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SEARCHLIGHT

VOL 35 NO. 24

COLOMBO

5th January, 1957

CHETTY MONEY LENDERS

DODGING

INCOME TAX

Bolt to India and Operate
from there

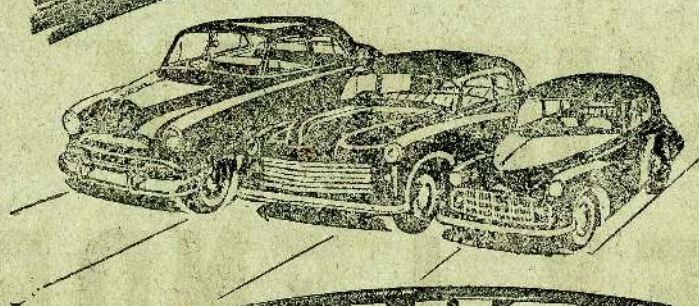
THROUGH LOCAL DUMMIES

OVER TWO MILLION RUPEES

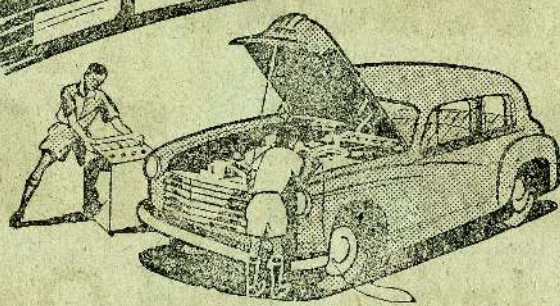
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The SEARCHLIGHT

(ESTABLISHED 1921)

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For the good that we can do.

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Revives
SUBY'S
Perfect Blend
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Need.

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Best

*Obtainable in Dainty
Packets.*

Vol. 35 No. 24

COLOMBO

January 5th 1957

1957 A.D.

By J. E. Rezel



WHAT appreciable difference is there in the year of grace in which we live and in the lives of our ancestors of 1957 B.C. in so far as the basic wants of human life are concerned? Perhaps, the trumpets of the industrial civilization of the A.D. period of human history will loudly proclaim that a series of advantages and conveniences were made available to the contemporary human race which its ancestors of the B.C. period were not endowed with. True, But,

the cardinal consideration should be directed to the basic requirements of man. Three quarters of the human population live in dire want. The hard truth that is revealed, when the embroidered veil of the industrial civilization of the twentieth century is torn, is the constant incidence of poverty, which is the tragic destiny of the majority of the peoples of the earth.

Warring man of the B.C. period is also warring man of the A.D. period, but with a tremendous difference. Contemporary man is possessed with the most destructive weapons

which the industrial civilization has evolved. And frightened scientists, today, have warned us that war will transform the fair earth to a gruesome catacomb.

The Councils of the World are ignored by warring man, Man cannot live in the confidence of peace on earth and goodwill among men. Man's inhumanity to man is the dominant note of human passion

The one frightful and vivid truth which emerges from the evolution of the industrial civilization of the A.D. period is man's incompetence to retain his stewardship of the properties of the earth.

TOBY



LAGER ALE STOUT

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The People's Government Non-responsive to call for Help Against Chetty Aggression A Whole Village Threatened by Force.

AN AFFIDAVIT

As of general interest we publish below an affidavit submitted to the Superintendent of Police, Badulla, in which the declarants complain against a money-lender's attempts in trying to grab land under legal dispute and on which he had lent money.

One of the absentee money-lenders referred to in our article on page 7 is M. R. M. M. N. Nadarajah Chetty, at one time of Sea St., Colombo, who is alleged to be operating from somewhere in India. This Chetty is alleged to be keeping out of Ceylon owing to the Income Tax Commissioner wanting him to produce his account books. He is said to be worth over 5 million rupees earned by lending money. In the District Court of Colombo it was alleged, that his firm had charged 48 per cent interest on money lent. It was further alleged that instances are known where even 72% interest was levied and that he kept two sets of account books.

In a litigation with a national of Ceylon whose Rubber Estate he was trying to collar, Nadarajah Chetty is accused of employing thugs to terrorise and by unlawful methods, such as the use of force, to take forcible possession of the estate in question. In their affidavit the declarants even complain that the authorities have been non-responsive to their appeal for help. If all this is as alleged, it does seem that Government has not realized the

gravity of the situation that had arisen. The affidavit is as follows:-

"WE, Dahnayake Mudilige Moses Perera of Arawa Village, Sinhalese, 60 years of age, married, President Rural Government Society of Arawa and (B) Arthur Cornelis Thomas, Sinhalese 52 years of age married, Carpenter by profession, both of Arawa Village, in Palwatte Korale of Bintenne Division in the Province of Uva, Badulla District, not being a Christian, do hereby solemnly, sincerely and truly declare and affirm as follows, on behalf of ourselves and those whose names (Signatures) are appearing in the annexed list who are village peasants living in Arawa village:-

1. That we are the declarants above referred to. We reside in the village of Arawa aforesaid, a part of which is called the Arawa Rubber Estate, containing Rubber, Factories etc.
2. That on the 17th inst there was a shooting affray on this Estate, in which several received gun-shot injuries and were removed to Hospital. The affray was between the estate owner's labourers and Nadarajah Chettiar's party who came from Uva Estate 6 miles away fully armed. And in the affray 15 men of Nadarajah Chettiar's party and about 6 men of the owner's got injured by gun shots and including 2 village men known as Punchi-Banda and Hadu Banda all of whom got treated at Badulla Hospital. The Police officers proceeded to the place (Arawa) and held inquiries.
3. That the Store and Factory of the Rubber Estate is situated at the junction where several roads meet. It is to this place several hundreds of village men and women daily come to buy their rations from the Co-operative Store. On the 17th inst the shooting affray was

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going on between the owner's party and Nadarajah Chettiar's party, these villagers of Arawa also joined with the owner's party and

assaulted them, as they saw them running here and there as the fight was going on.

4. That the news now spread in the village of Arawa that in a day or two, very probably on the 23rd inst. Nadarajah Chettiar's party is coming with a large member of men to totally massacre or kill the estate owner's men and the people of Arawa, including women and children, and that none would be left alive. So this rumour has created a great fear in the minds of the people and they are terribly alarmed and contemplate leaving their houses if no protection is given to them by Government to save their lives. For the Village Headman is not in a position to tackle the situation in the event of such an affray taking place.
5. That we submitted two petitions under Registered cover Nos. 765 on 18.12.56 to the D R O, Bintenne and No. 766 on 18.12.56 to the Government Agent Uva but up to now nothing has been done, nobody enquired into our grievances and fears expressed in connection with this very serious matter which concerns several lives including innocent men, women and children.

Wherefore we earnestly appeal to your Honour as the Head of the Police of



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this District as we have the fullest confidence that your Honour would take all necessary precautions and steps immediately to stop Nadarajah Chettiar's party men coming to the Arawa Village or to the Arawa Rubber Estate with the intention of creating trouble.

Declared to at Badulla on this 22nd day of Decr., 1956

The foregoing contents of this affidavit having been read and explained by me to the two affirmants above mentioned and they having understood same, set their signature to this affidavit for themselves and for those whose signature appear in the list annexed to this affidavit signed on this 22nd day of December 1956 at Badulla.

Before me

Justice of Peace
Badulla

NOW A TAX ON CROSS-WORDS

THE Ministers discussed yesterday a proposal by the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr. A. P. Jayasuriya, to levy a tax on cross-word puzzles.

The proposal, I understand, was that a tax be levied on all cross word puzzles on which entry fees are charged and cash prizes are offered.

After a short discussion, the Home Minister was asked to make a further consideration and submit more details at the next meeting of Ministers.

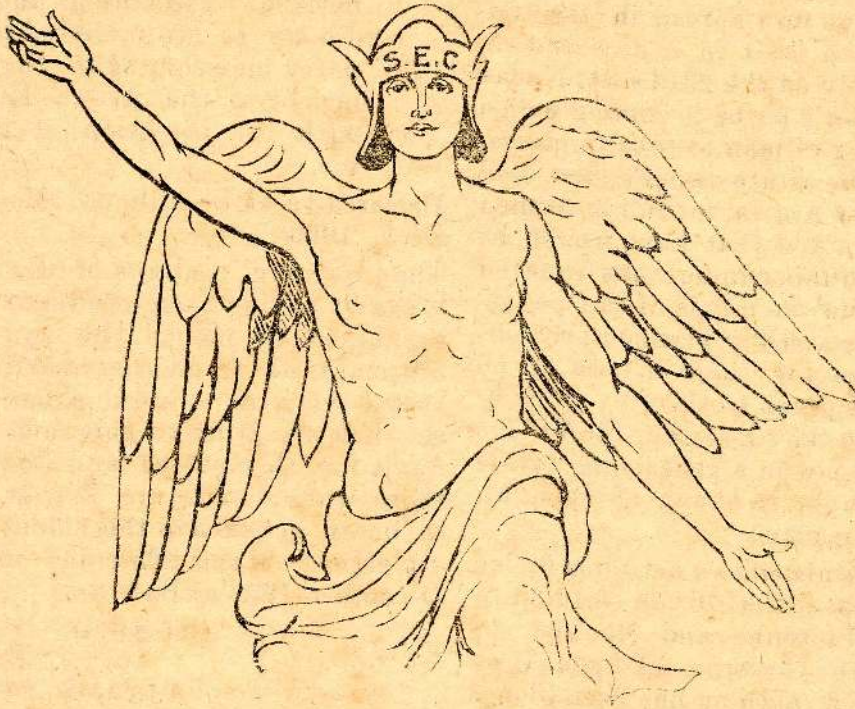
HELD OVER

In the NEXT ISSUE we shall publish further details of Chetty Aggression and taking forcible possession of lan's on which they had lent money. And further how several of these money lenders keep double sets of books to deceive the Income Tax Department.

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Iceland: Fish and Bases

AMERICA SEEKS TO RETAIN IT

AMID the current anxiety over relations with our major allies, few are aware that the United States is preparing to strike a damaging blow at the economy of its smallest ally, Iceland.

On October 12, the U.S. Tariff Commission unanimously recommended a 50-per cent increase in the duty on ground fish fillets. The President is required to act on this recommendation on or before December 12. Obviously, our fishing industry will be better off if he backs up the Commission. But what of U.S. Icelandic relations and the NATO defense system.

Iceland is a tiny nation with a population about half as large as Nevada's, but it possesses a piece of real estate in which we have already invested hundreds of millions of dollars: our air base on the island. We want very much to hold the base, which is situated about halfway between New York and Moscow; the Icelanders would like us to give it up. Hence, Iceland's good will is essential if we are to have any hope of solving this serious strategic problem.

How would Presidential acceptance of the Tariff Commission's recommendation affect our relations with Iceland? The answer can be given most clearly in figures:

Fish and fish products make up 95 per cent of Iceland's exports. Since 1952, when the United States took 27 per cent of these exports our share has dwindled steadily until last year it was only 12 per cent. In the same period, Soviet bloc purchases have increased from 7 to 28 per cent and are expected to reach 35 per cent under a newly-concluded trade agreement between Iceland and the USSR. Iceland's single most important export commodity is ground fish fillets, of which it sold 68 per cent to the United States in 1955. We bought \$7.1 million worth of fillets in 1952, but only \$4.1 million worth last year. Obviously, we are running a serious risk of driving Iceland economically, and hence politically, into the arms of the Soviet Union.

The folly of jeopardizing a vital defence link by accepting the Tariff Commission's recommendation is underlined by the fact that total U.S. imports of fish fillets amount to only \$25 million annually the rest coming from Canada and Norway). In roughly 2,000 yearly working

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hours we produce goods and services amounting to more than \$400 billion, or more than \$200 million per hour. Thus, that these imports for an entire year are equivalent in value to the proceeds of seven minutes' work by the American labour force?

Of course, the American fishing industry is hurt to some degree by continued imports from Iceland. But our economy can easily find other employment for those few who might lose their jobs. What is more, considering the large subsidies now paid to the farmers, why not subsidize the fishing interests, if need be at an insignificant cost?

If we cannot protect the vital interests of our smallest ally, how will be able to adjust our economy to the needs of our great allies and of the countries we are trying to keep out of the Soviet grip?—Oscar Schnable in the "American New Leader"

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THE SEARCHLIGHT

(Established 1921)

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

Jan. 5th 1957

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"President Wilson's doctrine of the self-determination of peoples is the cornerstone of democracy. It has timely application today, for the doctrine inspired the fight for liberty which Hungary is witnessing now. Mr. Wilson put it this way in his memorable address to Congress, declaring war on Germany.

..... We shall fight for the things which we have always carried nearest our hearts, for democracy, for the right of those who submit to authority to have a voice in their own governments, for the right and liberties of small nations, for a universal dominion of right by such a concert of free peoples as shall bring peace and safety to all nations and make the world at last free..."

"The League, it is true, did not insure lasting peace..."

"Nor has the UN fulfilled all the high hopes of its founders. Yet it has, through concerted action of the sort envisioned by Woodrow Wilson, achieved great good for mankind. Thus, the free world has cause on this centennial of Mr. Wilson's birth to remember him with respect and gratitude."—The Washington Star on the Woodrow Wilson Centennial

The Colombo Municipal Council

A TERSE ALLUSION TO THE OLD AND NEW

THE election to the Municipal Council of the metropolitan city of the Island have resulted in an overwhelming victory for the Party that was brutally lashed at the elections to the House of Representatives. But the election figures, that is to say, the number of people who voted for the various candidates, should be a source of anxiety to the victorious United National Party as the majority of the voters has not approved the stewardship of the Colombo Municipal Council by the United National Party.

What is the dominant feature of the election results? Would it hamper the administrative ability of the new Council? Would it blur the landscape of the City of Colombo? The latter questions could be swiftly answered in the affirmative. But what about the first one? To us, the dominant feature of the election results is the supreme triumph of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party in defeating two Red veterans of civic politics. This is the unique achievement which was denied the combined resources of the United National Party even during harvesting period, when the voice of the "Father of the Nation" converted the minds of thousands of voters.

In short, what the UNP could not have done, the SLFP achieved, in its first endeavour. Two Red stalwarts of civic and parliamentary politics were eliminated—one of them by a woman whose feet are treading the virgin soil of civic politics. This is the poignant chapter in the history of 1956 Elections of the Municipal Council of Colombo:

The bulk of the voters of the Borella and Cotta wards consists of "workers." It, therefore, becomes a source of perplexity that "workers" should have spurned the Red leaders and voted for the Blue candidates.

And now we come to the welfare of the ratepayers of the city. Shorn as the Council now is of two able opposition members, will the UNP, M.E.P. disregard the constructive criticism that would be offered by their opponents? Would they think in terms of stadia or houses for the shanty dwellers? Could tenants, even now, indulge in the hope that the leaking roofs and broken walls of their humble houses would be repaired by the Council? In short, is it legitimate for the ratepayers to expect a new deal, designed to ameliorate the abject conditions of life which compare with the primitive conditions of human existence?

What matters the ratepayers who the Mayor is, or whether the mayoral chains rotate annually. The abiding concern of the ratepayers is a better standard of living than the one they were subjected to by the UNP Councillors of the "old" Council.

It would be prudent not to relapse into another "triumph of democracy." There is nourishment in the humble pie of the ratepayers if the U.N.P. M.M.C.'s care to share it.

Lenders Continue to Expropriate Ceylonese Lands

UNDER NATIONAL GOVERNMENT



The late Sir Anamaly Chetty of Sea St., Colombo whose firm A.R.A.R.S.M. Anamaly Chetty, foreclosed with over 50,000 acres of Coconut and other Property in the Negombo, Chilaw and Kurunegalle Districts alone immediately the Depression of 1930 came on.

Most of these properties are still in the firm's hands and held by the Chettynard Corporation or the Chettynard Bank. The A. R. A. R. S. M. firm was the leader of the gang of money-lenders and whose methods were less exacting. The late Sir Anamaly use to lavishly entertain Ceylonese Leaders when they visited India. Both the late D. S. Senanayake and Mr. Dudley Senanayake were known to be regular guests of Sir Anamaly.

DESPITE the commendable vigilance displayed by the sleuth hounds of Ceylon's Income Tax Department, who have effectively spread their tentacles in diverse directions to get hold of tax-dodgers, quite a host of Indian money-lenders of the Natucotta Chetty community, have recently fled the country with the object of evading the tax on their hoardings accumulated by systematic blood-sucking. Although away from the Island, and no trace is left to reach them they are still known to operate here through "dummies" who do the collecting of dues from their borrowers.

It is stated that by the subtle methods employed by the absentee money-lenders and their agents, the Income Tax Department is unable to bring the evaders to book, although sustained attempts are being made in that direction. It is however, believed that the tax recoverable from a handful of such money-lenders amount to well over three and a half million rupees at a modest computation. This, admittedly is far too colossal a sum of money to lose. Government should, therefore, leave no stone unturned to force this money out of the evaders. In these circumstances we alert the Hon'ble the Attorney General and the Hon'ble the Minister for Finance to strengthen the hands of the Income Tax Department so as to enable it to get into grips with these fugitive Shylocks and make them disgorge what they rapaciously acquired in this country by systematic methods of exploitation.

BLOOD SUCKING IN EXCELSIS

Up to comparatively recent times, the Sea Street money lenders of Colombo, of Negombo, Chilaw, Kurunegalla, Kandy and Galle, were the biggest exploiters of Ceylonese landed gentry and the business and trading community who were the bond slaves of these sharks whose usurious rates of interest, whose crafty, unconscionable and compunctionless methods could

(Continued from page 21)

PUDDING HOUSE

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Centenary of the Birth of James Peiris

SPECIAL TO THE SEARCHLIGHT

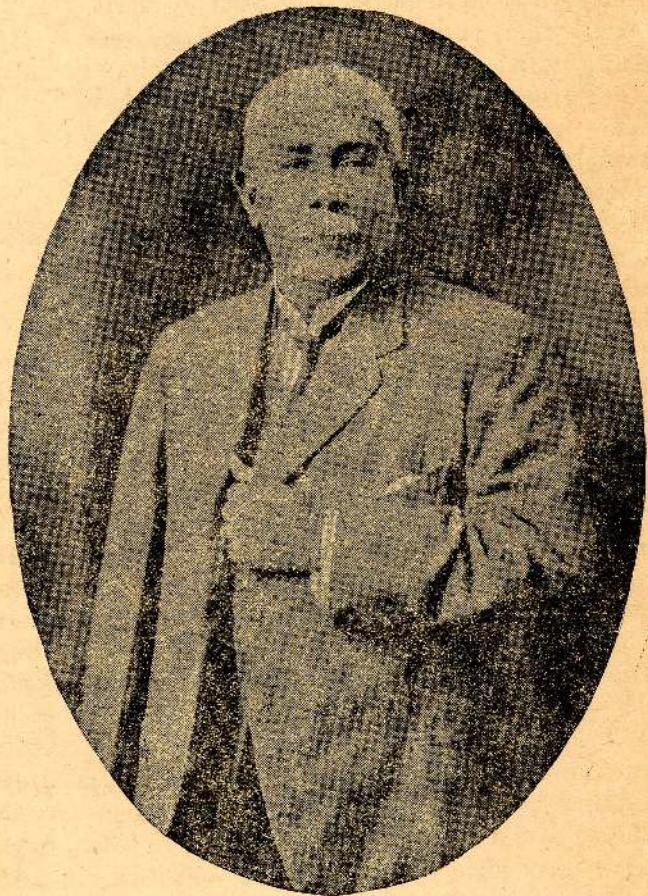
BY GUSTAVUS JAYAWARDENA

THE centenary of the birth of an eminent and illustrious Ceylonese, nay, one of the most distinguished Statesmen the country has produced, is naturally a matter of gratitude and joy that this Island is richer for the people's most trusted and brilliant leader lived in it and had exerted a great influence in public affairs.

It was on Saturday the 20th December, 1856, exactly a hundred years ago, on the 20th December, that the Hon'ble Sir James Peiris was born into a society favourably known for the spirit of independence, enterprise and industry of its members. a people who have also proved themselves loyal to freedom.

Prior to his birth, his countryman Sir (then Mr.) Richard Morgan had become "a citizen reformer, and in a country despotically ruled, essayed and succeeded in performing this most difficult role." "Whilst Richard Cobden and John Bright were fighting for free food in England, Christopher Elliott and Richard Morgan were struggling on behalf of the people of Ceylon against what were believed to be unjust exactions by the Government. Immersed in petty details of official existence, if any were highminded and broad-viewed enough to take a part in purely popular reforms, the exigencies of their position prevented their doing so. However, Richard Morgan was doing more to obtain for his countrymen great privileges than if he had posed before them as a reformer, "He had shown the great capabilities which the community to which he belonged possess, upon whom for a long time did depend the major portion of representation, as in an earlier stage of the country's history they were the hidden wheels of the State machinery, upon the harmonious and careful working of which success was achieved." Three days after James Peiris' birth the official notification of his countryman's appointment as junior Puisne Justice was made to Richard Morgan.

Information within our reach indicates that James Peiris spent his boyish years at Grandpass in Colombo, opposite the famous "Selby House," the luxurious home of Gate Mudlaiyar Susew de Soysa.



Sir James Peiris

Those were the days when Charles Ambrose Lorenz, the Lawyer, Legislator and Litthrateur loomed large in the political horizon, and George Alexander Dharmaratne, then a Proctor, emerged as "Ceylon's first Apostle of Swaraj", President of the Morottoo Liberal Association of 1863, and a doughty champion in the operations of the Ceylon League—an organisation formed on 26th May 1965 and led by Lorenz and George Wall in order "to obtain for Ceylon a constitution that will free the country from the arbitrary dictation of the Governor and the Secretary of State" It was on the question of Military contribution which the Secretary of State forced on the Island that the unofficial members of the Legislative Council resigned their seats in a body in November 1964, forwarding at

the same time a letter to Government in which their reasons for resignation were given. And it was to secure the reforms in the council that the League, which was formed afterwards, had in view. The unofficial members were Lorenz, Wall, W. Thompson, John Capper, J. H. Eaton and James de Alwis, the latter incidentally the godfather of James Peiris.

The occurrence of James Peiris' birth may have made no noise in our Island home. Many may not have taken any notice of it. At a time when the educated Ceylonese were becoming politically conscious some may have expected great things of this promising lad. Perhaps others could not have imagined James, a boy of eight years of age at the time, was destined to dedicate his life to his country's service - to right the country's wrongs in administration and law; to convey to the British public and the British statesmen a right understanding of the position of affairs in this country, of the defects in the methods of Government and Taxation, of the relations between the rulers and the ruled. Indeed, in later years he had laboured with an honesty of purpose for the political emancipation of the country, and was deservedly called the Father of the Constitutional Reform Movement. He had started his agitation for the Reform of the Constitution long before many other distinguished politicians who were then held by official strings. Little did the people in the eighteen sixties dream that James Peiris, a lad at that time, would some day convince the Secretary of State that our Legislature was a farce; that our representatives (even in the early years of this century) were chosen by those in authority without the least reference to ourselves and represented no one but themselves; that he would strongly urge the necessity of allowing the people a voice in the selection of their representatives and that he would succeed in getting the elective principle introduced into the Legislative Council. Above all, could the people of that olden day have dreamt that Mr. James Peiris would, fifty eight years later, lead the opposition to the Budget of 1922, but that the Government would carry its object by the use of the official vote, and that Mr. Peiris would walk out of the Council chamber followed by thirteen other members of council as a pretext against the action of Government. The "Walk Out" has been described as "the supreme moment of Mr. Peiris political career," and that for a time

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"he found himself the hero of the day." Yet how much has that life done to change the face in this political world of ours, where during his long career of service for 40 years Sir James Peiris had worked selflessly and unceasingly for the political and social regeneration and advancement of the land of his birth. The 'Ceylon Daily News' of 4th May, 1946 records that James Peiris' greatest service, even outshining his work in the cause of reforms, was during the days following the Martial Law period of 1915. In conclusion it states thus; "Spurning official blandishments aimed at insulating the Sinhalese Christians from the Sinhalese Buddhists James Peiris, a Christian, championed the cause of the Sinhalese Buddhists who had been victimised during Martial Law."

His wisdom, moderation and statesmanship guided the country as its cultured and refined leader through many critical years from that time, and as Vice President of the Legislative Council from 1924 till his death. He was the one soul who courageously gave evidence before the Donoughmore Commission in public, and looked forward to full Responsible Government as our goal, and ably supported by E. J. Samarawickrema, urged for a liberal measure of self-government (experienced during the State Council days) as the best training ground for complete self-government. What the Hon. Sir James Peiris had sown in the field of Ceylon politics the Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake paid a fitting tribute to the leaders, among them Sir James Peiris, who had laboured unselfishly to set Ceylon on the path leading to freedom.

Some of the present generation may not remember Sir James Peiris. The younger folk belong to a generation which is ignorant of him, but the benefits they too enjoy owe much to the good fight for constitutional reform by James Peiris, that Grand old Warrior of Ceylon politics, a man who had the courage of his convictions. His colleagues readily acknowledged him as an accredited and experienced leader. It is a privilege that the public find a general desire to celebrate the centenary of the birth of one who always fought for principles, so that the virtues and noble services of that life well and truly lived, may be rewarded by the present generation with generous acknowledgment as an inspiring example to coming generations. Some of the sterling qualities of head and heart which he possessed to an outstanding degree leaders of today, will do well to cultivate, and follow in after life the highest example of a clean politician.

A true Christian Knight, his name stood high for his purity of thought, integrity, high sense of duty and his selfless service to the State and his Church which earned him the respect, admiration and love of all communities in the Island. He died in harness, the greatest Ceylonese of the day. Ceylon is poorer by his death which caused a nationwide sorrow on 5th May 1930. Though dead yet speaketh. If to "live in hearts we leave behind is not to die" then might it be said of Sir James Peiris that he has left the memory of a life nobly spent in the country's service and a name to live for evermore. The memory of that saintly figure may fade away if in recognition of his services to the country a fitting memorial is not established to perpetuate his memory, and Ceylon will be decidedly the poorer, however an honoured name his may be, around which there is a halo of purity and sanctity, and which name universally cherished in his day naturally con-

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 bygone 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**

BREWED BY

THE CEYLON BREWERY

NUWARA ELIYA

mands the highest respect of the vast majority of his fellow countrymen, and the great mass of the people of our day.

FIRST ASIATIC PRESIDENT OF THE CAMBRIDGE UNION

James Peiris was a Royalist. At the Colombo Academy, where he received his education, he had a brilliant career. He won the Turnour Prize for Classics, and the Shakespeare Prize. In 1877 he crowned his school career by winning the English University Scholarship tenable for four years and went up from Tonbridge School to St. John's College, Cambridge in autumn of that year. His University career was a succession of triumphs. He brought honour to Ceylon and to the Royal College by holding his own with the youths of the Empire who gather at Cambridge University, that famous place of learning. There he won the Essay Prize and the subject was Party Government. He was elected to a Foundation Scholarship in 1881. In the Tripos Examination he scored a double first, a rare distinction: he secured a first class in the Law Tripos and a first class in the Moral Science Tripos, specialising in political economy and political philosophy. In the Law Tripos, of 1881 his was one of the four names in the first class, the senior being Mr. W. P. Schreiner, who in 1898 became Prime Minister of Cape Colony. James Peiris was called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn at the end of 1882. He achieved the honour of being the first Oriental to be elected President of the Cambridge University Union. His election to the Chair of that Society where he took a prominent part in its debates, again crowned a

brilliant Varsity career. Mr. Peiris was very popular at Cambridge and played a prominent part in the social and political life of the University and counted a large circle of friends, whose names are well known in English public life, among them Harold Cox, the well known economist, Ellis Griffiths K.C. (sometime Under Secretary of State for Home Affairs), Justice Strachey, Justice Scrutton, Austin Chamberlain, Sir Gerald Strickland (sometime Governor of New South Wales), Lord Carmichael (sometime Governor of Bengal) and Schreiner (sometime Premier of the Cape Colony). His name was held in very great respect in that seat of learning to the end of his life, and was described as "one of the wisest men who ever came to the college from the East." He was back in Ceylon in December 1883 but returned to England shortly after, having in his absence been elected to the Mac Mahon Law Scholarship over the heads of L. A. Edmunds, K.C. and several others. Mr Peiris had in England declined the offer of a powerful friend to secure for him a nomination for the Ceylon Civil Service. "The lure of office which might indeed have paved the way for him to high judicial preferment knocked at his door, but office and official favours had no charms for him then, or in later life, though he readily lent his services to the Crown, in an acting capacity." He assisted in the administration of Justice by acting as Senior Crown Counsel and afterwards as District Judge of Galle and of Kurunegala. "Glittering prizes which the legal profession offered to those who are continually at it, he abandoned because he felt a higher call and that was the call of his country.



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MUSINGS

By
T. W. Hockly

THE NEW PROVIDER

I SEE that India has accepted a loan of Rs. 500 million from Russia. Trust a Kashmiri Pandit for being cute and clever. I have no doubt that before long Ceylon, Burma and Indonesia will follow suit. There will be no tiresome strings and nothing to worry about with loans from the U.S.S.R. So full steam ahead. I have no doubt too that Nasser will now realise his dream of the Aswan Dam. I am sure he will infinitely prefer to have Roubles rather than Volunteers from Russia.

THE COMMON-WEALTH

FILLED with Frighteous wrath and indignation against the British for their action in Egypt, Sir Razik Fareed as he becomes a wearer of the Tarbush, is all for severing the Commonwealth link between Britain and Ceylon. Possibly he may be right in this. Time alone would



Sir Razik Fareed

show. But if Sir Razik is consistent he must eschew his Knighthood. You can't have it both ways Sir Razik.

PEACE OR WAR?

IT has been reported in the Press that Soviet troops are now making an incursion into Bulgaria and are moving South. This might mean that they come up against Turkey, next door. In such case the balloon would go up and World War III would be launched. Turks and Russians have always been hereditary enemies and there is no doubt that the Turks who are brave and intrepid would fight. Would to God Mustapha Kemal Atatürk were alive today, for he feared neither God, man nor devil and would lead his troops to victory as he did in Smyrna. Perhaps there is another Mustapha Kemal to take his place.

A FARCE

THE prisoner stands up in the dock to receive sentence. The Judge wearing the black cap solemnly sentences the prisoner to death. The prisoner is quite unperturbed because he knows the sentence will never be carried out. He will be comfortably housed and clothed. He will be given good food and plenty of it, far more and better than he would probably get in his own village, and have practically nothing to do — an ideal life for a villager. So why should he worry?

THE PRESENT WORLD MESS

WONDER if many people realise that the present mess the world is in internationally is largely due to the mistaken and altruistic ideas of one man — Franklin Delano Roosevelt ably assisted by his lieutenant Harry Hopkins — "Harry the hop." Though Roosevelt's idea of insisting on "Unconditional surrender" against Churchill's advice the war was prolonged for a further two years. The Germans who are a proud and brave race were not going to submit easily to handing over to their enemies what practically amounted to a blank cheque and so the war continued at a colossal loss of men and money. When Peace was at length signed all the warring nations agreed to disarm with the excep-

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tion of Russia who refused to do so. She was thus allowed to keep her Armed Forces practically intact. Then again at a time when the combined armies of Britain and the U.S.A. could easily have prevented a single Russian soldier from entering East Germany, Roosevelt welcomed them to occupy Berlin. Had this not been done there would be to-day no problem of East and West Germany. Germany would have consolidated as a whole and would have been a barrier against Russian aggression and expansion.

William C. Bullitt the well-known American writer, author of "The Great Globe Itself" referring to President Roosevelt writes:- "God was very kind to President Roosevelt and took him." "The evil that men do lives after them."

NO MONEY

I recently went to the Negombo Station to despatch a parcel. The Clerk told me the

freight was 70 cents. I proffered a Rs. 2 note but the clerk said he could give me no change for it. I then proffered a Re. 1 note but the clerk said he had no money. I then suggested he should get some change from the Passenger Booking Office but he said they had no money either. Finally I sent my driver to a nearby boutique where he was able to change the Re. 1 note and bring back the change.

Now had Negombo been a mere

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or wayside station, I could have understood this paucity of money but not at a large station like Negombo. Is the Government going bankrupt?

THE COMMONWEALTH

NEHRU has decided that India should remain in the Commonwealth. But what about Sri Lanka? Nehru's decision has probably been arrived at because he realises the advantages to be gained by India retaining her membership. Nehru apparently wishes to run with the hare and hunt with the hounds or attempting to ride two horses at the same time!

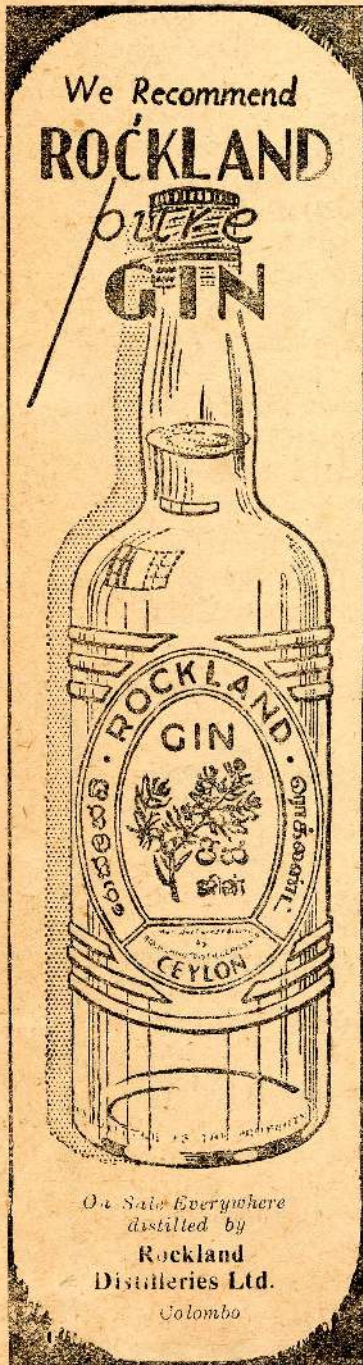
He has strong leanings towards the eastern bloc—Russia and China. Some day he may even decide to throw in his lot with them and discard the rest if it suits his book and become a satellite of Russia or Free China for that is all India is at all likely to become. Nehru cannot have it both ways and no man can serve two masters. Surely and steadily as present auguries point he is sliding down the slippery slope to a Communist and totalitarian regime ably assisted by his lieutenant, the clever Krishna

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Menon, India will surrender her democratic liberty and become the slave of a Totalitarian State.

Let us fervently hope and pray that Sri Lanka will not share the same Fate as India in this respect. The position requires very careful watching. It would certainly be too bad if both India and Ceylon were to go "Commi." I hope I shall be dead before that happens.

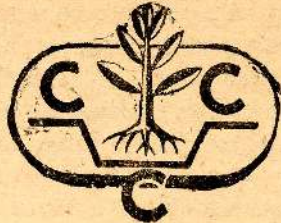
LAURELS FOR BANDA



THE Prime Minister has returned to his homeland his brow crowned with laurels gained by his achievement at the U. N Assembly in New York. Banda is like the Laird of Cockpen "his mind is ta'en up with the things of the state" especially to those matters concerning the outside world of Politics and rather to the exclusion of pressing problems at home. He has also had the distinction of receiving a friendly and encouraging squeeze on his arm from that great personality Krishna V. Menon. "Oh rare for Banda and little Sri Lanka!!"

THE HUNGARIAN HORROR

Throughout the deepening international crisis two ten-



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dencies have apparently been at work in Shri Nehru which give cause for concern. One is a love of casuistry which no one had hitherto suspected in him; the other is a decided inclination to burk a moral choice when one is clearly presented. Yet when he could have suspended judgment he felt no doubt whatever in describing Soviet violence as a civil conflict.

Now looking back at that most reprehensible action of the British at Jalianwala Bagh, Shri Nehru could not condemn it strongly enough and heaped opprobrium on the British for the events at Jalianwala Bagh.

And yet by comparison Jalianwala Bagh was a mere flea bite when compared with Soviet violence and atrocities in Hungary and yet Shri Nehru describes the Soviet action as a civil conflict. It is quite evident that Shri Nehru wishes to keep in on the side of the Communist bloc. So what about it?

CHOU EN-LAI

A N Indian owned and edited contemporary writes:- "Chou en lai has the reputation of being the smoothest and falsest diplomat in the whole ruling hierarchy of world communism."

RELUCTANCE

THERE seems to be a strange reluctance on the part of European Foreigners to learn Sinhalese or speak it at all intelligently. This is not the case in North India where most Foreigners learn before very long to speak Hindustani, some well and some indifferently, but they can all speak it. Here in the past things have been made too easy in this respect for Foreigners as apart from villagers. Most Sinhalese have a good working knowledge of English and therefore Foreigners do not trouble to learn Sinhalese. Sinhalese is by no means a difficult language to learn to speak, at least tolerably. I know several English people who possess a good working knowledge of French or German or both but who know no word of Sinhalese although they may have spent many years in this country. Traditionally of course the English are among the world's worst linguists, but strangely enough those in the F.O. or the Diplomatic Service are as a rule excellent linguists.

In fact they have to be for the exigencies of their work. But here is a case which came under my notice recently. A friend of a mine, a most charming and clever man and an educationist, has had to relinquish his appointment here and return to his native land because of his lack of knowledge of Sinhalese of which he knows nothing. And yet my friend has spent

many years in Ceylon—a great pity. A year at most spent in most countries is usually sufficient for anyone to acquire a good working knowledge of a language. I know when I was young, I spent a year in France and another year in Germany and in that time I was able to acquire a good working knowledge of both languages.

When I came to Ceylon on transfer from India, I at once engaged the services of a good Sinhalese Tutor or Gurunanse to teach me Sinhalese which I did not find very difficult, with the result that I was able to go up for the Civil Service examination in Sinhalese and qualified in Sinhalese within six months. I have found it of inestimable use to me on my small property where, with the exception of my Manager or Conductor, neither my Labour nor Domestic no any word of English. I think it would be a good thing if more Foreigners who have come to reside in this country tried to acquire a working knowledge of Sinhalese and not have always to depend on an English speaking Ceylonese to act as an interpreter and be able to speak Sinhalese themselves. It is so easy to ask "what does this man say?" I know I may be considered "queer" for advocating this by some die-hard Foreigners, nevertheless, I consider there is much to be said for what I suggest. One can never understand the soul of a People unless one learns to speak their language.

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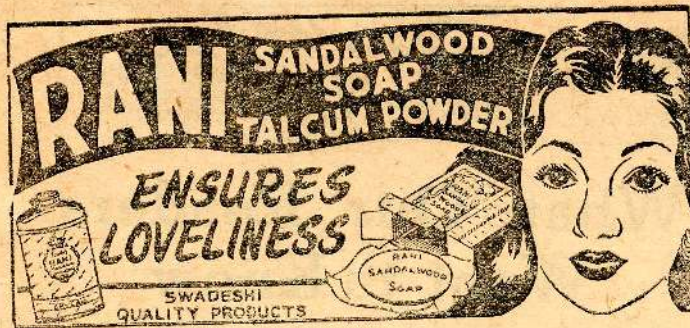
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(MUSINGS—Contd. from page 15)

"Cave canem"—beware of the dog—and also, "timeo Danaos et dona ferentes"—I fear the Greeks bearing gifts—Let us beware.

THE RICE MYSTERY

A contemporary in the local Press in his leader refers to "the Rice Mystery." This I should say was putting it mildly. I should rather have called it the Rice Racket. Apparently Burma has been exporting rice to Ceylon unfit for human consumption "stinking rice" as it has been termed. This rice is only fit for animal fodder.

Ceylon has been paying through the nose for her rice supplies from Burma and this is how she is treated and a long suffering people have had to grin and bear it. This racket has been carried out so far with impunity at both ends with the knowledge and connivance of both parties. There is only one thing that should be done to those people who seek to make fortunes out of the People's Food—either the rope or the Firing Squad. But of course nothing of the kind will happen to these rascals. Is not this Free Sri Lanka and the Peoples' Government—"Appe Anduwa." What about it Mr. Food Minister?

INCONSISTENCY

THE Cabinet have decided to change the number plates of cars and introduce the Sinhalese letter "Shri." But why do they not change the prefix on names on letters as India has done and substitute a Sinhalese appellation and substitute this instead of Esquire and Mr and Mrs. In India the word Shri is now used for a man and Srimati for a woman.

T.W.H.

SAINTS of the SINK

FROM the railway carriage the holiday-maker sees no sight more satisfying than straight furrows ploughed in the rich brown earth. The townsman wonders at the ploughman's skill, but he is moved by something deeper, perhaps by what the ploughed field promises as the fruit of

man's co-operation with the providence of God.

Perhaps he thinks of the satisfaction of the ploughman when his task is completed. Soft people are apt to pity men who must tackle hard tasks. Instead, they should be envied.

The surgeon rejoices in the skill which enables him to defeat the inroads of disease. The slum vicar, with very harassing duties, thanks God for the health and strength which enables him to carry on single handed.

The ship's master remains on the bridge through a day and night of storm, but when at last he comes down, weary and heavy-eyed, he is a happy man. He has brought his ship through the perils of the sea.

It is all part of a great truth of life that no man can be truly happy unless he puts his whole heart into something. He is less than alive if he cares only for himself. Doubly happy are those lucky ones whose jobs are their delight. The satisfaction of the ploughman may be taken as a homely reflection of God's satisfaction in His handiwork.

At the very beginning of the Bible we have a glimpse of Him in love with His work. "God saw everything that He made, and behold, it was very good." In a Labour Day address the late Theodore Roosevelt said "No man needs sympathy because he has to work....far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing."

Inevitably much of the work of today is monotonous and uninteresting, but it may not long continue so if automation sets men free from tedious repetition. One of the whole-

some changes in recent years is in the attitude of menial jobs.

Between the wars Miss Ciceyl Hallack based a little poem on St. Teresa's phrase, "God walks among



the pots and pipkins." She wrote:
 Lord of the pots and pipkins, since I
 have no time to be
 A saint by doing lonely things and
 vigilling with Thee,
 By watching in the twilight dawn, and
 storming Heaven's gates,
 Make me a saint by getting meals and washing up
 the plates.

From uncongenial work most men escape
 not to idleness but to work after their own
 hearts. They may call their tasks hobbies,
 but they are labours of love. Looking across
 a fertile hillside in the evening light plough-
 ing might seem a fine hobby. But it is not
 for the amateur.

None the less, the work of the plough-
 man is symbolic of all worthwhile labour,
 which is linked by ancient religious wisdom
 with prayer. "All work is prayer" wrote a
 London journalist, but how few spoken pray-
 ers are as fine as the direct beauty of a
 straight furrow."

The symbolism of the ploughman moved
 the Poet Laureate, John Masefield, in his
 poem "The Everlasting Mercy, to write:

I knew.....
 That Christ was standing there with me
 That Christ had taught me what to be,
 That I should plough, and as I ploughed
 My Saviour Christ would sing aloud,
 And as I drove the clods apart,
 Christ would be ploughing in my heart.



What Our Readers Want to Know

WHAT was the commotion at the General
 Hospital which resulted in the sudden transfer
 of two nurses of a minority community at a
 moments' notice to the leprosy hospital

CAN the D. M. & S. S. give us the reason,
 OR perhaps the Ministry of Health can
 oblige?

"Koraha" king will shortly be returning
 to Ceylon from the U K.

Minus his Moss Bros outfit

WHY didn't the Ceylon Cricket Associat-
 ion give the Indian Team another over to win
 the first Test, and

WHO was to blame for cutting short the
 hours of play?

THAT the C.T.C. Stewards continue to be
 funny

AT the expense of the racing public
 SOME of the older ones should retire

When is there going to be a change in the
 personnel of the P.S.C?

THE old men should go into retirement

THAT England will have the Death Penalty im-
 posed shortly.

CEYLON cant do better than follow suit.

THAT it is time Ceylonese people began to be
 charitable to their own nationals.

And prevent the so-called Foreigners having to
 foot the Bill.

THAT commodity prices should be clearly dis-
 played at all Stores and Shops.

THAT in the old days the good died young
 TODAY the Doctors die younger.

C. C. S, men and Crown Counsel who get light
 hours and more pay live longest.

THAT the Police are in a bad way.

A clean sweep is necessary

TO eradicate graft, bribery and corruption.

THAT its time that Radio nuisance with loud
 speakers was stopped.

PARTICULARLY in the Fort and Pettah eating
 houses.

THE people have short memories.

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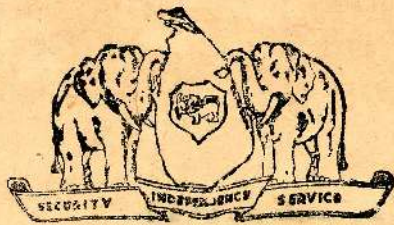
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WHO is the Civil Servant - now a V.I.P. who was slapped by his clerk in Court when he was a Magistrate?

THAT all is not gold that glitters.

THAT the Police should watch the so called social clubs.

THESE dens of vice are coining money.

THE City is overrun by mosquitoes at present.

WHAT has happened to the Mosquito Brigade?

THAT the go-slow workers of the Harbour should be kicked out

AND real workmen taken in their places

THAT good honest work is a rare commodity in this country

THAT did Com Royce de Mel, O.C. Ceylon Navy, give wrong information regarding the British Ships!

WHAT price A Coalition Government for Ceylon?

WHO will get on with the job?

THAT what is wanted in this country is properly organised public opinion

ALL communities Majority and Minority should join together

And hold a public meeting of protest

TO show the present Government the errors of their ways

And what this country is heading for

THAT those at the head of affairs are supported by a number of (Sukkers up.)

THAT the present P.M. like his Predecessor has fallen for the craze of appearing in a new photograph everyday in the papers.

THAT he has got a capacity for good work and reasoning, and should get the members of his Cabinet to toe the line.

THAT the C.T.C. fiasco continues

IT is time that the Club closed down.

THAT the Carnival craze should also be stopped

THE sooner the better.

The Need for Capital

"UNLESS... at least a higher percentage rate of growth in the economically underdeveloped countries can be achieved, it will be impossible ever to increase the share of the less developed countries in the distribution of the percapita income of the world. This should be a reasonable and attainable target for economic development. So far this target has not been reached...I do not suggest new international machinery for this purpose. What is needed is greater understanding and goodwill on the part of both government and people in using the machinery that already exists...we must seek ways to increase the supply of foreign investment capital, both public and private, available for economic development. Recent events have once again brought to the forefront the importance of international confidence for the flow of private capital."—U.N. Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold.

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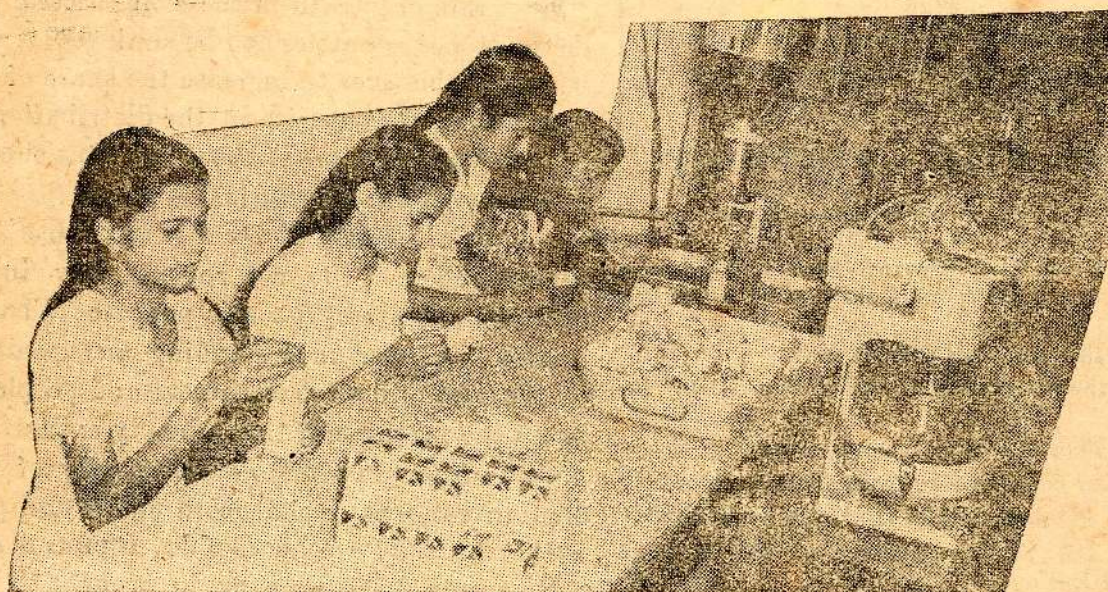
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Lenders Continue to Expropriate Ceylonese Lands Under National Government

(Continued from page 7)

hardly be denied, financed Ceylonese trade and industry generally. This happened to be the case because the foreign Banking Houses, five of them at the time, were somewhat squeamish about accommodating the Ceylonese planter, industrialist or merchant with capital. The Chetty firms accordingly took advantage of that and got the borrowers well into their clutches.

THE WORLD TRADE DEPRESSION

With the world Trade Depression of the nineteen thirties with produce markets prostrate and the difficulty to get finance except at break-neck rates of interest, the Chetty money-lenders rushed to Court obtained judgments and started to foreclose properties mortgaged to them and thus left the borrowers high and dry. In this manner thousands and thousands of acres of planted land in tea, rubber and coconuts passed into the possession of these money lenders and the methods they employed to get hold of such valuable properties were not only without scruple but most iniquitous. The income of such lands since recovered by the lenders is said to be enormous.

THE BANKING COMMISSION

This state of affairs went on for a considerable time and with much heartburn prevailing on that score. But the turning point came with the appointment of the Poehkanwala Commission who heard evidence of all concerned about credit facilities for industry or trade, made several worthy recommendations



Sri Lanka Distilleries Ltd. Wadduwa.

to Government to meet the situation experienced by Ceylonese generally; and these recommendations which were accepted and carried out by Government though they eased the situation as regards obtaining liquid capital, did not materially help to lighten the existing difficulties such as the borrowers were placed in.

The Chetty money-lenders, as is well-known, borrowed from the Colombo Banks at low rates of interest and re lent that money to Ceylonese at higher or exorbitant rates. As such they held the predominant position as local financiers. So much so the entire brood of the Natucotta Chetties in Colombo and other capital towns of the country, did a tremendous business and amassed very great wealth. With the money they made by money-lending, they went further afield and engaged themselves as importers of food grains.

This went on for years, and so successful were the Chetties that they were in a position to cripple anybody by withholding credit to him. Furthermore their extensive ramifications were such that if one money lending firm withheld capital accommodation to a Ceylonese the other firms would also refuse credit. Here it must be pointed out that the

modus operandi of the Chetties, was to lend money on Pro Notes, often supported by post-dated cheques or by hypothecation bonds of the borrower's estate or town property. This naturally gave the lender a tremendous pull over the borrower. In this manner hundreds of cases of sheer unadulterated exploitation of the borrower took place.

WHAT BURMA DID IN SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES

When Burma formed her National Government, breaking away her links with the Indian Raj, the first step towards National Upliftment they undertook to do, was to repatriate the **INDIAN CHETTIAR CAPITALIST FROM BURMESE SOIL.** The capitalist Indian Chettiars had enormous illegal investments by becoming owners by forced sales by the Fiscal amounting to several crores of rupees. The whole Burmese Rice Trade was in their sole monopoly. The Burmese Government repatriated the Chettiars compulsorily and also nationalised their properties and the compensation fixed was only a very meagre percentage of the large investments made by them. They could not grumble or protest against this resolution. This compensation was not given to them quite immediately. It was paid through the Government of India in instalments.

WHAT THE CEYLON GOVERNMENT SHOULD DO

The Government of Ceylon could also follow the very same procedure to save the national assets which have been wrongfully acquired and give relief to those unfortunate victims who have met unforeseen loss and damage at the hands of these merciless Chettiars.

A vivid description of the sufferings and fate of those unfortunates who borrowed money from the Chettiars will go into volumes. These human tragedies can hardly be told in a few words or lines. Many a National of this Country has been forced to give up the very house in which he lived or part with the only bit of land that had been inherited, thus becoming a landless and homeless destitute in his own country. The Government of Ceylon could follow the principles of the Government of Burma to save the national assets and also save the unfortunates who have become victims to the Chettiars by way of recovering the properties paying off compensation after deducting the incomes derived from such properties up to-date by the Chettiars on the purchase money paid by them.

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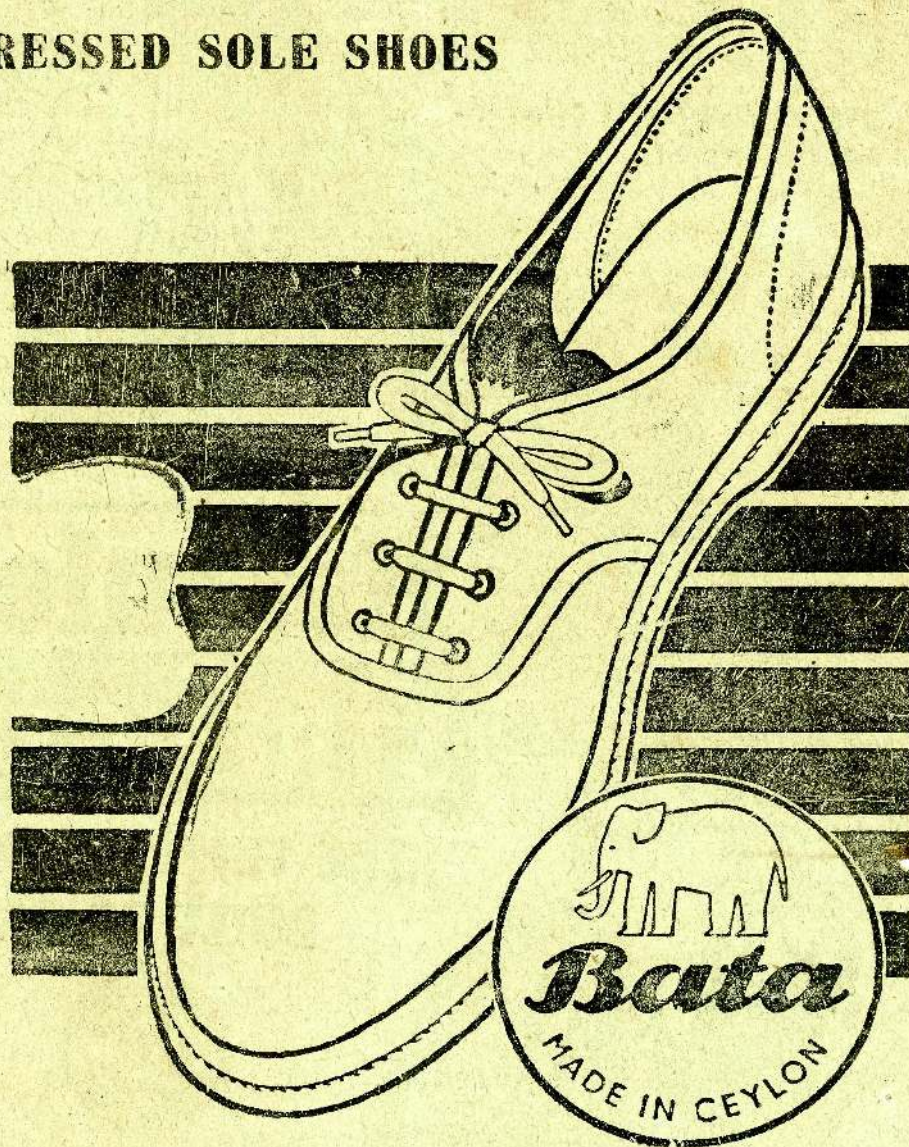
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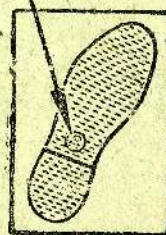
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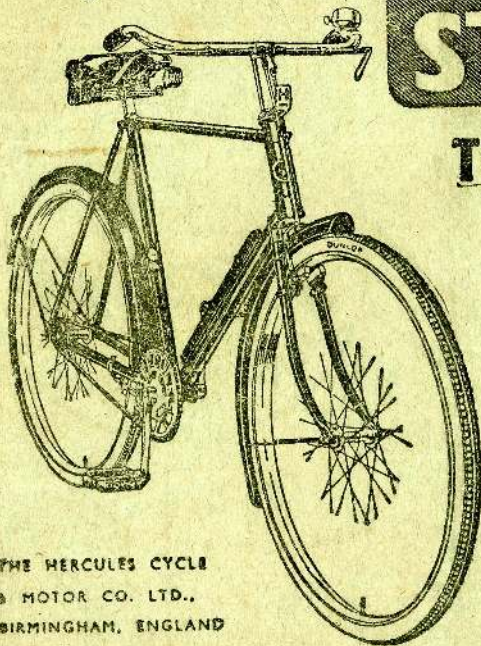


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