WAY TO PARADISE** simply toyed with the field. The Harroway Paradise Park gelding

never was in doubt and always a consistent performer in long distant races. He was entrusted to that very capable horseman Jockey Fairweather to guide him. Victory was his watchword from the word "go" and as such he maintained the traditions of his sire and thus proved to be a stayer of no mean repute. He was home and dry. He ridiculed the efforts of Joshua, Owen Grange Adamant Friendly Isle and Shell Pink, the most



Jockey Ted Fordyce has been retained by Trainer A. Selvaratnam

redoubtable challenger from Trainer Dunstan de Alwis' yard. This historic and great achievement is worthy of recognition and Mr. Thaha Cassim deserves the Queen's Cup which has been evading him for the last few years. Way to Paradise left the field stone cold and won well. I take off my hat to this

great conquerer and would say without fear of contradiction that if he is thoroughly keyed up he will be the probable hope for Trainer Selvaratnam in the August Classic. Let us hope the colours of RED, WHITE STAR FRONT AND BACK, WHITE SLEEVES RED CAP will be seen more often on the local turf for Mr Thaha Cassim in the coming

months. Hearty congratulations to you Sir.

Land Lubber too won in a hack canter suggestive of his merits for the Big Meet. He too should find many races coming his way and especially in cup events when he participates. Wishford ran a very poor and disappointing race.

Venus too let down a host of punters comparing his string of victories in a row. The running of this pony warrants the attention of our Stewards. Friendly Isle and Venus were supposed to be cast iron certainties for the day.

Dr. G. Wignaraja's Ala Mahlak 11 brought home the bacon to upset the Treble and ridden by Tyrrell in masterly style won the last race on the card. The most consistent pony during the Meet was Ayman Saad who scored two facile victories and placing third in three starts.

Mrs. G. N. G. Walles has indeed kept her place for consistency, coming a very close second. Mr. A. Wijesuriya had two noteworthy winners to his bag and this owner will have a big say during the August Meet. The Training Honours went to Renga Selvaratnam, while A. Selvaratnam and Clement Walles were placed in their order of merit.

Jockey Tyrrell was the leading horseman having booted home eight winners, three seconds and three thirds.

GAB

The Bristles  
won't come  
out...!



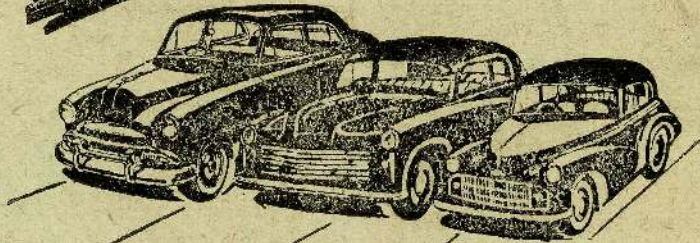
Harris..  
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a name to its handle



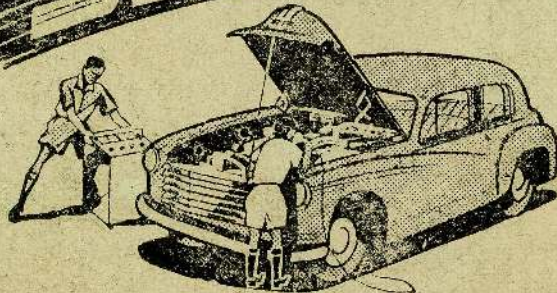
Senator C. Wijesinghe  
Winner of the Robert's Cup 1957



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