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MARCH 31st 1960

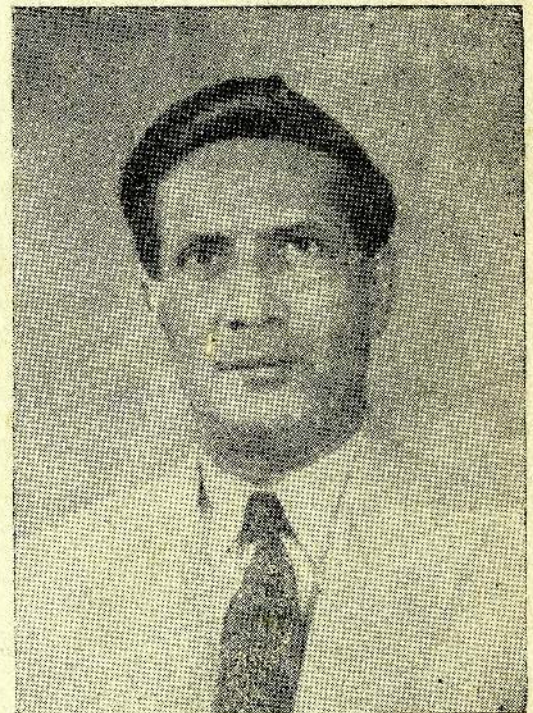
Dawn of a New Era in the Health Services

THE deterioration in the Health Services of Ceylon that had been steadily going on for the last decade and worsened, will assuredly be arrested and a definite turn for the better witnessed ere long. For a new era has dawned by the appointment of Professor Dr. M. V. P. Peiris as Minister for Health in the new Government.

Both in the Medical Department and even outside, there is a chorus of praise for the new Minister, whose great ability, organising skill, and knowledge of all matters connected with medical and health problems, is admitted as being of a very high order.

The spontaneous outburst of approval over his selection to the Cabinet as expressed by the Staff of the Civil General Hospital, when the Minister paid his first official visit to that institution, which will be his special concern among other similar establishments, was proved by the din created by the firing of salvo after salvo of crackers as a jubilant welcome—most cordial and sincere as it was unprecedented—that the Minister had to make a personal appeal to the demonstrators for a "cease fire" to permit him to speak to them.

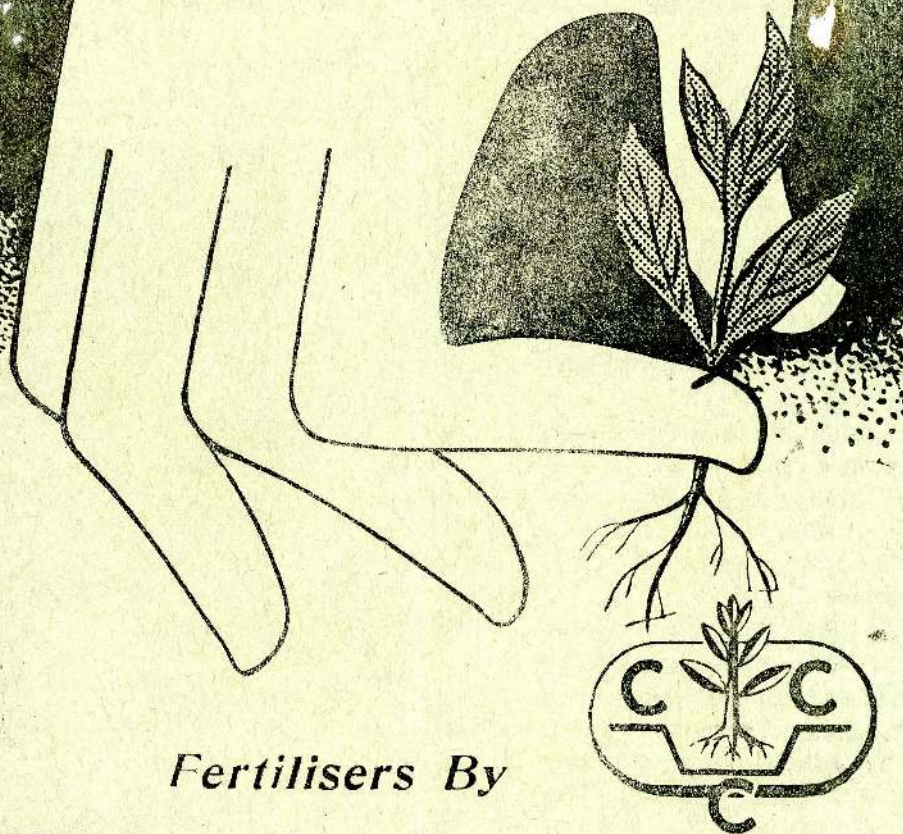
There can be no question that the Hospital nurses, attendants and all and sundry KNEW the man whom they were welcoming and over whose appointment they rejoiced. The same feeling of satisfaction which actuated the General Hospital Staff, we have no doubt whatever



Professor Dr. M. V. P. Peiris

permeates the public as well, who are sanguine that the Health Administration of Ceylon has at long last got the right type of Minister on whom the country can rely on not only to maintain an efficient administration but a just and equitable administration. Minister Dr. Peiris can certainly be depended upon to clean the Augean stables of the Ceylon Medical Department. We accordingly wish him all good luck!

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VOL 39 NO. 6

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LIFTING THE BAN ON RUBBISHY TEA INJUDICIOUS

THE article which appeared in THE SEARCHLIGHT of 15th August 1957 under the caption "Abuses in Connection with the Bulking of Teas" amplified in detail the 'Modus Operandi' of those engaged in trafficking in Refuse and Stolen teas. It also produced a summary of a Memorandum submitted to the Minister of Food & Agriculture by a person interested in the Tea Trade which culminated in the enactment of the Tea Control Act No 51 of 1957, replacing the Tea Thefts Prevention Act No 45 of 1953 and other legislative measures which were in force to protect and safeguard the Ceylon Tea Industry.

After the promulgation of the New Tea Act on 3.9.57 it had an adverse effect on those engaged in the business of trafficking in Refuse Teas, which led to representations being made to the Minister of Commerce and Trade who then appointed a Committee to examine the existing law relating to the restriction of sale or purchase of Refuse Tea etc. In fact a notice appeared in the newspapers of 19. 11. 57 under the hand of the Secretary, Committee on the Restriction of Sale or Purchase of "Refuse Tea," Department of Commerce, inviting representations from individuals or associations interested in the restriction of sale or purchase of Refuse Tea to enable the Committee to report whether the present law should be changed to enable tea fit for human consump-

tion to be reclaimed for local sale and or export without injuring the larger interests of the Tea Industry as a whole.

These representations, it is learnt, were carefully looked into by the Committee referred to above, but nothing materialised out of them for the benefit of the traffickers in 'Refuse Tea' as Sections 22, 23 and 24 in Part IV of the New Tea Control Act No. 51 of 1957, which prohibits the sale or possession of Refuse Tea by a dealer, were then in full force.

It is, therefore, difficult to understand the reason which prompted the former Minister of Trade & Commerce to have lifted the ban on Refuse Tea, especially after 2 years since the appointment of the Special Committee and that



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after the dissolution of the Parliament. The Special Committee referred to above comprised the Director of Commerce and Industries, Tea Controller and Mr. H. Broome of Messrs Brooke Bond (Ceylon) Ltd., which, according to a letter of Mr. A. R. M. Haniffa, Hony. Secretary of the Upcountry Tea Traders Association, published in the daily press of 9.3.59, was of the opinion "that Refuse Tea contained more than 75% drinkable tea and that out of a total Refuse Tea Production of 12 million pounds per year at least 8 millions were consumable and worth about Rs 15 millions." If the findings of the Special Committee were embodied in a Sessional Paper, one could give credence to these facts, but the fact that these statistics have percolated through the medium of the Hony. Secretary of the Up-country Tea Traders' Association and therefore relied on leaves much to be desired.

On what basis had this Special Committee determined 'that out of a total Refuse Tea Production of 12 million pounds per year at least 8 millions were consumable and worth about Rs. 15 million'—a tidy sum which nobody will dispute. Truly, it is the Upcountry Tea Traders' Association and its members who are

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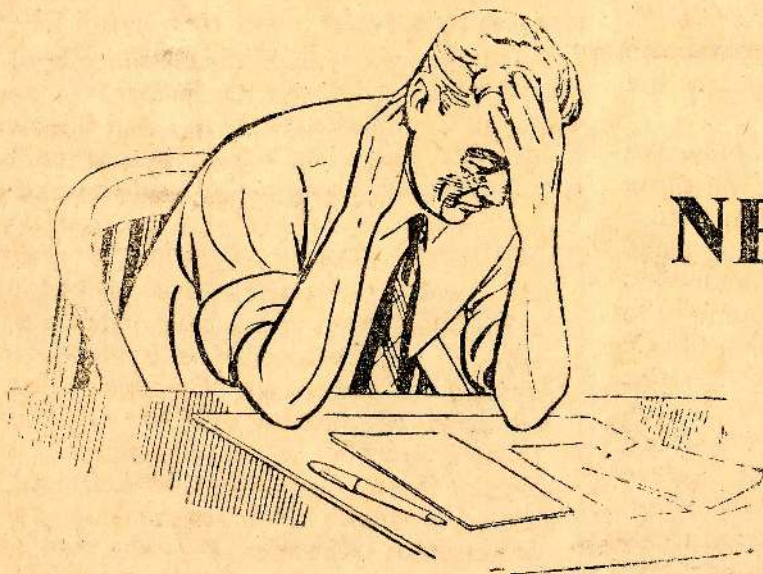
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in the know of the inside story of this profitable business which have not been revealed by them. In fact, the actual volume of business done in Refuse Tea in the past well nigh exceeded over 50 million pounds valued at 62½ million rupees.

TEA CONTROL ACT OF 1957 SENDS
UP PRODUCTION

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production figures have shot up from 326 million pounds of made Tea in 1951 to 398 million pounds in 1957, 413 million pounds in 1958 and again 413 million pounds in 1959 (Calendar Years). It represents an increase of 87 million pounds of made Tea in production at the end of 1959 when compared with the production figures of 326 million pounds in 1951.

On a rough estimate of Rs 1.25 per pound this increased production in tea in the year 1959 has contributed to increase the national wealth of this country by nearly 109 million rupees.

There is a band of Indian T. R. P. holders and a number of others in the Upcountry (Coast Moors) who are engaged in this business of trafficking in refuse teas, which enable them to make good money, a large slice of which is smuggled out of the country under various devices.

WITHDRAWAL OF BAN SPELLS DISASTER

At present the tale of woe of the producers is that they have to sell their tea below the cost of production level. So that, if at this juncture the ban on refuse tea is lifted it would spell disaster on the tea industry which forms the backbone of the economy of this country. There is, therefore, no justification whatsoever to relax the ban on trafficking in Refuse Tea for consumption when the tea output during the last 3 years has topped all previous records.

It is the experience of bona fide tea traders that "reclaims" from Refuse Teas when bulked with original teas for export or to be used for local consumption after sometime goes "flat" and thus the whole consignment of bulked tea

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runs the risk of being set with MILDEW. This accounts for the numerous complaints received from countries importing Ceylon Teas. Refuse is refuse and must therefore, be destroyed.

When one reads Mr. Haniffa's letter published in the "Ceylon Daily News" of 9 3, 60, which portrays the opinion expressed by the Special Committee referred to above "that there is a total Refuse Tea production of 12 million pounds per year etc., etc., one is at a loss to understand how this figure was arrived at.

REFUSE TEA & SWEEPINGS MAKE TEA MAKERS RICH

It is a well known fact that every manufacturer of tea, be he an estate-owner, or a bought leaf factory-owner, leaves no stone unturned to sift every grain of good tea in the process of manufacture, which is graded into various lots before they are packed in chests and offered for sale. In this process of sifting what is left behind is the "muck" which is defined as sweepings. Sweepings are mere particles of dust or pluff or stalks in which there is nothing to sift or reclaim. In every factory these sweepings are deposited in bins till a few week's collection come up to a couple of hundreds of pounds. They are then disposed of at the factory door for nominal amounts to petty dealers who go round factories collecting

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this stuff. It is when disposing of "refuse tea" or sweepings that Tea Makers and their assistants do the trick, for on the pretext of selling a few hundred pounds of refuse teas to roaming T. R. P. holders and local "Thambies" they palm off thousands of pounds of good tea along with it, the proceeds of which are pocketed by them. Invariably the good teas along with the Refuse Tea are packed in gunny bags, giving the appearance that they contain nothing but Refuse Tea or Sweepings. In this way thousands of pounds of good tea are collected from different estates and brought to Collecting Centres in Gampola and Old Moor Street in Colombo where the so-called "Refuse Tea" is reclaimed.

RACKET IN PILFERING TEA

No wonder then that Mr. Haniffa states in his letter of 9.3.59 "that there is a total Refuse Tea Production of 12 million pounds per year." The truth of the whole affair is that there is an organised racket in pilfering tea from factories under the guise of "Refuse Tea Sales" which run up to nearly 50 million pounds of good tea per annum, the proceeds of which find their way to the pockets of Tea Makers, Assistant Tea Makers & local Mudalalies who deal in such teas at the expense of the genuine estate owner or factory owner. Otherwise what explanation can be offered for the phenomenal increase in production figures during the years 1957, 1958 and 1959 after the provisions of the Tea Control Act of 1957 came into operation?

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The members of the Special Committee referred to above are no doubt honourable men and nobody will question their honesty and integrity. But the fact remains that they have gone on the data placed before them by those interested in getting the ban on trafficking in refuse teas lifted without ascertaining the "fons et origo" of the "Refuse Tea Production" referred to in Mr. Haniffa's letter.

It is, therefore, in the fitness of things that all Estate-owners and manufacturers of tea should vehemently protest against the proposal to lift the ban on 'Refuse Tea' as any laxity on their part will spell disaster on the Tea Industry as a whole. The Tea Producers cannot get behind the fact that prices of Tea commenced to improve only after the Tea Act of 1957 passed into law.



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RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

THE eradication of racial prejudices and communal problems has been one of the major tasks of World Powers. Eruptions of all kinds have taken place all over the world that have bitterly embittered some and ashamed others.

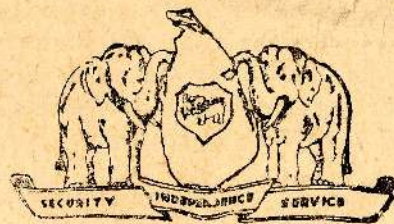
Ceylon has been no exception to this problem and the race riots which raged during the Bandaranaike Government was just one indication of what could happen and might happen if people were permitted to organise, run or confine themselves on a race or communal basis.

It is thus very necessary that Government immediately pass legislation to the effect that nothing be permitted to be done in any sphere of activity which would embitter one community or race against the other. The present legislation is not enough for it only envisages the spoken word with the motive of incitement. We go further and say that besides incitement and the spoken word, no one or group of people should be allowed to carry on any organization or activity based on communal or racial issues for such things can only create ill-will among the citizens of Ceylon.

Among the first group let us take Sports Organizations, Clubs and Bodies. A large number of the bigger, better and well known clubs such as the Sinhalese Sports Club, the Tamil Union Club, the Moors Sports Club, etc, have their membership open to people of all communities and races indicating very clearly that while people of one group may have started the club, they welcomed all other groups to membership. In other words membership is not confined to people of one particular race or group so that no antagonism of any kind could possibly spring up. Not so The Dutch Burgher Union, The Burgher Recreation Club, The Garden Club, where membership is confined to one particular group of people thereby denying an opportunity of freely mixing with the other races and communities of Ceylon and through the social activities of the club welding themselves into one big brother hood. Do we not tend to understand less of our fellow man if we keep apart from him?

Then we come to Business Firms. Very few people are aware that in Ceylon there exists a big Sterling Insurance Company who will accept premiums only from Europeans, but is yet staffed with Ceylonese. Why this differentiation? Or shall we say, why make the differentiation so obvious?

Let us now examine Mercantile Service problems. In the Staff Grade why is it that Ceylonese and Europeans of the same status and grade draw different salaries. What status upkeep money should Ceylonese provide to upkeep a European which a Ceylonese himself does not need? In these days of nationalism should not the Labour and Income Tax Department look into these aspects of expenditure and add back or penalise such Firms who pay extra money merely on account of the colour of ones skin. Of course we have no grouse against a foreign Expert be he black, white or yellow



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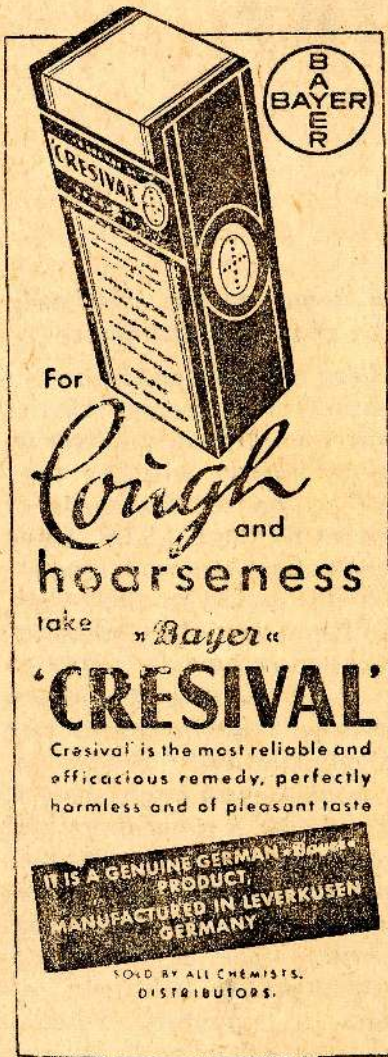
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In sickness we are all equal and it would be unthinkable for a Hospital to exist only for Sinhalese and another only for Tamils, yet there is a Hospital ONLY for Europeans. What is obnoxious about this place is the utter discrimination they make even in the case of Europeans who marry coloured people where they treat the white but will now allow the coloured in even as a visitor.

So long as we permit any race to cultivate any sense of superiority over the others we insult our own culture and breeding.

Do we coloured peoples of the world spread disease, contaminate on touch or so hideous to look at that we cannot be allowed to swim in the Pool with Europeans at the Colombo Swimming Club? Why is discrimination based on colour?

It is very necessary to rectify and remedy such matters before they become Political issues and create unpleasant ugly problems for all concerned just because few racialists of the other kind desire to be aloof in a glaring and an obnoxious manner

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Are such elaborate and official precautions taken with any other article of food or with any other beverage?

Downright Wholesome

The result is that beer is brewed to-day of a soundness and a character that would have been impossible a hundred or even fifty years ago. For these elaborate safeguards have served not only to improve the materials, to secure their purity, and to ensure that nothing that is not pure is ever used; but also to improve immeasurably the whole technique of brewing.

Consider the excellence and the beneficence of beer's ingredients: malt, made from the finest barley, for digestion; hops for appetite; sugar for energy, yeast for vitality. Was there ever anything so downright wholesome as this mild, luxurious, and heartening beverage—beer?

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MUSHROOM SHIRT FACTORIES

THE Shirt Industry has now more or less become a settled industry in Ceylon with several Factories producing Quality Goods comparable with the best of the imported products. So much so that Ceylonese have begun to turn to the Ceylon market in increasing numbers unlike other products where they still generally prefer the foreign item. To the credit of the local shirt Manufacturer it must be said that they have endeavoured to give the public a square deal by a constant process of experimentation and variation in accordance with the latest fashion trends and in keeping with the buying power of the shirt wearing public.

To maintain the high standard the latest machinery, devices and experts are required in their respective fields not to mention overseas tours to obtain first hand information of factors prevalent in the Shirt Market which could be usefully adapted to Ceylonese requirements. Thus a certain amount of overhead expenses are incurred for the benefit of the trade and eventual benefit of the customer.

A new menace has, however, crept in and that is those new Manufacturers with little or no market experience but an eye to quick profit at any cost, who market a grade of inferior shirts at sub standard prices because they have neither overheads of any kind or the desire to incur any as such for all that they are in for is a quick kill and retirement into another business venture.

How should their entry into the market affect established Manufacturers? As indicated earlier the established Manufacturers are presently marketing items which can hold their own against foreign competition of any kind. The Ceylonese public has begun to have a confidence and a respect for these products. These Mushroom Manufacturers will soon destroy the Goodwill created at great cost among the Ceylonese buying public. They will also lower the generally accepted standards of the product by compelling the established Manufacturer to come down in his prices which can only be

effected by cutting down on the overheads most of which will be of an essential nature.

Is there or is there not over production in the Local Shirt Industry? This is a matter that the Department of Industries will have to advise us about, but it is doubtful as to whether they have the machinery to do so. Standards of Production could be set by the C.I.S.I.R. based on minimum customer expectations and world standards, especially in regard to Shrinkage, Colour Fastness and Durability of the material. If these were adhered to the public would be protected, prices will resolve themselves around a figure which will have to incorporate the standards of production and the manufacturing firms will become more established. In the interests of the Public it is necessary that appropriate action be taken now to safeguard the Industry against exploitation by ruthless competitors rather than later after the damage has been done. Knowing, however, the inefficient way the Department of Industries sets about these matters, it is doubtful whether this appeal will either bear fruit or an acknowledgment of any kind.

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Permanent Secretary verses

Minister

A most curious situation has been boiling over for some time in the Ministry of Industries due to personal issues taking precedence over the Nations problems and in the melee the subordinates of the Department are confused as to whom they should back.

The Permanent Secretary who is on a fluid foundation at the moment is anxious to push through legislation for the introduction of a Quota System in the Hosiery Industry due to private vested interests of his. The Minister, however, in view of the Elections does not desire to be driven to making this decision as it is the consumer who will ultimately suffer by a rise in price, scarcity of the commodity and a lowering of the standard of these items.

As such there is lot of statistical and counter-statistical work prepared by both sides for and against this issue. For instance the Permanent Secretary endeavours to show cooked up figures supplied by his stooges that there is over-production in this Industry, waste of capital and inefficient organization while the Minister is well aware that two Hosiery Factories are selling all they make and can hardly meet the demand.

The Permanent Secretary counters with showing employment discharge figures of the other Factory and a reduction in their production while the Minister points out that the initial remedy lies in banning the importation of these products and stopping the registration of new factories in this field.

Triumphantly the Permanent Secretary brandishes the newly drafted Industrial Products Act but the Minister quite smartly points out that the ultimate purpose of the Act is to introduce the Quota System at all levels and hints that there is no ultimate solution in that

remedy as the Match Industry has proved a costly failure to the country.

In this way subtle moves are made from time to time with the Permanent Secretary even conspiring to have Deputations visit the Minister to urge his points of view but to no avail so far. This paper thanks the Ministry Officials who keep us informed of these moves and checks. As our readers will no doubt like to follow this episode to its gasty end, full facts will be appreciated when the problem is finally solved.

Talking of State Enterprises and the Quota System it may be pointed out that Timber Dealers are generally complaining that Orders placed by them with the Government Plywood Factory at Gintota so far back as in 1958 have not been executed as yet. So much for the impending Industrial Products Act and the Quota System, for the ultimate aim of Government is the appropriation of the Hosiery Industry without compensation, so that Government may only supply material for the making-up Departments of the Private Factories. If this was not the case then how can the Government explain its anxiety to worry about the Private Sectors Industrial effort when its own Industrial Machine is steadily going out of order, due to the Permanent Secretary concentrating only on the Hosiery Industry to the neglect of the other enterprises.

The Minister is aware that should he introduce the Quota System and thereby affect the man in the street by raising his cost of living, this point will immediately be taken up by his political opponents and made capital of. The Permanent Secretary is equally aware that if he does not get this Minister to introduce the Quota System, he is not likely to be able

to get the next Minister as he is unlikely to continue in the same office under the new Government.



ELECTIONS UNDER COMMUNISM



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At a time when much publicity is being centred on the question of peaceful competition between groups and nations with different social systems, it is opportune to examine some of the basic differences between society under Communism and society under what is often called Capitalism or free enterprise.

The fact that in free societies the individual is considered more important than the State, and in Communist countries the State comes first, is reflected in every sphere of life.

Take for example elections. According to Article 134 of the Soviet Constitution, representatives are chosen by electors on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot.

NO FREEDOM OF CHOICE

But as stated in the Moscow 1947 publication of Soviet Law, "all candidates without exception are nominated by the Communist and non-Party Bloc"; and members of this Bloc who are not members of the Communist Party must have proved their complete devotion to the Communist State.

In other words, there is no room in the Soviet Union for any party except the Communist Party. As a result there is no freedom of choice in the Soviet Union or its satellite states; elections serve only the purpose of giving dictatorially reached decisions an appearance of popular approval. They are held not in order to let public opinion express itself but to approve Communist Party decisions.

This goal is achieved by a carefully planned procedure which involves a single-party ticket, a strenuous one party electoral campaign and a strictly supervised "secret" ballot openly cast, and a vote-counting method which guarantees the results of the election.

IN PARTY HANDS

Superficially the provisions for ensuring free and fair elections in the Soviet Union and its satellites are made to appear scrupulous but

but close study of the electoral laws reveals that behind the facade of "universal, equal, direct and secret" elections, control and selection of candidates are securely in the hands of the Communist Party.

The Communist Party and its leaders claim to represent the working class but since there is no freedom of election from below they do not in fact represent the voters or the people. To speak of the Soviet Union as a workers' State is thus incorrect; it is a Party leaders' State, and all this results in little personal freedom for the Soviet citizen.

In a free society, however, a freely elected government serves the people and this emphasis underlies all aspects of government; if the electorate consider that the Government has ceased to serve their interests machinery exists for them to change it through their elected representatives in Parliament, or whatever the legislative body may be called. The method of electing representatives in Britain is through

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the party system which has existed in one form or another since the seventeenth century, and has become an essential element in the working of the Constitution.

DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM

The present system is based on the existence of organised political parties, each laying rival policies before the electorate. Whenever there is a general election these parties may all put up candidates for election.

The electorate then indicates by its choice of candidate at the poll on election day, which of the various policies it would like to see put into effect. The party which wins the majority of seats at a general election forms the Government.

The minority becomes the official Opposition with its own leader and its own council of discussion or "shadow Cabinet", while the members of any other parties or Independents elected may support the Government or the Opposition, according to their party's or their own view of the Government's policy.

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PLANNED WASTAGE

IS the Government and Public aware that there is a person who deliberately plans the wastage of this country in various ways. His sole endeavour in life appears to be playing the fiddle between two people of the same name, one in Government Service and the other who styles himself as an Industrialist but who is really both out dated and antiquated. One calls the tune and the other professes to lead deputations representing thousands of down-trodden workers in his own and allied industries, over whom he wishes to concern himself with.

His idea of providing employment is to create unemployment among his competitors so that added employment may be created in his own undertakings. Where subtle and tested means fail to create the necessary unemployment he goes on bended knee but with gnashing teeth to his erstwhile kinsman in Government service, and plans and conspires all sorts of ruses and devices both official and otherwise for the downfall of his competitors.

Having hatched a plan they call in the scapegoat who may be referred to as the Director of Wastage and instruct him in his duties. Scratching his balding head and steadying his trembling knee he agrees lest he be transferred as Commissioner of the Salt Depot at Hambantota Back goes our Director of Wastage to his snug office under another name and writes out copious instructions to his subordinates to stifle, kill, annihilate, destroy, wreck, and break down the dastardly firms who threatens the peace of his travels abroad. Frothing and foaming and sometimes even ranting, he pants out accusations, directives and orders in the same breath until the air is clouded with invectives at those who dare to criticize him.

(Continued on page 13)

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Planned Wastage

(Continued from page 11)

Then in stalks the supposed Industrialist with a kill or sure remedy which is generally a kill in his favour. Let us raise the wholesale price on this he says purringly and let us restrict the importation of that he says with a leer. There is too little of this he adds hastily and too much of the other he sighs. What we poor industrialists have to put up with and how annoying these competitors are.

Shelve their applications, call for meetings postpone decisions, oppose their statistics, discredit their theories, these and a number of other subterfuges are suggested into the ever listening ear of the Director of Wastage and as a duck takes to water, these suggestions emanate in a series of Orders. The day of reckoning is not too distant so we wish the Director of Wastage and his Industrial bed-fellow a short sweet stay.

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From Our Correspondents

Top Hat and Plume Hat

THE top hat has been responsible for some dirty work and intrigue in the past. There has not been, however, a scramble for the 'Tip-Top' Hat as during the general election just concluded. The political heads of 5 parties made bids for it. If we are to be guided by a well-known cartoonist there seems to be a dark horse being groomed for the purpose. It is said that blood is thicker than water. Who else but a blood relation of the late Premier Bandaranaike is more fitted to carry out the Bandaranaike policy which the SLFP wants to do?

The cartoonist has shown in a recent production of his, a female figure under the Plume Hat. Are these shadows of coming events? or an indication that the wish is father to the thought? How is it that those who wanted the term of office of the Governor-General terminated as speedily as possible as warranted by the Constitution, so eager to prevent the Governor-General vacating his office? Is it to prevent any aristocrat getting into "Queen's House" at a time when a peasant and workers government is in the offing?

MAD HATTER

Beneath the Surface

IT is said that beauty is only skin deep. When the skin is peeled off all the beauty vanished. Our editors, without exception, have hailed the election as a condemnation of Marxists—Troskyites, Lenninists, Stalinists. They are perfectly right so far as the focus is on the skin. Have our editors looked beneath the surface? What about the pseudo marxists—red wolves in sheep's clothing? Did Ceylon prior to the assumption of office by the MEP-SLFP and VL SSP ever reach such a chaotic and low state of moral, economic etc degradation? This party has secured a great number of seats, though not in the intelligent and educated areas. Tears and sentiment may have been contributory factors but the fact remains that they won a large number of seats. The appeal of the patron, leader etc. of that party was to be allowed to continue the policy of the late Prime Minister which brought Ceylon to this State which is deplored by all right thinking men in and out

of the island. Is Ceylon going to allow the remnants of the Bandaranaike government to continue the late P.M.'s policy that ruined Ceylon? The SLFP from a numerical point of view is unable, even at the best, to run the government. Shall Ceylon allow the pseudo Marxists of the SLFP to combine with the real Marxists, whom the country condemned in no uncertain voice, and bring red ruin to this Country?

ORA PRO NOBIS

Love that passeth all understanding

WHILE the last Parliament was functioning, all brands of Reds had overtly as well as covertly stated or insinuated very unkind things about the Governor-General. Some even went so far as to suggest that the tenure of his office should be terminated with the least possible delay. Isn't it ludicrous nay, incongruous, for the self-same people in the present parliament to pose as the champions opposing the alleged attempt to remove the Governor-General.

O TEMPORA O MORES

Consequences of a Cult

THE few samples of coined Sinhala words by the followers of Munidasa Kumaratunga mentioned in the letter of 'Rasika' in the Daily Ndw's of 2.3.60, are interesting, if not funny.

A candidate for Parliament is Pelamatuva Patuva. I would like to see the reaction of one of these 'Patuvas'—there are several hundreds of them today—if addressed or referred to as such.

Another coined phrase is appropriate enough. I would like to see it altered to "Kudira Karen" so as to give the Tamils a reasonable use of their language many Patuvas talk about.

In the meantime will those Pundits refrain from coining more words. The Sinhala Language is rich enough without the interference of these Pundits.

Wellawatte

D. L. WELIKALA

The Opening of a Bridge

SOME amusement was provided by a Cabinet Minister who had taken umbrage as a former Cabinet Minister had dared to open a bridge which the former had set his heart to declare open, and did "open" it a second time. At the second opening he is reported to have said that the latter had no right to "open" that

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bridge as he was not even a common M P. The Minister should not have stopped further action after the second opening, but should have gone a step further by rounding up those people who used that bridge in between the two openings and forced them go back and come again the same way as the first opening was illegal and unauthorized. The Police will be able to round up those illegal users of the bridge and have them charged with Criminal Trespass.

However it is a nice thing—this second opening—as it provides some fun for the newspaper reading public to relieve the dull monotony of election promises and abuse. I believe there are about ten candidates who expect to be the Prime Minister. No amusement can be derived from their promises, but only from the abusive epithets used by some of them.

I take my hat off to the Minister of Justice who vetoed the formal opening of a circuit court at Jaala and requested the Magistrate to mount the bench and start hearing cases. I hope the Ministers of the next Government will follow his example without all the tomfoolery with silk ribbons, scissors, brass lamps and garlands to be followed up with Political propaganda and crowing over the defeated parties.

D. L. WELIKALA

IS GOVERNMENT CONNIVING AT A MILK RACKET?

THE Government in the recent past has been known to encourage, unconsciously perhaps, many a racket. Thanks, however, to a vigilant Press, THE SEARCHLIGHT especially, such rackets were exposed and smashed up. Our attention has been drawn to, what appears to be, another racket. This time in connection with Dried Milk, reference to which was made in the previous issue of this paper. In the present we return to the subject with detailed criticism in the hope that the authorities concerned will take action and put the lid on it before it assumes the nature of a scandal.

GOVERNMENT PREFERENCE FOR VITA MILK

Information has reached us that certain Doctors in Private Practice had been prevailed upon, rightly or wrongly, to pronounce a favourable opinion on an Imported Dried Milk known as VITA MILK, a New Zealand Product, we understand. This milk is exclusively imported by the Co-operative and Wholesale Establishment. It is said to contain a high percentage of nutriment and therefore, recommended for children and adults. But strange enough, it does not at all claim to be a superior product to any one of the better known Dried Milk Foods in the local market. If so the manufacturers of VITA MILK should publish a Test Report or Certificate from recognised Analysts, a Doctor or Doctors, so that the public on the strength of such a testification can buy that milk in preference to other Dried Milks which have stood competition on the grounds of quality.

VITA MILK SALES PUSHED UP BY GOVERNMENT

What the public desires to know, and it has a right to know, is why the C.W.E. is boosting VITA MILK and pushing up its sales through the aid of Government agencies and at the expense of the general taxpayer—a privilege not accorded to other milks imported by business houses in this country. Here there are certain

features surrounding this special attempt and treatment in creating a market for VITA MILK that strikes us as somewhat inexplicable, nay altogether queer. It is ununderstandable why Government shows a preference and accords partiality for VITA MILK by selling it through the Government Controlled Milk Depots to the detriment of other Brands.

GOVERNMENT'S 'DRINK MORE MILK' CAMPAIGN

Our readers will remember that a short time back, Government felt that the people of Ceylon were undernourished and therefore was advised to set up a Milk Board and to provide the public with every facility to consume more milk and fresh Cow's Milk at that. With this object in view, it appointed the present Milk

(Continued on page 20)

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THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES

If there is one Department in Government which could rightly be proud of their personnel, it is the Department of Industries. For here gathered under one organization are a group whose pulse is on the life and growth of the country. A group under whose care and nurture the development and expansion of this country is carefully guided and directed.

The responsibility of their duties is evident in conversations with the executives of this Department, each of whom has quietly specialised in various fields so as to make himself more useful and capable of understanding the many intricate problems involved in the various fields of Industry. Every one of these Executives realizes the immensity of their responsibility and the importance of their direction and devoted to these factors many of them seek responsible advice or consult authoritative sources so that their rulings on intricate matters, their suggestion on detail and their meticulous concern for the final outcome will be devoid of discrimination, prejudice or any type of criticism from any quarter.

Not so the one man who heads the Department who thinks there is nothing more to be learnt by him in the numerous fields of Industry the Department overlooks. So little does he think of Industrial Development that he has taken over additional duties in other fields so that he may guide them during the large amount of spare time at his disposal. Industrial Development in this country is at the cross roads of history and unless men with unfettered sincerity are at the helm of affairs many unpleasant things are bound to happen. If this man is out for power and prestige may we humbly request the Government to Knight him and retire him so that one of his more devoted subordinates

may direct affairs full time instead of in the part time haphazard manner the Department is being looked after at present. The sad part is that gallivanting around the world on obvious issues seems to be the past time of this individual. If at least Ceylon gets some tangible results from these excursions there might be some excuse but the poor manufacturers and industrialists in Ceylon seem to be no better off than they were before as a result of these Innumerable Conferences.

Unlike India where the Industries Department threw the Book of Rules at the GATT Members and decided that self-industrialization, self-preservation and self-determination were more important to their Industrial Development than any Rules or Agreements between the GATT Countries, Ceylon meekly follows orders and directions handed it by the GATT Members thereby frustrating its manufacturers and industrialists who find themselves in the peculiar position of having to fight Government in an effort to increase their industrial output and Ceylonize products in Ceylon. How unpatriotic this all appears may simply be gathered by a comparison in the method of approach between the Government of India's Industrial Department and ours. The difference really lies in the minds of its directing officials rather than in their procedure. And to this end there is a lot of improvement possible in the person directing our Industries Dept.

The sad part is that he views efforts of manufacturers to increase their production as an affront to his directive ability and Ceylon being such a small country personal prejudices which may thus spring up may cause the ruin of a manufacturer just because he cannot get over the petty obstructions placed in his path by Departmental Officials.

To the credit of the Department, however, it must be said that the Executives are doing a good job of work, but the bottleneck is at the TOP.

(x)



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Is Government Conniving at a Milk Racket

(Continued from page 15)

Board and provided it with a large sum of public money to conduct Milk Depots all over the country to which Fresh Cow's Milk from Government dairies and those conducted by Co-operative Societies, was supplied in bulk. With vast quantities of such milk being made available to the public, why is Government so concerned in selling VITA MILK at these Milk Depots which were opened solely to supply fresh cow's milk to the public and at moderate prices?

GOVERNMENT'S OBVIOUS PARTIALITY

If Government considers VITA MILK to be superior to other Dried Milks it is welcome to patronise and encourage its use and sale to the public independently of the Milk Depots. But it has no right, nay, it is unjustifiable for Government to use the medium of the Milk Board and its Depots to boost a particular milk. That would be showing a distinct partiality. Besides it is unfair, grossly unfair, to the various importers of recognised Milk Foods manu-

factured abroad, who have good cause to complain against Government's obvious partiality for a particular brand of Dried Milk and for the product of a manufacturer or manufacturers who, let it be said, are not known locally and prefers to remain in the background letting a Government establishment in Ceylon to boost and sell it. Would not the public in these circumstances suspect, or have reasons for suspecting, that a Milk Racket is on and at which the Government is conniving?

Language Dept. takes over

THE Cultural Affairs Ministry has directed that the Sinhalese Encyclopaedia which is being compiled by the Bauddha Mandalaya be taken over by the Official Language Department in Colombo.

For the last four years this work was being carried out at the University at Peradeniya under the chairmanship of Professor D. E. Hettiarachi.

The first volume of the Encyclopaedia has already been published. The reason for the transfer is that when this work comes under the Official Language Department the staff engaged in the work will have greater security of service under the government.

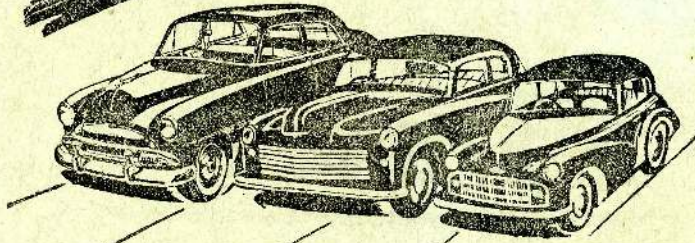
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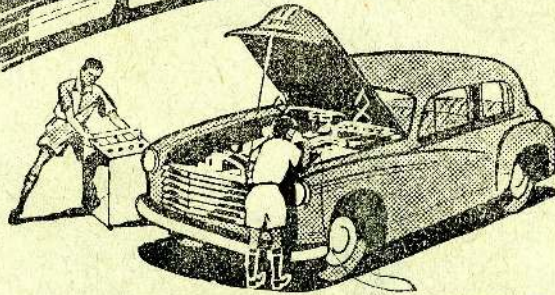
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