

The SEARCHLIGHT



36th YEAR OF ESTABLISHMENT

VOL 36 NO. 16

COLOMBO

30th September 1957

"Our System of Education envied by the world"

A HANDSOME tribute was paid to Ceylon's educationists by the Governor-General Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, in proposing a toast to the sister colleges at the Wesley College Old Boys' Union dinner held at the Galle Face Hotel on the 28th September.

He said these educationists had made the education system in the island, the envy of not only Asia but also the whole world.

Sir Oliver, said it surprised foreigners to learn Ceylon spent as much as 20 per cent of the national income on education. By making



education free from the kindergarten to the university, the Government had assured equal opportunity to all children.

The above is a clear and unmistakable statement that had to be accepted as based on facts. It comes from a one time schoolmaster and a distinguished product of Missionary Education and who is today the Governor General of Ceylon. We take it that Sir Oliver was speaking from conviction and on the strength of acknowledgements to him by independent sources from out-side the Island with who he

(Continued on page 14)

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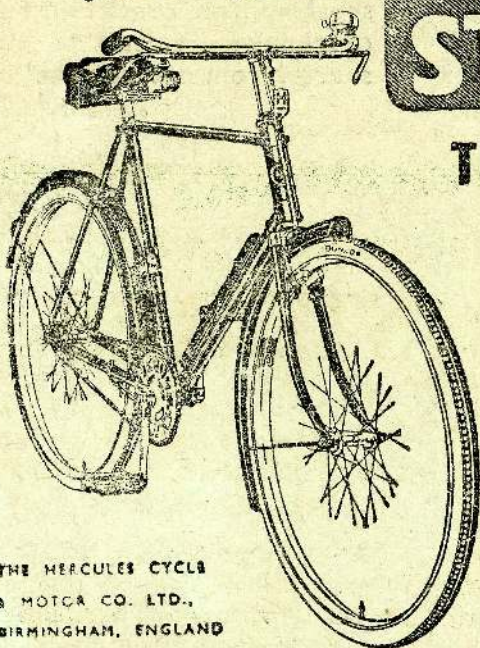
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The SEARCHLIGHT

ESTABLISHED 1921)

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For the good that we can do.

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Vol. 36 No. 16

COLOMBO

September 30th 1957

The Ceylonese Way of Keeping Appointments

BY MARSH MALLOW

I HAD occasion to personally see the Minister for - on business. I phoned up his office. Somebody wanted to know who I was and what I wanted. I replied that I was a business man and wished to see the Minister in connection with a certain matter

"The Minister is not "available." You will, in any case, have to see the Permanent Secretary who will attend to you", said this somebody.

I agreed and made an appointment to see the Permanent Secretary at eleven o'clock the next day at the Ministry.

I was at the Ministry the following day at the appointed time. Somebody, presumably one in authority to whom I was directed, asked me what I want to see the Permanent Secretary for. I answered his question

"You will please take a seat in the Waiting Room. You will be sent for" said this somebody. I agreed and walked into the Waiting Room. This was eleven twenty by my wristlet watch.

I sat in that Waiting Room for another thirty minutes. Nobody sent for me I felt weary of waiting. So, I decided to act on my own. I boldly walked in to the Permanent Secretary's room without being asked and there I found him dozing away with his legs

on the table and head resting on the chair he was seated in

"Sir" I said in a fairly loud tone so as to awake the Permanent Secretary, 'I am come I keep my appointment with you. I have been waiting for nearly an hour and as nobody called me, I walked in.' I put it as mildly as possible as I did not wish to incur his displeasure.

Opening his eyes, and bringing his legs down in a still half sleepily mood, he asked, "Who did you say you are "?"

I gave my name and mentioned the purpose of my wishing to talk to him.

"I know nothing about this appointment you refer to. Nobody mentioned that you wanted to see me. However, will you please call at 2.30 P. M., if you don't mind. I am about to leave for lunch. We can talk it over when you see me at 2.30 p.m.' he said.

I consented to the Permanent Secretary's wishes and left. Sharp at 2.30, or rather to be exact at 2.28 p.m. I was back at the Ministry. I went up to the officer who knew about my appointment with the Permanent Secretary and asked him to kindly mention that I was waiting to see him.

"The Permanent Secretary has not returned yet. Kindly take a seat. I will an

nounce your arrival as soon as he comes" said the officer, I was kept waiting for another 15 minutes, and then the Permanent Secretary came in and I was sent for into his room.

"Mr. So & So, I am, indeed, very sorry I am unable to attend to you just now. Will you be so good as to write in what you would have me do and address the letter to me personally. I will communicate with you over the "phone when I receive your letter," said the Permanent Secretary.

My patience was exhausted. But I did not like to show it. I came to my office typed a letter and sent it to the Permanent Secretary taking care to seal the letter in three places and sent it along by a clerk in my office with instructions that he was to obtain a receipt of its delivery.

Three days passed and having had no 'phone call,' I rang up the Permanent Secretary who was very nice to me. He said, 'Well Mr So & So, I have done all you wanted me to do and sent the papers to the Minister asking for instructions. You will hear from us in the course of the next few days.'

Some days later, I phoned up the Permanent Secretary who told me that the Minister was still sitting on it. It was suggested to me that I should ring up the Minister, for Finance and talk about the matter. I agreed to do so. I told the Minister that unless I got a reply in three days my offer would lapse. On the fourth day my offer was accepted but it was too late. I suspect that owing to the delay Government has lost a very large sum of money which it would have easily saved if the Minister had made up his mind to steer clear of Red Tape. This, I submit, is not efficient government. A little more regard for keeping appointments and acting promptly would certainly make for better administration of public affairs.

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Bandaranaike Democracy

IF anybody dared to prevent a pedestrian or vehicle from a legitimate use of the Queen's highway, he stands a very good chance of being prosecuted for causing deliberate obstruction. But it would seem that under the Bandaranaike government such unruly behaviour like that of Mr. S. D. Bandaranaike, M.P. for Gampaha, is not only tolerated but condoned. Why that should be so the Prime Minister must explain.

Mr. S. D. Bandaranaike, the M.P., assisted by a gang of hooligans, thugs would be the correct term to use, placed two vehicles across the public highway at a point at Imbulgoda and stretched themselves on the road to prevent Mr. J. R. Jayawardene and his fellow "pilgrims" using the road on their march to Kandy. The Police witnessed the obstruction and, no doubt, remonstrated with the obstructionists. And that was all. Would the Police have shown such non-chalance if any one else did the same thing as this M.P. and his thugs are reported to have done so openly and defiantly regardless of the rule of law? Would not such a person have been proceeded against by the Police for causing obstruction?

We are not holding a brief for the political "pilgrims." But we say they should never have been thus obstructed. More so Mr S. D. Bandaranaike was not a part and parcel of the Ceylon Police Force.

We therefore insist that either the Police should prosecute Mr. S. D. Bandaranaike and those who aided and abetted him, or Mr. J. R. Jayawardene should himself have the spunk to stand up for the citizen's right to use the public highway unobstructed and unmolested by prosecuting Mr. Bandaranaike. We don't know what the Prime Minister's reaction to this disgraceful and high-handed act of the M.P. for Gampaha, a member of the S.L.F.P. and a cousin of his is, but if the Prime Minister is the great exponent of democracy he claims to be, he should openly denounce his namesake's unlawful and unpardonable action. The Prime Minister cannot, nay must not, condone a piece of lawlessness perpetrated by even a member of his family.

The Paddy Bill

BY ANTHONY FERNANDO

THE Paddy Lands Bill has been in the public eye for quite some time. Soon it will be before the House of Representatives. The danger is that it may appear on the Statute Book in its present form.

At first sight, the Bill seems laudable and is made to appear so by the intensive propaganda on its behalf by the Minister of Agriculture himself and by various other politicians and citizens. But on closer examination the dangers of the Bill outnumber even its defects.

As a piece of legislation aimed at giving the cultivator security of tenure and increasing productivity, the Bill certainly does not go far enough, nor does it adopt the best methods possible.

The tenant cultivator, from being under the control of the Paddy landowner, will now be entirely at the mercy of the bureaucracy, represented by a host of officials acting under the orders of the Director of Food Production and the various Cultivation Committees.

If the cultivator is dissatisfied with the overlordship of his supervising officers, his last and only recourse is to a politician, the

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Minister himself, and not to an independent tribunal; politicians are often men with axes to grind, with hangers on to reward, and enemies to punish. So woe be unto the cultivator who should incur the Minister's wrath.

So, Justice under the Paddy Lands Bill, both for the landlord and cultivator, will be meted out by a party politician. The danger is obvious.

There is little security for the cultivator, for he can be ejected by the Minister through his officers, and his land vested in the local Cultivation Committee.

THE ROAD TO SERFDOM

The Paddy Landowner will no longer have any rights of ownership except by the concession of the Minister, who also has the power to forcibly acquire lands that the owner's family cannot cultivate personally.

The amount of compensation is to be determined by the Minister, who can also forcibly acquire cattle and implements etc. used in paddy cultivation. The decision of the Minister is final on all matters. The rights of

(Continued on page 17)

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

30th September 1957

Whither Ceylon ?

THE United Kingdom and United States of America appear to be somewhat perturbed, or rather intrigued, at the trend of political events in Ceylon and the drift towards Communism, or at any rate at the pronounced Communist tendencies of her Government—what with its amorous embraces and flirtations with Soviet Russia and Red China. This new attachment, both sudden and substantial, has compelled a Wall Street journal of great influence to pose the question of the advisability of the U.S.A. continuing to lavish its aid to Ceylon when the latter was unabashedly getting more and more infatuated with the Communist way of life.

The Wall Street journal has not raised the question a day too late. If we are not mistaken, the distinctly pro-Communist inclinations of the present government of Ceylon have made U.K. and America think how far it is prudent to keep on lavishing aid to this country whose government is avowedly Communist in its principles and methods and from which U.K. and U.S.A. have been doing their utmost best to keep her away from Up to the end of last year, or rather the beginning of the present, U.S.A. aid amounted to some eleven million dollars or nearly forty million rupees. While U.K. Canada and Australia have, between themselves, provided aid as generously, if not more generously, in cash and kind,—without strings, of course!—with the object of preventing Ceylon from going Communist. Have the two countries succeeded in their purpose ?

Since it now appears that Ceylon does not seem to appreciate the benevolent intentions which have impelled the said countries to take an obviously parental interest in Ceylon and thus saving the people and the government from Communism, the question may be asked whe-

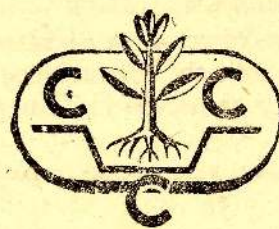
ther it is advisable for U.K. and U.S.A. and the two Commonwealth countries to continue to persist in offering such aid when adequate proof is forthcoming that their collective help and efforts, are already proving abortive. May be it is not the people who are so much to blame as the government, they, in their innocence, helped to put in power. Anyway the situation is one that is causing great anxiety to all concerned in the well-being of the Commonwealth of Ceylon. There can be no doubt about it.

CORRUPTION RIFE IN PRISONS

Says the Acting Commissioner of Prisons :

“Prisons officers openly admit that corruption among their ranks is rife, and almost every jail guard and overseer can repeat from memory paragraphs 123 and 124 of the 1949 Gratiaen Commission report.

“The subordinate staff (of the prisons department) are grossly underpaid and there is much evidence of unashamed corruption. The conditions of service seldom attract the right type of man. Promising officers are constantly searching for more agreeable employment in other government departments. A very small minority are provided with official accommodation, but most of these quarters are unsuitable; some of these have been condemned by the authorities as unfit for human habitation.”



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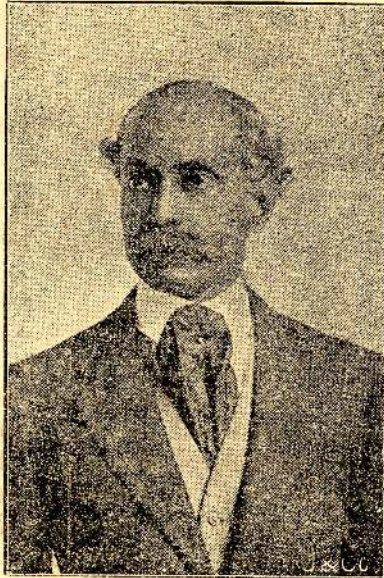
P. O. BOX 33, COLOMBO

The Late Mr. Donald Obeyesekere

THE death occurred at Rajagiriya on Tuesday last of Kotte's Grand Old Man, Mr. Donald Obeyesekere at the ripe age of 77. He is the

eldest son of the late Mr J.P. Obeyesekere, Member of the Ceylon Legislative Council.

Mr. Obeyesekere proceeded to England to pursue his studies at the early age of 18. He joined Trinity College, Cambridge, where he crowned a brilliant career and created history by being the first



The Late Mr. Donald Obeyesekere

Ceylonese to win the Freshman's and Novices Titles in 1898. He returned to Ceylon as a Barrister in 1904. Mr. Obeyesekere was also the first Ceylonese to be elected to the Executive Committee of the United Services Boxing Association. While there he persuaded this Association to patronise the Inter-Collegiate Meets. He also introduced Boxing to Ceylon Schools.

He belongs to a clan of public men of great character, integrity, honour and sincere convictions. They were able to make a sound pronouncement of any burning topic with the candour and a refreshing tone of independence quite in keeping with their dignity. Bred in the purple tradition and born with the silver spoon in his mouth, the late Mr. Obeyesekere was a shining star of the firmament to which he belonged. He carved for himself a niche in the Hall of Fame as the father of BOXING in Ceylon.

An ardent churchman. He took a prominent part in the activities of the Incorporated Trustees of the Church of Ceylon, the Church Missionary Society and the Bible Society. Furthermore he was responsible in founding the Oriental Medical Science Fund, the Ceylon Economic Society. He was a Trustee for 30 years

of the All Saints Church, Hultsdorp. He also founded the Ceylon Social Reform Society. He took an abiding interest in Ceylon Poultry and the Kennel Clubs of Ceylon and was a prominent member of the Royal Empire Society.

As an historian, an antiquarian he earned the respect both of his countrymen and of distinguished foreigners. He entered the Kotte Urban Council in 1933. Mr Obeyesekere would always be affectionately remembered as the G. O.M. of Kotte. The destiny of the Urban Council of Kotte was in safe hands and during his tenure of office as Chairman. The good work he did for 13 long years will not be easily forgotten.

The lasting memorial to his revered memory will be the OBEYSEKERE TOWN. He maintained with grace the dignity of his aristocratic lineage. In an uncommon degree however he breathed the air of the common man, shared his psychology and felt the anguish of poverty that the poor was stricken with. He took a keen interest in the Auryvedic College and was largely responsible for the establishment of the Hospital of Indegenious Medicine at Cotta Road which serves as a monument to his work. At the time of his death Mr. Obeyesekere was the President of the Ceylon Olympic and Commonwealth Games Association which position he held since 1948.

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THE oft-heard complaint of Government spokesmen that there is a dearth of trained hands for jobs involving knowledge and skill for mechanical, electrical and general industrial pursuits will soon be a thing of the past if the project now before the Ceylon Government, is approved and sanction given to proceed with the project.

Father Remery of The Salesian Order, through His Grace the Most Reverend Dr. Thomas Cooray, Archbishop of Colombo, and working through the kind offices of the French Charged' Affaires, has been in communication with the Ministry of External Affairs on the subject during the last two months.

Meanwhile the necessary land for the erection of the Training Centre has already been acquired by His Grace the Archbishop in Prince of Wales Avenue, Grandpass.

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COLOMBO I

The land selected is practically behind St Lucia's Cathedral on the otherside of Blo-mendhal Road and adjacent to the Municipal Stadium. The following is the text of the Com-munication addressed by the Legation of France in Ceylon to the Ministry for External Affairs on the matter. The blue prints of the entire scheme are, we understand, before Govern-ment:

The Legation of France in Ceylon presents its compliments to the Ministry of External Affairs and has the honour to refer to the con-versation which the French Charge d'Affaires a. i.

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had with the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of External Affairs in the course of a visit, on Thursday, 1st August, and would like to draw its kind attention on the following points concerning the purchase by Rev. Father REMERY of a ground adjoining the Municipal Stadium.

"The Salesian Order, which is represented in Colombo by Father REMERY, has purchased on the 28th March 1957, in the name of His Grace the Most Reverend Dr. Thomas Cooray, O. M. I. Archbishop of Colombo, 9 acres of land situated on Prince of Wales Avenue and lined on the South west side by lands belonging to the Colombo Municipality."

"This ground is being designed for the establishment of a Mechanical and Electrical Institute, the aim of which being the training of qualified workers and competent foremen. The tuition will be given under the management of Father REMERY by priests or friars qualified as engineers or instructors and by Ceylonese instructors (1 for 25 pupils selected with the assistance of local industrial firms. The course which will be of 3 to 5 years in duration will be free and would be attended by about 500 to 800 pupils. The necessary equipment which represents a capital of about 200 million francs (Rs 2,721,000) will be given by important French firms."

"The activities of such an establishment could not but contribute to the happy development of the Franco Ceylonese cultural and technical relations, therefore, the Legation of France believes, after a close examination of the project in conjunction with the French authorities concerned that it should interest itself in this enterprise."

"It is on this ground that today the Legation feels its duty to inform the Ministry of External Affairs of its surprise at hearing that the Municipality intends to take back for its own purpose, 4 of those 9 acquired in due form for the erection of the Institute and to express the wish that the Ceylon Government will kindly request the Municipality to abandon its claim on the said ground in consideration of the interest offered by the project on the Ceylonese level as well as that of the Franco-Ceylonese cultural and technical co operation"

"The Legation of France thanks the Ministry of External Affairs for its kind intervention in this matter and avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry the assurance of its highest consideration."

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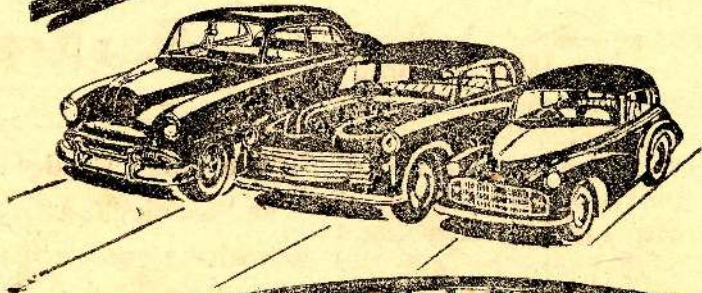
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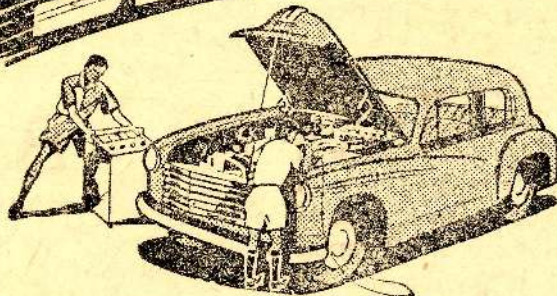
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WHAT PEOPLE SAY

(Our readers who desire to contribute to this column, or ask any question, are asked to send the same addressed to the Editor. Authenticated communications only will be accepted.)

J. R. J.'s - U. N. P. March and Meeting at Kandy was a wash out.

THE Meeting at the Maligawa was equally bad.

WHO is the up country M. P. who recently bought a Tea Estate?

IT IS wonderful how people get rich suddenly.

WHEN is Sugathadasa going to start the Sports Stadium.

WHAT will it cost?

WHAT is the state of the U.N.P. funds?

HAVE any of their 'big bosses' paid up?

WHEN is Mulleriyawa going to be occupied?

HAVE all the arrears from the paying patients been recovered?

WHAT was profit of the Fun Fare at the Shrubbery Gardens?

WHO benefited by it?

IT IS time that M.E.P. stopped all useless Parties and Entertainments.

WE hope the Walawe Scheme wont cost as much as Gal Oya did, or the sugar might taste bitter

WHAT is happening at the Peredeniya University?

HAS a big defalcation been discovered?

IS IT true that the sleuth-hounds of the Audit have smelt a rat?

AND insisted that immediate action should be taken ?

IS IT true that the Vice-Chancellor said "No!"

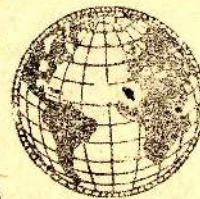
BRIBERY

MRS. KUSUMA RAJARATNA M.P. for Wellimada has given notice of the following motion she proposes moving in Parliament

"That in view of the widespread rumours and allegations in the country of bribery and corruption among Ministers and Members of Parliament, and in view of the vital importance for the proper conduct and maintenance of Government that Parliament should enjoy the absolute and unqualified confidence of the people, this House is of opinion that the Government should immediately appoint a Commission to investigate these allegations and make a report to Government."

ANOTHER MOTION

On the same day, Mr. Robert Gunawardena, M.P. for Kotte, will move a resolution calling upon Ministers, Members of Parliament, Gazetted Government Servants and their families to submit annually statements of their assets and liabilities to an independent Commission to be set up for the purpose which shall scrutinise such statements with a view to bringing to book those guilty of corruption in public life.



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MALIBAN STREET, COLOMBO II

Colombo Football League Enters into International Soccer History

THE RUSSIANS GREETED THE TEAM WITH FLOWERS, WARM HANDSHAKES AND THE SINCEREST FEELINGS OF PEACE AND GOODWILL

The League opens New Era in International Soccer

IN conversation with our feature writer, Mr. J. E. Rezel, the leader of the Sports Delegation from Ceylon, Mr. James Sarangapany, who shepherded a Team from the Colombo Football League to the World Youth Festival at Moscow, 1957, was full of praise for the fabulous hospitality of the Russians, their strong moral character, their superiority in international competitive sports and, above all, their humanity.

The periphery of international history was reached when the Colombo Football League set foot on Russian soil, in Tashkent. The air lift from Kabul to Tashkent was their first experience of travel in a jet. Russian officials were introduced to them at Tashkent and the public greeted them with flowers. The first greeting came from a woman at the Tashkent aerodrome. Mr. Sarangapany said, "We were surprised when she greeted us in oriental style and wished us, 'Aiy Boang.'" Continuing, Mr. Sarangapany said:

"We were the first Youth Festival Delegation from Ceylon to set foot on Russian soil. A high official at Tashkent, Mr. Ismailov, welcomed us. Our experience of warm-hearted Russian hospitality began; hundreds of girls greeted us with flowers. One gets quickly impressed with the strong moral fibre of these young girls. Mr. Ismailov made a brief speech welcoming us to Tashkent, the capital of Usbeckistan.

The writer replied thanking Mr. Ismailov and the large gathering for the warmth of their welcome to us. A bus was provided for us. We were accommodated in a luxurious hotel in the heart of the big city of Tashkent. Food was abundant and accommodation was most comfortable. Sight-seeing tours were arranged for us and we were provided with an

interpreter. The spontaneous laughter of the people, the cleanliness of the city, the expression of satisfaction which the muscular citizens constantly demonstrated and the great structural and floral beauty of Tashkent amazed us.

"We were shown the massive Theatre which was opened by Stalin. What impressed us deeply was the beautiful lake which was built entirely by the youth of Usbeckistan. This lake imparts a tantalising enchantment to the encircling scenery.

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We left Tashkent by jet plane—our first experience of travel in a jet. We were the only delegates to be provided with jet transport. The Colombo Football League went



Mr. James Sarangapany

He shepherded the Colombo Football League into the realms of international soccer history. In the years to come when the busy hands of historians keep searching for human material he will emerge as the man who was solely responsible for Ceylon opening a new era in international soccer, at the Vladimir Stadium.

air port was a Methodist Missionary, from America, who was the leader of what he termed the Border Missionary. He presented me with a book entitled, "Religion for the Hardheaded" which was profusely distributed in Moscow.

Our delegation was taken to the Moscow University in which we were housed. Our apartments were spacious, well ventilated and scrupulously clean. The Canteen was about 100 yards away from our apartments, Eggs, meat, bread, milk, butter, cheese, vegetables, were served in abundant quantity. Sanitary arrangements were excellent. The university was inundated with thousands of delegates from many parts of the world. The organisation was so perfect and the timing so precise that the movements of the thousands of delegates were swift, smooth, punctual and disciplined. Like the waters of the friendly Volga food, comradeship and the joyous spirit of revelry were inexhaustible.

deeper into international soccer history when their team reached Moscow at 11 a.m. Salubrious climate. We were received at the airport by Mr. Ganshien, who was in charge of the delegations from eastern countries, and Miss Halyda, a university educated young lady, who was our interpreter. She spoke English fluently.

A pleasant and significant contact made by us at the

LION FLAG FLUTTERS OVER MOSCOW

"We hoisted the Lion Flag on the south side of Moscow University at a simple ceremony at which a recorded version of our National Anthem was played.

"We had the unique experience of witnessing, by invitation, a World Cup Tie match. The teams were the U.S.S.R, and Finland and the tie was played at the Dynamo Stadium. The U.S.S.R. won by 3 goals to nil. The machine like precision of the movements of the U.S.S.R. forwards eclipsed the strategy of the Finns who were above the class of soccer we had hitherto seen. Another feature of "play" we learnt was the passing of the ball "on the move" which is in strange contrast to our habit of stopping the ball and then playing it. The most surprising lesson we were taught was the ease with which the Russians collected the ball in the course of its flight. The foot reached the ball in the air and brought it down for play. The cardinal technique of the game was a "pre-arranged" pattern of movements.

"We were told that the Dynamo Stadium accommodates 75,000 spectators. Our ocular evidence of the crowd is that the Stadium was packed to its utmost capacity.

(Continued on page 13)

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THE CEYLON MANURE WORKS
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Present State of Our Country

BY DON DEIGO

THE immediate result of our almost sudden emancipation as a free nation after nearly 500 years of foreign rule by three nations of the West, is a rousing of the natural primitive herd instinct. This strong instinct is manifest in the still uncultured mind of man and gathers momentum as it proceeds. Strangely, however, even the educated man has succumbed to it. Today we see this spirit. The majority of our heterogeneous population is Singhalese by race, Buddhist by religion, and Goigama by caste, whose thinking has but one pattern like the herd instinct of the primitive man. They want to be everything. To dictate to all others outside their tribe. This aspect of our common life is described as a Buddhist Renaissance, National Awakening, Peoples Government all converging towards a Theocracy. All completely regardless of the eternal fitness of things, sweet reasonableness, justice and fairplay. It is rumoured that Sir Oliver's term of office as the Governor General will soon be terminated, and moves are being made to put in his place a Buddhist. Speculation is rife. But one cannot think of a great personality, a man of known in-

tegrity and probity whose honesty is beyond question, suitable for the post. A mediocre C three man at Queen's House will be a calamity.

It is indeed difficult under the present set of circumstance to visualise where the country is being led to by a group of men and woman so varied in character, outlook and ability, but nevertheless boasting of the common herd instinct of race and religion. What passes as religion today is only fanaticism, which is **not religion**. Religion is always calm, serene and tolerant. Fanaticism is a bastard substitute pretending to be religion. It is this spirit coupled with a spurious form of nationalism that is let loose in the land. Selfish ego-centric, uncultured men exploit the situation. Yes, even religion, to gain their own petty ends, Lord Buddha's teaching of Mithriya seems to be forgotten even by the very custodians. Political monks, Bikkhus make common cause with like-minded laymen to rule the land as a theocracy—or it may be more correct to say Theroocracy.

The M.E.P. big guns boom from Parliament, from house tops and from street corners that they are a "People's Government." They wear the simple and cheap form of dress of the poor man, they mix up with the common man and sit and sup with him. This is all to the good. It pays, but the hollow hypocrisy of it all is clearly shown when they receive from the poor man's taxes lordly salaries common to Capitalist Governments.

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Colombo Football League Enters into International Soccer History

(Continued from page 11)

"We were given an official coach, Mr. Konov, who represented the U.S.S.R. in international matches, in 1952 and 1953. At 5.30 p.m. we reached Tash. He conducted classes for our team every other day. He was as keen as mustard. We respected him not only for his talent in soccer but also for his amiable nature and the sincerity with which he addressed himself as coach. Our training under Mr. Konov has not terminated with our severance at Tashkent. He has promised to correspond with our lads and help them with written instructions and advice. A few members of our team have already written to him for further instructions.

We opened a new era in soccer when the Colombo Football League Team played their first match on Russian soil meeting the Democratic Republic of Eastern Germany at the Vladymir Stadium. Officials estimate that 60,000 spectators witnessed this match. We lost the match by 14 goals to nil. The thunderous ovation given to our players demonstrated our popularity with the mammoth crowd of spectators. We were the first Eastern soccerites to play in Vladymir. Perhaps this historic fact explains the turbulent exuberance of the spectators.

Our next assignment was a match against Syria at Vladymir Stadium on July 31. Syria won by 9 goals to 4. We played our last match against Rumania at the Dynamo Stadium on August 2. Rumania won by 11 goals to 2.

In all our matches we learnt much about various patterns of play and also much about individual peculiarities. We also had the pleasure of seeing the world famous Vladimir Kuts, at the Dynamo Stadium at solo practice.

On August 11, we left Moscow at night by train for Stalingrad with our coach and interpreter. We were given a warm hearted send-off at the station by officials and the public. We travelled for 31 hours. En route, at the various halting places, we were greeted with flowers. Reached Stalingrad on the 13 morning. Officials and the public greeted us at the sta-

tion with flowers. We played a friendly game in the stadium against a Tank Factory team.

"We were accommodated in one of Stalingrad's biggest hotels. We had the pleasure of an outing on the waters of the friendly Volga in a steam boat. At 2 p. m. we emplaned for Tashkent which we reached at 1 p.m. the next day after a comfortable night's aerial sojourn. Mr. Ismailov and the public greeted us at the Air port with flowers.

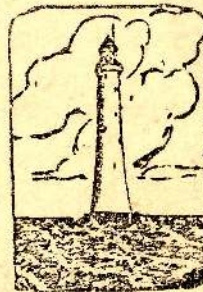
"We played our last match in the U.S.S.R. against a Tashkent team.

"When we left for New Delhi it was a tearful parting. Our Coach was dumb. His eyes were full of tears. Our hard worked and faithful interpreter, Miss Halyda, showed signs of deep regret at the parting. Every one of us was sad at the severance.

"In Delhi we spent 6 days at the National Stadium. Played 2 matches: one against a Delhi XI and the other against Raj Kumari Amrit Kaur's XI.

"What has given strength to the fabric of contemporary Russian society is that it had not been established on the structure of relative wealth and position. Their uniqueness

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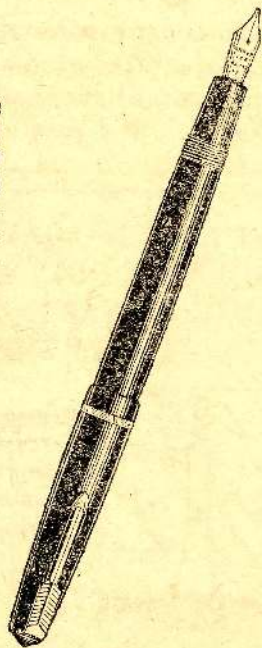
lies in that their society was founded on the rock of equality. It is by the hard use of their potential abilities that the Russians have evolved a society in which poverty and its consequent evils of child delinquency, theft, etc., are non-existent

That the conscious efforts of the Russians have been directed towards virtues was abundantly demonstrated to us. The moral behaviour of the young Russian girls who served us as interpreters, guides, etc., revealed to us the strength of the moral fibre of these growing girls.

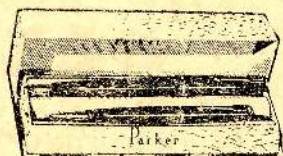
Selfishness, avarice and the grabbing spirit is non-existent in modern Russian civilization.

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Women are conspicuous by their presence in the industrial and professional life of the USSR. Women doctors of medicine are more in number than men. Women bus conductors, guards of trains and women in the other occupations which have been the "ordained destiny of man" are a common, very common, sight in the USSR. Perhaps, one question may be asked about them. Are they as proficient as men? The testimony of the eye spontaneously produces the reply in the affirmative. And if a rider is to be added to this brief, but eloquent credential, it is that proficiency is combined with gentleness, the prerogative of woman.

It will save the future historian the great trouble of having to search the names of those who were associated with the new era in international soccer which was opened by the daring endeavour of the Colombo Football League if they are included in this article. They are:-

J. J. Sarangapany, Leader of the Sports Delegation, M. Balaji, Observer, representing the Table Tennis Association of Ceylon, Samuel Varghese, W. Daluwatte, Eric St. Vincent Perera K. J. Hemapala, T. O. M. Deen, M. Sheriff, M. B. Saldin, K. A. Premadasa, K. A. Solomon, L. Bernardus, Lawrence Fernando, H. Sirisena, Walter Fernando, W. Piyadasa, A. J. Batcho, V. P. Siripala, W. Wimalaratne.

Each of them has an immortal lore to keep repeating during the rest of their life. Each will recall, perhaps with national pride, their first delightful experience of Television, the enduring lessons they learnt of the dextering with which the ball was 'worked' by the Russians, the physical exuberance of the men and women of the U.S.S.R. the invigorating pattern of contemporary Russian society and the deep longing for peace.

“Our System of Education Enviied by the World’

(Continued from cover page)

had discussed the subject. It must, therefore, be conceded that Sir Oliver was not speaking swayed by any partiality or bias for a system to which he himself owes his present distinguished position. There are scores of people who will readily endorse Sir Oliver's view on the matter.

Let us here consider what he said. He referred to ‘these educationists’ and the ‘envy not only of Asia but also of the whole world.’ By the expression ‘these educationists’ he meant, of course, the educationists, past and present, not only of Wesley but of her sister colleges as well, educationists of a system conducted by denominational bodies with the single exception of Royal College, a government controlled institute, and private individuals all engaged in working on one general educational pattern. Next we come to the words ‘the envy not only of Asia but also of the whole world.’ The word ‘envy’—very appropriately used by Sir Oliver—is described in the Oxford Dictionary thus—

“A feeling of discontent or mortification, usually accompanied with some degree of ill-will, excited by the contemplation of another's superiority, advantage, or success; a covetous desire for some advantage possessed by another; also an object of envious feeling.”

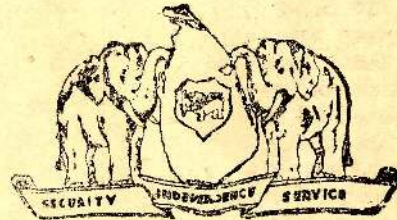
That Ceylon's system of education had provoked “a covetous desire for some advantage possessed by another, or also an object of envious feeling by not only Asia but also of the whole world” is the best proof of the worth of such a system.

It was precisely this very educational system that had materially contributed to Ceylon's advancement and her present all round progress. It even speeded the grant of Independence to her people. Hence it is obvious that there is much to be said in favour of the present system because it had evoked the admiration of the world to such an extent as to create a feeling of envy; a system which has enkindled in the sons and daughters of this country, a spirit of progressive nationalism and pride of place. And when one comes to think about it, that such an educational system, which had

proved to be a boon and a blessing to the people of Ceylon should be sort out to be materially altered by the super-imposition of Swabasha is bound to retard National Advancement.

We are not opposed to the encouragement of Swabasha education. We welcome every endeavour to extend its scope and development. But any attempt to make it the medium in Higher Education would be an unwise and altogether retrograde step. Instead let Sinhalese and Tamil be made optional subjects at the University level. If need be a working knowledge of Sinhalese may be insisted upon as a condition for those who seek to enter Government Service. That should serve the purpose well.

If, however, Government makes up its mind that Sinhalese must be the sole medium of instruction from the Kindergarten to the University, then whether Ceylon's educational system under such an agency will continue to be “the envy of the nations of Asia and of the world” as it is today, is a matter for considerable doubt. The wiser course to adopt therefore is to let the status quo remain undisturbed in so far as it concerns higher education.



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'Curb Foreign Influences'

THE Democratic Workers' Congress will shortly urge the Government to take effective steps to arrest the activities of "foreign influences" on estates, pointing out that these "influences" were responsible for most of the factional clashes and labour unrest.

A spokesman of the D.W.C. told press that at present the American-dominated ICFTU (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions) and certain employer interests on the one hand and the Communist dominated W.F.T.U.



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(World Federation of Trade Unions and local Communist led organisations on the other were, with foreign funds, attempting to convert estate workers to their way of thinking

He alleged frequent clashes and unrest on estates were directly due as a result of this "ideological war" between these two opposing camps. Labour was being made a "butt" in this war which was affecting the workers themselves and national economic interests as well.

Ceylon's non-alignment Policy

CEYLON'S policy of non-alignment with one bloc or other was a positive not a negative attitude, Ceylonese Finance Minister, Mr. Stanley De Zoysa said here tonight.

He said: "Our attitude of non-alignment springs from the conviction that alignment with one bloc or the other can only tend to harden differences between the two blocs."

Mr. De Zoysa was speaking in a recorded radio "Guest of Honour programme during a Good-will tour of Australia.

He said: There is urgent need in the world for some strong centre force which will be not a military power but a moral-power which will prevent any major conflagration a moral power which will exert itself to make nations resolve their differences by negotiations rather than by armed conflict."

Mr De Zoysa said he believed the peoples of Ceylon and Australia could play a big part in creating such a moral power.

He said there should be closer co-operation between the nations of the Commonwealth more frequent consultations on matters of world importance and concerted action in crises in order that the Commonwealth of Nations might again assert itself in critical times to prevent war not to determine which side was to win the war.

The Paddy Bill

(Continued from page 3)

ownership are threatened throughout the Bill, but most of all by Section 56.

"Where the Minister certifies by notification published in the Gazette that it is necessary that any Paddy land specified in the notification should be acquired for a Cultivation Committee, that land shall, for the purpose of the application of the Land Acquisition Act, No 9 of 1950, be deemed to be required for a public purpose and may be acquired under that Act and transferred to such Committee.

Provided that, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in that Act, the amount of compensation to be paid for the acquisition of that land under the Act, shall be equal to the product of the multiplication by a prescribed number of the annual rental value of that land computed in the prescribed-manner."

MINISTERIAL TYRANNY

Paddy landowners are not represented on the Cultivation Committee. The citizen therefore has no say in the valuation of his own property. As a result the Cultivation Committee has no incentive to organise cultivation efficiently. This surely is not a satisfactory means of ensuring maximum productivity. But if the Cultivation Committee has no choice but to carry out the Minister's orders, then the cultivator has no redress against Ministerial tyranny.

Why does a Minister who is so keen on the Co-operative Movement not say a single word in this Bill on applying co-operative principles to paddy cultivation? It is obvious from the Bill that this is for the purpose of not giving the peasant any voice in matters pertaining to paddy cultivation except to be on a Cultivation Committee which has to act according to the directives of the Commissioner of Agrarian Services, who himself must be subject to the wishes of the Minister. Surely the peasantry of the country should realise how they are going to be placed in a position of slavery or semi-slavery for all time once this Bill passes into law. They must fight for the organisation of paddy cultivation on purely co-operative lines.

The Minister (and the Bill in its preamble) makes no secret of the objective of establishing collective farms. The cultivator will then become a mere wage-earner under the State.

Any reforms must be democratic and based on the rule of law. But the Paddy Lands

Bill is totalitarian in character. The Cultivation Committees are not representative enough unlike in England for instance. The final arbiter on matters of justice under the Paddy Lands Bill is the Minister and not as in England an Agricultural Land Tribunal which is representative of owner, cultivator and the State.

THE REAL REMEDY

The real solution therefore is in wide spread land distribution which makes the cultivator himself the owner. This will ensure security of tenure and maximum productivity for in a democracy it is an acknowledged fact that a man works best on his own land. The landlord can be compensated by the monthly contribution the cultivator would make to the State. There can be supervision of the cultivator by the Cultivation Committee constituted as in England in order that efficiency may be safeguarded.

Only a Communist will oppose this scheme of ownership plus State supervision.

On the question of compensation, where it becomes necessary for the State to take over the land, the Paddy Lands Bill provides for the Minister to determine the amount. This is against natural justice because the Minister becomes judge in his own case. The obvious solution is to refer such matters to an independent tribunal.

What is required is a Bill that will safeguard the rights of the Citizen under the law, be he landlord or cultivator. Agrarian reform must aim not only at maximum productivity but at the diffused ownership of land. The Paddy Lands Bill does not provide for the peasant to become an owner, but makes of him a potential wage slave with little guarantee even of security of employment.

Once the peasant realises that he will be jumping from the frying pan to the fire and the Government will become extremely unpopular. Many of the opponents of the Government have realised this and are deliberately refraining from pointing this out in order to bring the Government into disrepute.

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Free World Would Not Survive Without Anglo-American Cooperation

MR PETER THORNEYCROFT, speaking at a luncheon given by the American Bankers Association Convention, had given a brief survey of the economic scene as it appeared from Britain, and described the United Kingdom's attitude by saying something of the three roles she played as trader, overseas investor and international banker

"We—with the Commonwealth and Empire stand with you as partners at the apex of world economic affairs," said the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in Atlantic City, U.S.A. "Together we conduct most of the world's trade, most of the world's overseas investment, most of the world's international banking. The statistics perhaps do not matter very much in themselves; an essential point is that the Free World would not survive unless we both remain strong and continue to work together. That is true of economic and financial policy. It is true of most else, including foreign policy as well."

In dealing with trade figures he said: "We are achieving them while still carrying some pretty substantial burdens, in particular we are still sustaining our fair share in defence perhaps rather more than our fair share. This year we spent 4 billion, one third

of our budget, 9 per cent of our national income. In relation to our wealth we have done almost as much as you and much more than anyone else in the Free World. Our trading surplus has not been secured by shirking our defence effort, but in spite of it"

During the war Britain lost two thirds of her markets, yet today her export trade was double the pre-war figure in volume. That said Mr. Thorneycroft is a story not of failure but of success. Between 1948 and 1956 the output of our factories increased by two-fifths, engineering output by half. The total investment at home and abroad as a share of the national income rose from 8 per cent in 1948 to 10 per cent in 1953 and 12 per cent last year. In technological progress we have a number of firsts to our credit—the first gas turbine car in 1950, the first jet airliner in 1952 and last year the first nuclear power station.

OVERSEAS INVESTMENT

On overseas investment the Chancellor said that since the war 70 per cent of the external capital invested in the Sterling Commonwealth had come from the United Kingdom, 15 per cent from the United States and 10 per cent from the International

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Bank "In addition we have played our proper part in such institutions as the International Bank. We are in fact the second largest investor in that Bank and we support to the full the very important work it is doing.

On Britain's role as an International Banker, Mr. Thorneycroft explained that sterling is widely held throughout the world and is used to finance a large proportion—anything up to half—of international trade and payments. "It is largely convertible into other countries' currencies," he said. As a banker we must expect to meet withdrawals when they come. The bulk of our sterling liabilities are firmly held by the Sterling Area countries and treated as normal currency reserves to cover fluctuations in their balance of payments. Some of these countries however hold balances in excess of their normal requirements and drawn them down to finance their economic development. In doing so they of course impose a drain on our resources. Our difficulties are much more on



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capital than on current account. To meet these difficulties we need to build up both confidence in sterling and the size of our gold and dollar reserves. We are resolved to external account For this purpose as well as for that of confidence we need to take the necessary measures at home to deal with inflation."



The Chancellor went on to speak of the rise in the Bank Rate and commented: "It will not bring our development to a standstill. It simply means we have been travelling at fifty miles per hour and we do not propose to accelerate to sixty miles per hour while we are going round this corner. I believe that to be a prudent decision "

An Open Letter

To J. R. Jayawardane Esquire

"BRAEMAR," WARD PLACE,
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My Dear J. R.

I would like to remind you of a few facts and a bit of BANA and give some legal advice regarding your attempted 'Pilgrimage' to Kandy to seek the aid of the Gods to nullify the Bandaranaike-Chelvanayakam Pact.

You were brought up and reared in luxury, and you were very successful in your first love, the law. At the height of your fame as a lawyer you chose the thorny path of Politics perhaps not realizing that a politician gathers not only enemies, but sycophants, hypocrites and place-seekers as well. When your daughter Miss Kelaniya was taken away from your loving care at the last General Election, you appeared to have lost faith in human nature and adopted a life of austerity as evidenced by your proposed walk from Colombo to Kandy, without a cent in your pocket to seek the help of the Gods. That was an unwise step. If you had read even a children's edition of the life of Buddha, you would have known that Prince Siddhartha as a layman gave up luxuries and as a monk practised austerity. He found that both these extremes were useless and realized later that the MIDDLE PATH was the best for all ills of mankind.

You also made the mistake in believing that the Gods interfered in Politics when you planned that austere march. My view is that that march was a show piece and not a pil-

grimage. If you were sincere in your devotions, you could have quietly gone to Kandy or to a nearer place of worship by car, rail or bus and prayed to your heart's content and even made some vows to offer Kiributh, lights blue or yellow clothes or even gold images of yourself in the event of the Gods being pleased to change the hard-heart of the Prime Minister to repudiate that Horagolla Treaty.

However the show went phut at Imbulgoda when Mr.S.D. Bandaranaike along with some thugs obstructed you and your gang from proceeding further along a public road.

Now for the aforesaid bit of legal advice, free, gratis: It does not look as if the Police is proceeding against those obstructionists. Why not file a private plaint in the court of the Gampaha Magistrate against Mr. S.D.B. and the others you or your witnesses were able to identify under sections 332/333 and/or section 291 of the Penal Code?

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The Voice of the People

A Government that does not respect the people's right to be heard and to let Government know what they want or don't want, is of little value. It is generally thought that to have an independent government and to enjoy self rule, is real liberty. In many lands democracy is held to be the peak of liberty. There are people in this country — and they call themselves democrats — who have a contempt for the ability of the people to rule themselves by servants whom they select or elect and who draw their power with the consent of the people whose affairs they administer and in whose name they govern and yet resent the efforts of the people to gain greater liberties and have more control of the government and make the rulers answerable to them. These so called democrats are known even to fight against the liberation of the people and attempt to diminish their power. This certainly is not democracy according to the modern concept. Such people try to establish a totalitarian government, personal dictatorship or a strict authoritarian rule. That precisely is what the present M.E.P. Government is assiduously trying to cultivate. The Paddy Lands Bill, the multi-Coops scheme and the Bus Nationalisation scheme are instances in proof.

A glaring example of the totalitarian methods was pathetically demonstrated on the occasion when the Prime Minister of Ceylon questioned by a Member of Parliament about instituting investigations in regard to a Government Servant who played with public funds refused to do so.

Here was a flagrant violation of the fundamental principle accepted by all democratic nations and their governments who act on the principle that the voice of the people shall be heard and due heed paid to what is being said or asked.

Ceylon is a young Democracy. Her Government is said to be based on a democratic system and fashioned on the British model according to which any measure that is sought to be introduced by the Government is judged and stands or falls by the volume of public opinion for or against it. Due regard for public opinion, therefore is an essential ingredient, a pre-requisite, for a real democratic state.

The Fascist nature of the government in power is demonstrated by the famous Vote of No Confidence moved in Parliament by the Opposition in November last year when the shortcomings of the Government were very convincingly laid bare. Beaten to its knees and defenceless, it skulked and with a show that was most cowardly sought safety in the party majority. The issue involved on that occasion was clear as crystal. It was one of abuse of power and authority. Instances of this nature can be multiplied but space forbids. And this is the Government that professes and pledges itself to listen to the "voice of the people"! a thundering falsehood a mere make believe.

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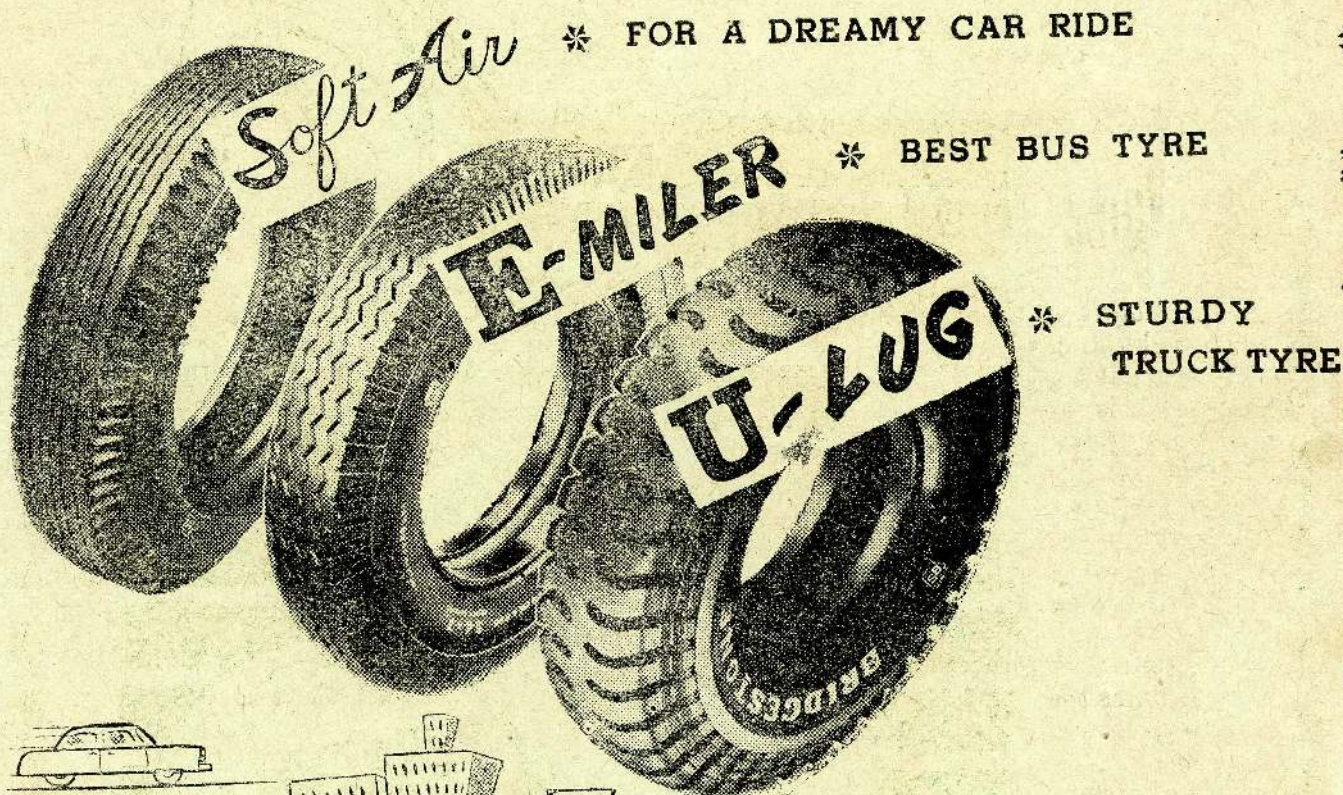
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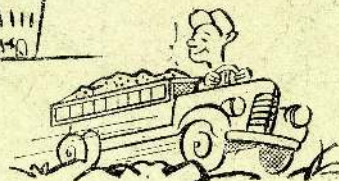
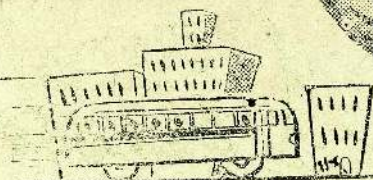
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