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AS A NEWSPAPER

# The SEARCHLIGHT

39th YEAR OF ESTABLISHMENT

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COLOMBO

APRIL 30th 1960

## THE HANDICRAFT EXHIBITION

**T**HE recent Handicraft Exhibition sponsored by the Department of Rural Development which was held at the Art Gallery raises several very interesting matters which require us to study closely the purpose and aims of such an Exhibition.

The Organization and Arrangement of the Exhibition was excellent. To the Casual Buyer and the Curious On-looker it was a Paradise for the simple reason that the items on sale there were delightful in pattern, colour and harmony and extremely moderately priced. To the commercially minded visitor a whole host of questions presented themselves, none of which drew satisfactory answers and if the purpose of the Exhibition was to foister these various Handicrafts through the Private Sector, then



it failed in its purpose in that it was unable to present Statistical and Analytical information for the use of the Commercial Investor of any type.

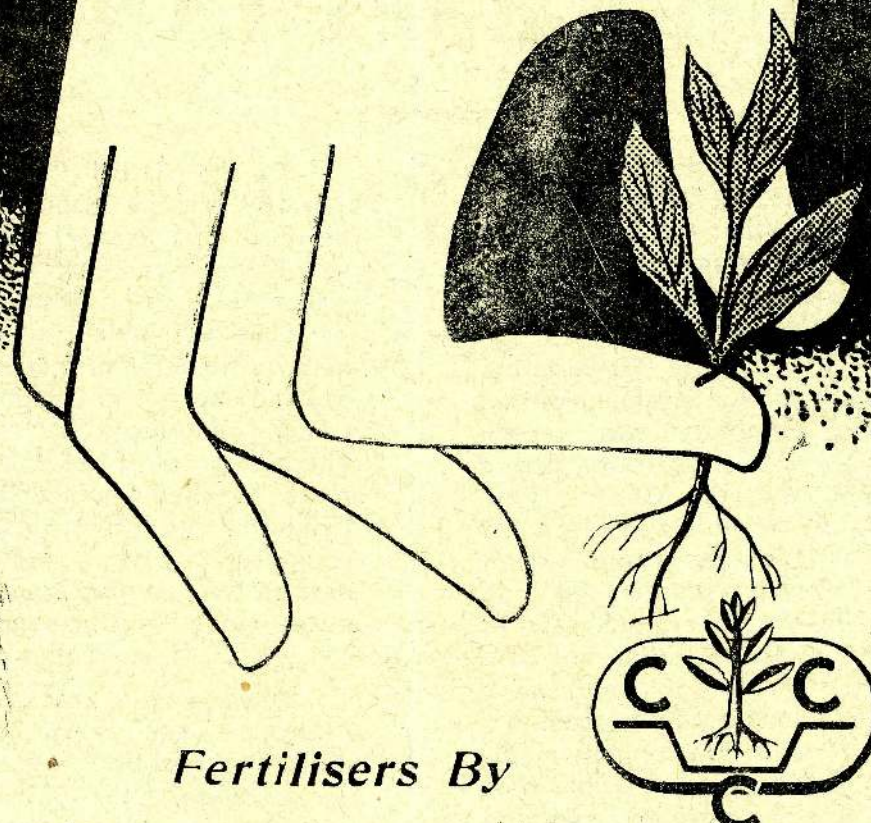
To the Casual Observer it might have appeared that the beautiful items on view were the result of a steady planned production in healthy well-run Centres, whereas in point of reality the position was just the reverse and the items on sale represented heavily subsidised Government efforts produced at badly equipped and poorly run Centres where progress in training and output had long since stagnated. The best proof of the problem is that none of these so called Centres who participated in the Exhibition turn out regularly completely trained apprentices who could either go into business on their own or join with others for the purpose of producing what they are supposed to have learnt, for Commercial benefit.

It was evident that some of these items on Exhibition were comparable with the best of similarly imported products available in the best of shops in the City. The price factor was extremely competitive in that the Items were well worth the prices indicated. All this was excellent from the view of the Casual Observer. But as indicated earlier the commercially minded visitor realised that the low prices were directly due to the heavy subsidy received from

(Continued on page 9)

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VOL 39 NO. 8

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April 31st 1960

## TRANSFER THE DIRECTOR

**W**E strongly suggest that the Director of Industries be transferred forthwith to the Tourist Department where his services could be immediately put to use in fields where he has had personal practical experience.

The Tourist Bureau needs men who can advise them on problems connected with Travel Health, Hotels, Currency, Tipping, Food, Exchange, Sight-seeing and the like and as the Director is not second to roving Raju, his nomination to the Tourist Bureau will be a real asset to them.

After all it is obvious that the Director has little or no time for the Industrial Development of this country as otherwise our progress would not be so lop sided as it is and our Schemes so haphazard and ridiculous as they are now. To take an example let us examine the Carpentry Workshop at Velona, Moratuwa started under the aegis of the Industries Department. Here young trainees are given an excellent grounding in the most up-to-date electrical and power driven carpentry units and after their course of training are expected to go forth and fend for themselves. How exactly they are supposed to do this without the expensive electrical units to work with is not the concern of the Department. Of course the Department will come up with the answer that they are being trained for ten further such Centres to be opened, but the question then arises what do the trainees from these ten centres do upon the completion of their Courses? So you see it is very necessary that that the

Director be transferred to a Department where his known knowledge could be utilised better.

To take another example let us examine the Doll Making Centre at Lunawa run by the Industries Department. Here you find a small and gallant group desperately trying to meet the requirements of the various Doll Centres all over the Island. A little more capital and a little more interest would transform the Centre into a very profitable undertaking, but then the Director has never found it convenient to visit this place and go into its workings and hence his transfer out of the Department would help the Industry in the long run.

Then there is the Gluco Rasa or Jujub Factory at Moratuwella. Here indeed is an enterprise which requires every encouragement and

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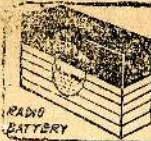
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support for they are producing quality sweets, attractively packed and reasonably priced. But has the Director ever thought of giving such a Private Enterprise his personal assistance or blessing? Instead of which they are subject to every type of questionnaire and investigation by the Department without any constructive help for them. A Director who is incapable of helping Private Enterprise side by side with Government effort, is an obstruction to the industrialization and economy of this Island.

One has only to visit the Government Warehouses and Stores where the stock-piling of sarongs is taking place to understand what a public waste of money is being indulged in just



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because the Director cannot find a solution out of the muddle. Sarongs stacked to the ceiling are attacked by the rats from the roof and white ants from the floor, perishing by the hundreds, but is the Director worried? Not he, for after all it is not his money. We need a Director who is conscious of the difficult times this country is going through or else we would have failed in our duty by continuing to let him be in office.

JOHN CITIZEN DISCOVERS  
**WHY** beer is best

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

**EXPERT** Certainly, anything you like.

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

**EXPERT** I certainly do.

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

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

**CITIZEN** And why are hops used?

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

**CITIZEN** Antiseptic?

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

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

**EXPERT** Surely you don't need an expert on 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, at 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 knowledges of food values has increased enormously. Our ancestor drank beer by instinct and tradition. Now dietetic research has proved that their instinct and the tradition were sound. While other drinks come and go, beer remains and is by far the most wholesome drink in the world.

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

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NUWARA ELIYA

# Transfer the Permanent Secretary

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It is generally good for more reasons than one that there should be frequent changes among the positions of Permanent Secretaries in order to eliminate corruption, embarrassment and also that new views on old problems may be considered. This rule has been acceptably followed among all the Ministries to their good, excepting where the Ministry of Industries, where the Permanent Secretary is trying to become an Institution in himself. It would be a gross libel on the Staff of the Ministry if it was ever inferred that the Ministry could not function without him as each and every officer there is a specialist in his own sphere even though this fact may be decried by the Permanent Secretary.

It must be made clear that no one is indispensable and if there existed such a person it would be a severe reflection on the Minister concerned who might be made to appear as uninformed unless the Permanent Secretary was there to guide him. In this context it may be said that the present Minister has shown his ability and capability and it is very much doubted by the Public that credit for what has been done so far should in any way go to the Permanent Secretary.

If the Permanent Secretary is there to tender advice, conserve our Capital and direct Industry to where it will serve the Island best, then lapses on his part will bring discredit to the Minister and thereby lose himself and his Party many valuable votes especially when capital is squandered or bad Policies enacted by persons other than him. To give an example it may be pointed out that a State owned Rubber Tyre and Tube Factory at Kelaniya is being set up by the Ministry of Industries. This is a thirty million rupee project. Ceylon Imports which represents its consumption is a 120,000 tyres and 80,000 tubes annually. Yet the first stage of this new Factory is estimated to produce 258,000 tyres and an equal number of tubes, the second stage 600,000 tyres and an equal number of tubes by 1967. Can you beat that for sheer waste of capital in the over pro-

duction of an item we are unlikely to require for the next twenty years. It is useless talking of exports to our closest neighbour India, is a closed market to us leaving as open markets only the Maldives, Laccadive and Cocos Islands as our best customers. Does not this kind of advice and planning bring discredit to the Minister, his Department and the Government generally? Or could it be that he is a stooge of another Political Party who has set out to wreck the Government from within while his friends do it from without.

On the other hand this same Permanent Secretary is crying out aloud that there is over production in the Hosiery Industry just because one Factory is able to sell their goods and the other Factories cannot. Is it not clear evidence of prejudiced thinking? There is now a move on his part to force the Hosiery Manufacturers

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to form a Cartel, raise their prices, inaugurate a Quota System so that the prices cannot come down and then there are other rumours and rumours which do not do the Minister or Ministry any credit. It is, therefore, apparant that the Permanent Secretary be removed before the Minister falls a victim to long term planning both against himself personally and the Government he represents.

The Minister of Trade has removed the Import Duty on Watches, while the Minister of Industries has just set up plans for the establishment of a fifteen million rupee Watch Factory by West Germany. Does this not show a lack of planning and co-ordination between the two Permanent Secretaries or a studied indifference by the Secretary to the Ministry of Industries by not keeping his counterpart informed of moves contemplated?

Take for instance the lop sided view of this Permanent Secretary when he says that there is overproduction in the Hosiery Industry and yet permits the establishment of new Hosiery Factories and permits the unrestricted importation of foreign Hosiery Products.—True



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such improtation is in the more expensive grades, but has he not heard of such a thing as conservation of capital and over-production in Ceylon. Our people should be made to accustom themselves to an inferior product in the overalls saving of our external assets. After all are we not doing it in the Match Industry, i.e. accustoming ourselves to a very inferior product

## THE M.P. FOR MORATUWA

By M. R. Fernando

**E**VEN though Mr Maurice Ruskin Fernando entered the political arena four months prior to the General Elections, it is to his credit that he defeated a seasoned opponent such as Merril Fernando and won the Moratuwa Seat which has always been a domain of the Left since the achievement of Independence.

In Mr. Fernando's case, however, the desire to be an M. P. only was not his aim and subsequent events have proved that his sincerity to serve his electorate was not only genuine but also motivated with a zeal seldom exhibited by a Parliamentarian.

Among the first things throughly investigated by him was the condition of the Lunawa Hospital whose condition is deplorable due to lack of essential ammenties, equipment and staff. Making a detailed study of these problems he saw the Minister of Health who has promised him every assistance within his power. Among the items which will be promptly granted are

- (a) Extensions to the Administration Block.
- (b) Parapet Walls
- (c) Quarters for the Minor Staff
- (d) Building for Stores
- (e) Waiting Hall
- (f) Extra Staff and a number of other items too numerous to mention here.

Looking into the Social Service side of the town he has asked for a Free Milk Feeding Centre for the Fisherfolk, an Extra Grant for the Home for the Aged, the Establishment of an Orphanage, the Opening of an Ayurvedic Dispensary and a Planned Parenthood Centre for advice and guidance.

Being primarily an Industrialist his main problem has been to obtain for Moratuwa as many industrial facilities so as to remove unemployment, raise the living standards and provide an equitable economy for all concerned. In discussions with the Minister of Industries,

Fisheries and Labour the following concessions were obtained through their implementation will take a little time due to the paucity of Government finances. The establishment of a Fisheries Harbour and the construction of piers out to sea so that mechanised fishing boats may be used has been the prior concern of the Ministry and Mr. Fernando. In conjunction with this a Housing Scheme for Fishermen, together with Ice Room facilities are part of the set-up. For the public the immediate establishment of a guaranteed price Fish Stall has been sanctioned. For the Carpenters of Moratuwa the establishment of a Saw Mill, a guaranteed price Timber Depot and a Housing Scheme which had never been envisaged for this group. For both Groups the opening of a Co-operative Store where their implements and tackle may be bought on an instalment plan are also under consideration.

For the other Crafts, Mr. Fernando has requested for and will probably obtain a Pottery Centre for the Thelawala area, a Handicraft School in another part of the Town and even possibly an Animal Husbandry and Poultry School. Show Room Facilities in Colombo for the finished goods of Carpenters and the Handicraft Schools are also being investigated.

From the Minister of Food and the Minister of Home Affairs, promises have been obtain-

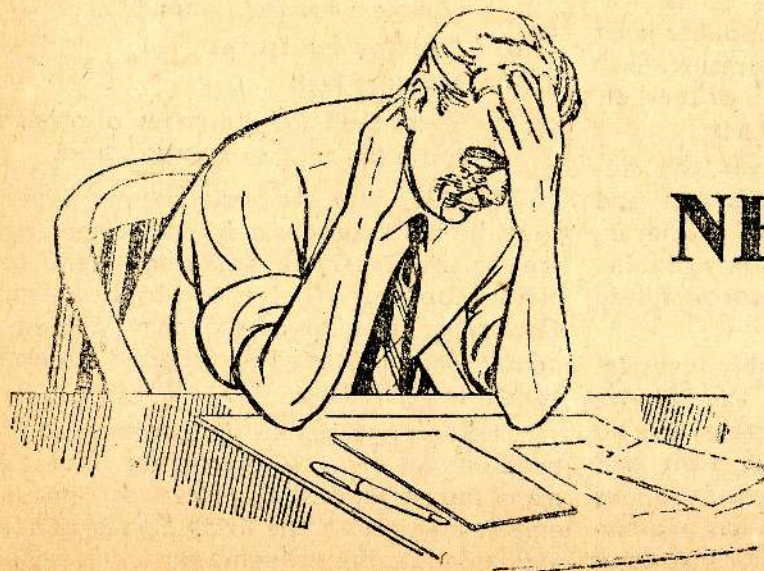
ed for the establishment of a Guaranteed Price Fruit and Vegetable Stall at the Central Market on the same lines as the Tripoli, construction of more Public Wells and Latrines and even Bathing Places.

From the Minister of Commerce and Trade a request has been made to reduce or eliminate the Customs Duty on all tools and tackle used by Fishermen and Carpenters and also to reduce the Duty on Mechanised Fishing Boats.

A request has also been made to the Minister of Transport and Posts for the construction of a Bridge parallel to the Railway Bridge between Angulana and Lunawa and also for a Bridge connecting Egoda Uyana with Panadura. Besides this a request for more Sub Post Offices erection of more Pillar Boxes and covered Bus Stands have also been asked for.

From this very impressive list of demands, requests and obtained assurances it is obvious that the new M.P. is a go ahead, progressive person who has not been content to rest on his laurels but rather dedicate himself to the welfare of the Town he represents. Indeed he is a shining example of a model M.P. and we wish him a successful future as we are sure that the Town of Moratuwa is in safe hands with him at the helm of affairs.

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## The Handicraft Exhibition

[Continued from cover page]

Government in the manufacture of these items and as such was no comparison to actual cost of the product. As such it is necessary to find out what really is the purpose of an Exhibition of such nature? Is it to show the public that with a subsidy items could be produced at this price or was it to show the culture and art capable of our rural folk irrespective of the cost involved. If the latter was the purpose then the Government must permanently saddle itself with the recurring liability of a large subsidy in order to keep our cultural flag flying. If the purpose was the former, then, a complete re-organization of the costing system is necessary in order to assess the real value and price of the items placed before the Public.

There is no doubt that great ingenuity, skill and workmanship were displayed at this Exhibition and it is our hope that these skills will improve but improve in a manner that will make it possible for others who do not receive a subsidy from Government to engage themselves profitably in the manufacture of these Handicrafts.

The Centres at which these items are produced are in most cases very primitive and the

machinery and apparatus used is old fashioned, cumbersome and inconvenient for the high speed production required in these modern times. The buildings, housing these centres are more often than not in a state of decay and it would be well if the Industrial Research Centre at Velona attempted to device new and modern apparatus to do the job in half the time at quarter the cost rather than continuing to train those interested with apparatus which has long past its era of production.

A great future lies ahead for the Handicrafts of Ceylon provided sufficient Funds were made available to the Department of Rural Development to improve and enlarge upon its programme of activities so as to turn out and train larger and more commercially minded Trainees who will not have to depend on Government Subsidies for the sale of their items.

## One and a Half Lakhs of Rupees Obtained by Forged Vouchers

### Bogus Contractors Menace in the Land Development Department

INFORMATION has reached *The Searchlight* that the giving out of contracts, for felling jungle and clearing and the erection of dwellings, by the Land Development Department has opened the door wide for grave abuses. According to our information a big fraud has been discovered and a total sum of Rs 1,49,000/- it is alleged, drawn. The perpetrators of this swindle are unknown.

It is the normal practice for a Contractor who has tendered and succeeded in having his tender accepted and given a contract, or contracts to submit a voucher for any work that had duly been carried out for payment. When such a voucher reaches the proper quarters it is passed on to some officer or officers, to inspect the works, check up and if correct certify to its correctness when only payment is ordered. Several such vouchers it is said, had been submitted and after verification payment obtained.

It now transpires that all these vouchers are said to be bogus and forged and those who are supposed to have checked and passed them as "Correct," state that the signature or initials attached to them is not theirs. They further state that they never handled either the said vouchers or inspected such work. However, several officers, we hear, have been suspended and further investigations are being made.

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# A NEW DEAL FOR BEGGARS

BY A. E. GUNAWARDENA

**A**BOUT twenty five years ago a beggar of Nawalapitiya with unshaven beard and usual unkempt appearance approached an English railway official for alms. He was chased off in the characteristic English manner and asked to come after shaving his beard. The beggar did it and promptly received a rupee from the Englishman. It was the typical attitude of an Englishman, though seemingly unkind yet full of good intention and interest in men. An Englishman hates to see people dirty even if it were a beggar. The Sinhalese people on the contrary wishes a beggar to look a real beggar by being dirty, ragged and miserable. Most beggars dread to look clean and pleasant for fear of loosing alms and because of this uncharitable attitude beggars appear everywhere looking the worst possible.

As a rule beggars should not and would not exist in a proper welfare state. A proper welfare state would attend to the dregs of society first. Beggars spoil society with their demeanour and dirtiness. Beggars in Ceylon have increased in large numbers during the last five years or so and it has been due to poverty, hardship and unemployment. Beggars are a good indication of a country's prosperity and progress. When beggars increase it truly shows the country is poor and when beggars diminish that the country is prosperous. During the prosperous period of the Japanese War of 1941-46 there were hardly any beggars because it was a period of real prosperity with full employment and an excellent system of food rationing. It was even difficult then for almsgivers to find beggars to give their alms. Beggary is therefore not inherent in the social system of the country and has become a convenient trade because of the bad circumstances and all the air of misery and dirt is only a make up put on by beggars to win sympathy and some charity.

What is bad about beggary is that it has become a distinct menace today as it mars the beauty of a town and the brightness of its shopping centres. Beggars also scare prospective tourists from Europe, Japan and America who generally have a high aesthetic sense and keep to high standards of hygiene and cleanliness. On the other hand Ceylonese have a

false notion that tourism in Ceylon could be improved by having big and expensive hotels these are not a great novelty. Our Rest Houses and Guest houses are more than sufficient to meet the needs of tourists if the service is improved and a high standard of cleanliness is maintained. And again just cleanliness in rest-houses would not be sufficient without their environments being clean too. If the towns and its environments are cleaner and people generally better clad Ceylon could veritably be a Tourist Paradise but none of it could be ever achieved with the existing beggar complex.

In most European countries beggars do not exist in the manner of mendicants found here. Beggars are prohibited from asking direct help but should instead hawk something as postcards, cigarettes etc. Such a thing could easily be done in Ceylon too to rehabilitate beggars and help them lead useful lives. When

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## FIRST PORTRAIT OF BABY PRINCE ANDREW

(x)

This charming photograph of Princess Anne holding her new baby brother is one of the first portraits to be taken of Prince Andrew. The portrait was taken in the Music Room at Buckingham Palace by Mr. Cecil Beaton, the well-known photographer and designer. The Queen and Prince Philip have chosen the names Andrew Albert Christian Edward for their third child, who was born at Buckingham Palace on February 19. The first two names are those of his grandfathers—Prince Andrew, of Greece and King George VI of England. The third and fourth are of his great-great-greater grandfather King Christian IX of Denmark and of his great-great-grandfather King Edward VII.



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the beggar is raised to the level of a hawker the repercusory effects offset would be a general rise in the level and standard of the old hawker, the established trader and so forth. The whole matter of re-habilitating beggars rests with the state and municipal legislators who have merely to pass the necessary laws and watch the automatic be avior thereafter. Social service organisations like the Salvation Army, the Home for the Aged and the Nalanda College Social Service League do a great deal no doubt to prevent and rescue people from beggary but private organisations with slender resources cannot be expected to attend to a social problem of such magnitude created by poor economic conditions and the general attitude of the people

However, in a small country like Ceylon, with its moderate population of 9,000,000 it is not impossible to eradicate mendicancy completely were it for bigger questions remaining unsolved like the constant infiltration of destitutes from South India and the idea of merit through alms. A strong modern state should be capable of settling the vexed questions and for good. An efficient Navy and Air Force can keep a foolproof check on destitute infiltrations into the country and a proper wel-

fare state through increased industry and opportunity of work can induce self-respect among beggars so that they will not be convenient objects of charity or a social menace.

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# RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

"CEYLONESE" Writes—

In the article 'Racial Discrimination' in your issue of 31st March 1960, the paragraph about hospitals, beginning "In sickness we are all equal" and ending 'even as a visitor' contains statements which show that your contributor is misinformed. It is true that there is a hospital in Colombo (only one) for the treatment of Europeans. Your contributors mention of this institution contains an implied, though not explicit, condemnation of this limitation. But if, (as is the case of the only hospital he can mean), it was founded by European subscriptions and donations, where lies the objection? Nobody could object if a self supporting hospital was founded solely for Singhalese or, of one particular caste

However the main point of the paragraph, appears to be the statement that in the particular hospital concerned, a coloured visitor to a European patient is banned, even though that coloured visitor should be the Husband or Wife

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of an European patient. This is simply not true, as I know from my personal knowledge, and I can produce supporting statements, sworn if necessary, from known and respectable people.

I am sure that with your deserved reputation for fairness and impartiality, you will give this statement as much publicity as the article which it criticises.

I am not connected directly or indirectly with the management or administration of the hospital in question.

## Cinema Review

"**A** RSENIC AND OLD LACE" shown in Colombo at the Liberty Cinema is an unusual production of Warner Bros. in which all the fun and mirth are the entire doing of the actors and the director so much so that veritable tragedy is turned into real comedy full of crazy situations. Famous stars like Cary Grant, Raymond Massey, Edward Everett Horton, and Peter Lorre who are in it also give nostalgic reminiscences of brilliant acting of the past. Cary Grant appears as young Brewster who in spite of his sensational book criticising marriage as a fraud marries himself nevertheless as unnoticed as possible. But before he could make his romantic honeymoon he confronts the strange behaviour of Arsenic and Old Lace when he realises that his two endearing old aunts in heavily laced clothes have merrily poisoned off a visitor of theirs with a little arsenic in wine and without any bother propose to bury the victim in the cellar among eleven other similar victims. A grand accomplice to this funny business is the queer uncle who imagines himself President and announces with trumpet accompaniments that he is off to the Panama and in full tropical kit and spade digs the "Panama Canal" in the cellar. Brewster goes completely off his gear with all this dangerous nonsense around him and does his best to save his demoralised family by lodging them in a sanatorium

and finding a death certificate. In the meanwhile Brewster's long lost sinister brother with a surgical face and 12 murders on his part (Raymond Massey) and his face surgeon (Peter Lorre) provide macabre thrills and try a face change on Brewster after catching and tying him up. The beat police intervenes in the nick of time and mystery quickly gets unfolded and Brewster learns to his joy that he is not a true born Brewster but only the son of the cook. He runs out for his waiting wife kept in suspense and screams out to her that he is the son of the cook.

A. E. G.

## Some Uncommon Sense

(COMMUNICATED)

**T**HE Federal Party can, in the present context, with a good deal of justification be called the chief enemy of a united Ceylon, since it chose to let this country get into a never ending mess when it was in its power to arrest the country's march towards Marxism and Ceylon's doom. I may state here and now, lest I might be mistaken for a party stooge, that the editor of this paper to whom I am known for well nigh 40 years, will testify that I belong to no political party and that I have never hesitated to criticise all parties when criticism was called for and that I have never failed to appreciate any good in any party when such was apparent.

The attitude of the Federal Party was one of utter selfishness with no thought whatsoever for the interests of Ceylon and its peace and unity. This is not a call to the Federal Party to give up all its claims in abject surrender and toe the Sinhalese line for the sake of peace and unity of Ceylon.

In a forest you find hare and jackals, deer and leopards. The jackal will never spare a hare, or a leopard a deer without making a meal of his victim. But when a forest catches fire and there is a common danger the deer and the leopard and the hare and the jackal all run knocking against each other without pausing to make a meal of the weaker.

The result of the last election did not permit the majority to form a stable government and carry on the P. M. gave ample timely warning that he will recommend to the Go-

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vernor-General in case the Throne Speech was defeated, to dissolve Parliament and order a general election. What did the Federal Party do? It stipulated that in exchange for its support the party in question should, besides other things, agree to allow the Northern and Eastern Provinces to be an exclusive Tamil Kingdom, where no Sinhalese colonists should be sent and wherefrom all Sinhalese, now resident, should be sent away while it should be permissible for the Tamils to live and work in any part of the island without let or hindrance. Does the Federal Party honestly and sincerely believe that any political party in Ceylon will ever concede these terms? If it does, then, it must consist of men who are incurable optimists, who think that there are among some parties, some Sinhalese who will barter away their rights honour and racial dignity to secure power. If it was not so then it becomes a case for a Psycho analyst.

Ceylon has already witnessed the result of the unholy alliance between the S.L.F.P. and the VLSSP which gave rise to the MEP. Ceylon can never forget, or at least forget so soon, what happened when parties with irreconcilable ideologies policies and team up to

form a party. Of course the Tamils can wait. They are equipped to carry on a war of attrition to the respective population the Tamils hold a large number of key posts in the government especially and even in the private sector. In trade and industry they are going ahead with at let or landness. They have nothing or very little to grouse economically, or politically. They are fighting for their national pride—the reaction to the Apple of Discord 'Sinhalese Only.' If the Federal Party does not alter its tactics (not its demand for parity) and persist in this attitude, all political parties should take a joint vow to forget the existence of the Federal Party and ignore it together. It is for the Tamils themselves to decide whether or not the attitude of the Fed-

eral Party is doing Ceylon any good or even to the Tamils themselves.

Suppose the coming general elections also fail to vote in a party of sufficient strength to run a stable government, what next?

'SENEX'

(The above is from the pen of one of the most thoughtful Ceylonese public men in our midst, who though no politician or party man, has been known to take an abiding interest in all matters that is conducive to this Island's political and economic advancement. His views, therefore, expressed with characteristic independence and frankness, call for the earnest consideration of both Tamil and Sinhalese leaders.—Editor)

## Time to Arrest Ceylon's Economic Deterioration

THE demand for the appointment of an Agricultural Commission of inquiry spotlighted in our issue of 15th April, as sponsored by the All-Ceylon Agricultural Congress, is indeed well-timed and praiseworthy. The economic ruin the country faces today is far too colossal to be ignored or left unchecked. We are in complete agreement with this demand as there is a serious threat to our export economy fast deteriorating while our food import bill keeps soaring higher and higher with every succeeding year.

Our main export products—Tea, Rubber and Coconut continue to be the mainstay of our national wealth. Ceylon's export income is in the region of Rs. 1,700,000,000 of which Rs. 1,100 million is derived from Tea, Rs. 315 million from Rubber and Rs. 150 million from Coconut and coconut products. Approximately half the export income is now being spent on our Food Imports.

According to latest reports from overseas more and more countries, especially China and Africa, are fast becoming formidable competitors in the world tea market. The only redeeming factor in Ceylon's favour is the hitherto

unmatched flavour of her tea. We may here recall that it was not long ago that a team of Chinese scientists were in Ceylon to study the tea growing industry and this should prompt the Government and the public not to be complacent about maintaining the tea export income as at present in the not too distant future. Already the Mid East countries are buying their tea from Pakistan and India. This represents a terrible loss to Ceylon. Tea is also being grown largely in Africa.

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## A "Backward" Aquisition

IN THIS AGE OF TRANSITION, it is apparently clear that most things and beings seem to go backwards more. (Like the L.S.S.P.) in their attempts to forge ahead. In keeping with the changing times therefore, "The SEARCHLIGHT" too has kept pace dutifully with this trend of affairs and enlisted the services of "FIREFLY" to assist in focusing public attention to the thoroughly unsatisfactory nay deteriorating situation connected with the agriculture industries on which the welfare of the people demand. "FIREFLY" has been commissioned to invade the innermost recesses of the powers that be, and the powers that will be, so that "The SEARCHLIGHT" will be armed with first-hand information to promote "THE GOOD WE CAN DO, FOR THE FUTURE IN THE DISTANCE".

In a message to "THE SEARCHLIGHT" in its inimitable signalling glow, "FIREFLY" informs us that his primary object will be to spotlight a grave national calamity perpetrated on the sons and daughters of Ceylon through the medium of the highly Technical Department of Agriculture, by its top-notch Departmental Officials. In so doing Directors and Juniors, Ministers and Wives, Buffaloes and Tractors, Brinjals and Potatoes, Appointments and Transfers, Flunkeys and Frauds connected with this grave national racket, will be spotlighted and exposed.

In a postscript to our readers "FIREFLY" suggests that any information of any mismanagement of public finance by Governmental Officials would be most welcome, whatever be the magnitude of their importance or negligibility.

"FIREFLY" assures—with our professional etiquette thrown in—that an unimpeachable veil of professional secrecy shall at all times and in the most exacting situations, guard the secrecy of the source of such information.

So here's wishing you dear reader, GOOD READING; flavoured with the spice that will strengthen the foundations of Ceylon's peace, prosperity and progress, we are very much in need IN THIS AGE OF TRANSITION.

The threat to natural rubber from synthetics is a recurring feature. Soya beans and other oils and fats, sound the death-knell of Ceylon's coconut oil industry. With these possibilities looming large in Ceylon's economic horizon, what action has Government taken to counter the dwindling export income? What arrangements have been made to develop other export crops when the main crops receive a setback?

In the alternative can it be honestly stated that Ceylon has stepped up her food production with a view to self sufficiency in food and thus reduce the Food Import Bill now in the region of Rs. 900 million? It is the time for action to check this national calamity that threatens us.

It will be seen that Ceylon possesses favourable climatic conditions and soil types to produce most, if not all, food crops. With planned activity handled by truly patriotic personnel existing conditions could obviously be overcome. A grave responsibility therefore rests with the Government and the Minister charged with the Agricultural welfare of the country, to open up fresh avenues of export crops and simultaneously work for attaining self sufficiency in food, if we are to counter effectively the existing fear of losses in our present export economy.

It would also be interesting to examine why all pious attempts to step up agricultural development in this country have failed hither-

(Continued on page 20)

# ANALYSIS OF THE MARCH 19TH ELECTION RESULTS

Name of Party	Total Polled	Number of Candidates	Number Elected
United National Party	907,036	127	50
Sri Lanka Freedom Party	711,601	101	46
Federal Party	176,452	19	15
Lanka Sama Samaja Party	324,654	101	10
Mahajana Eksath Peramuna	324,251	89	10
Lanka Prajathantrawadi Party	141,505	101	4
Ceylon Communist Party	146,759	53	3
Jatika Vimukti Peramuna	11,201	2	2
Samajavadi Mahajana Peramuna	22,443	39	1
All Ceylon Tamil Congress	38,275	8	1
Bosath Bandaranaike Peramuna	9,749	2	1
Samastha Lanka Jatika Peramuna	11,115	1	1
These Parties won no seats at all:			
Sinhala Jatika Sangamaya	12,782	22	
Ceylon Independent Congress	9,735	18	
Udarata Peramuna	4,127	13	
Buddhist Republican Party	1,389	7	
Ceylon Democratic Congress	8,877	5	
Sri Lanka Dharmaraja Party	744	3	
Tamil Speaking Front	8,699	2	
and these were one man parties, who lost their deposits too:—			
Ceylon Socialist Party	171	1	
Muslim Revolutionary Party	166	1	
Ceylon Tamil United Front	4,231	1	saved its deposit
Independents captured seven seats in all, 175 seats			
Independents	253,284	175	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,129,246</b>	<b>898</b>	<b>151</b>



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# Yawnings and Warnings

BY STEPHANUS

**C**EYLON is in for further political trouble in the next few years and until a stable government, with a strong-willed Prime Minister and a sober Cabinet, gets into power. Otherwise it will be nothing but chaos far worse than what we have witnessed during the last three and half years culminating in the assassination of the Prime Minister.

If the new Prime Minister happens to be Mr. Dudley Senanayake—and there is every indication that way—he will have to be firm in the saddle. He must make up his mind not to go flirting with the radically nationalist element among the political leaders. Furthermore he must try to steer clear of the politically obsessed Buddhist clergy. The late Mr S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike would have been with us today, if he had kept clear of the priesthood. It is to be hoped that Mr. Dudley Senanayake will bear this warning in mind.

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It would be a safe course for Mr. Dudley Senanayake to follow the policy and attitude of his late father. He should muster up sufficient courage to tell the priesthood that "Ceylon is not a Theocracy but a Democracy pure and simple" and that it was on democratic lines that the administration of the country must be carried on.

Two other things call for careful handling in the meanwhile. They are the Language question and that connected with Denominational Schools. These two mat-

ters as well as the question about the Stateless Indians, must be tackled and not allowed to hang fire. The greater the delay the more difficult would the solution be. In any case the vital interests of the Kandyan people should be safeguarded. Sound statesmanship is called for.

x x x

It is encouraging to see Government in right earnest, addressing itself to the problem connected with the High Cost of Living. It is hoped that it will pursue the matter without ceasing. A reduction of taxation wherever possible and the finding of employment for the great army of the unemployed, are also matters of paramount concern at the moment. As regards taxation, there are a score of ways which Government can tap for revenue to make up any loss caused by removing burdensome impositions. Taxation on all luxury goods is called for. Another effective way to ease the present depressing

(Continued on page 20)



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## The Lord's Prayer



TO those who haven't the privilege of reading *Ave*, a leaflet providing a spiritual thought for each day, here is a "reviver" from the month's fare.

Once at a dinner, the famous actor Edwin Booth was asked to give a sample of his acting ability. Booth stood up and paled. Then slowly with tears trickling down his face and a warm glow on his countenance he recited the "Our Father." The audience was amazed. They did not know so much could be contained in that small prayer. Booth said 'that was one of the severest pieces of rhetoric I have ever recited. I spent nearly thirty years of daily effort to say it in the way I said it just now.'

Is the Lord's Prayer losing its value and meaning, one wonders, as one listens to the Rosary, the most beautiful prayer and meditated with gusto perhaps, but with breathless speed.

Would it be use if Catechism instructors and Christian elocution teachers should teach the young to say these two beautiful prayers "Hail Mary" and "Our Father" as "severe pieces of rhetoric," so that they may grasp the depth of meaning and beauty in these two prayers; and so that even if they should on any occasion be said fast, the young may recall and "relish the meaning and beauty and treasures of true devotion and solid spirituality."

R. P.

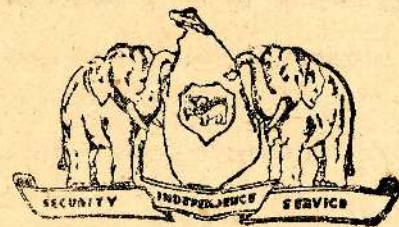
## The Next Election

THE country has witnessed an alarming trend in National politics in the accelerated tempo of the S.L.F.P. towards the Left as convincingly proved in the events of last week. All those who realised the gravity of the drama enacted on the political stage during past few weeks will unanimously agree that the last scene enacted by a Party so vehemently pledged to democracy and progress has given them cause for the gravest concern. Fear and suspicion will inevitably be created in the minds of all sensible and freedom loving people.

The aim of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party should be nation-building, and not mere self-preservation. Those who voted for the S.L.F.P. at the last elections must be bitterly disappointed to find the S.L.F.P. enter upon an alliance with the Marxists in spite of it being so obvious that democracy will be endangered in the process.

To the vast majority of peace-loving people, to those who cherish the freedom of the individual and the Rights of Man, and above all to those who put Nation before self, no amount of explanations and pleas could allay the grave fears that have arisen in their minds.

The citizens of this country should not allow themselves to become the victims of political manoeuvring. It is of paramount importance, not only for the welfare of the country, but for the sake of our children, and our children's children that we make it clear to candidates for the next election that, though co-ex-



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istence and coalition may sound very liberal and noble, to co-exist with the Marxists would be like co-existing with a bear, and that no Party pledged to democracy and progress has the right to imperil the freedom of the nation.

Norbert C. Manatunga.  
Peradeniya.

## A Local Doctor's Dilemma?

IN the course of his speech in the House of Representatives last Friday, Dr. N. M. Perera, with the air of a man who is proclaiming a momentous and unique discovery (and for all we know looking, perhaps, as Archimedes must have looked when he rushed out of his bath—of course, Dr. Perera was, by contrast, very adequately clad, but his tactics were stark and bare as ever) announced triumphantly that "Gamarala" of the SUNDAY TIMES, was no other than Fr. Justin Perera.

What is the learned Doctor up to? Is he trying to create a wrong impression in the House and in the mind of the general public by making such a statement? Is he hoping that all and sundry will take it from him that to write a newspaper column under a pen-name is a crime, and that the crime is all the greater if the writer in question happens to be a priest?

Or is he suggesting that a priest should be blind, deaf and dumb when it comes to the political situation his country is in—that he should manifest a total unconcern regarding the welfare of his fatherland, that the virtue of patriotism is not a virtue he must practise at all? The logical conclusion from such a position would be that a priest would not even be entitled to exercise the right to vote, or to speak of any subject outside the field of spirituality and mysticism or the completely non-descript.

In any case, with what authority, and with what evidence, does Dr. N. M. Perera say this? A dramatic declaration is no substitute for evidence. And granted the Marxist concept of what is right and wrong in matters that affect them, I am afraid we cannot be expected to take Dr. N. M. Perera's mere words for for it.

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In the Easter issue of the *Messenger* (14th April 1960: *Current Comment*) the Editor once again denies categorically that "Citizen Punchisingho and Gamarala of *Sunday Times* fame" are Catholic priests. The denial is formal, unequivocal and emphatic, and carries all the weight and authority of an official statement.

The *Messenger* has on more than one occasion taken up similar mischievous allegations and challenged those who made them to prove their statements or to withdraw them. But I suppose it would be too much to expect people, part of whose technique is to wildly fling around reckless statements with a total disregard for the truth, to do the logical and the decent thing. Is Dr. Perera's much commented-on urbanity, suavity, and *savoir-faire* just a veneer?

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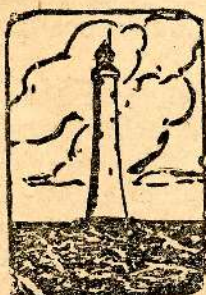
## Time to Arrest Ceylon's Economic Deterioration

(Continued from page 15)

to. The charge of internal sabotage through international pressurising is not peculiar to Ceylon. This is being felt in other under developed countries as well. It would be most interesting to have any such facts established in public through the medium of a Commission of Inquiry. As is bound to be, any good that accrues to Ceylon as a result, will, indeed, be a lead for other Asian under-developed countries too to benefit from.

We hold no brief to the ACAC but we are more than convinced that the subject raked up is certainly one of grave national concern. Let the Government and the public be alive to the situation. Let not posterity blame us that we have been as deaf though gifted with good hearing, and as blind though bestowed with clear vision, by being apathetic towards this cause that needs resistance.

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## Yawnings and Warnings

[Continued from page 17]

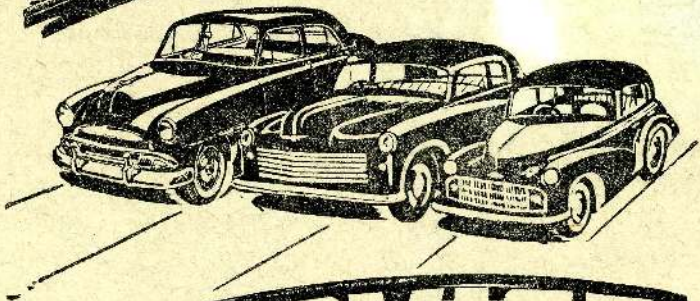
economic situation is for Government to invite Foreign Capital to Ceylon on liberal terms. Until more capital is brought into industry and industrial enterprises, unemployment will persist. India to day is having a surfeit of foreign investments and this enables her to find employment for her people and thus contribute to their contentment.

x x x

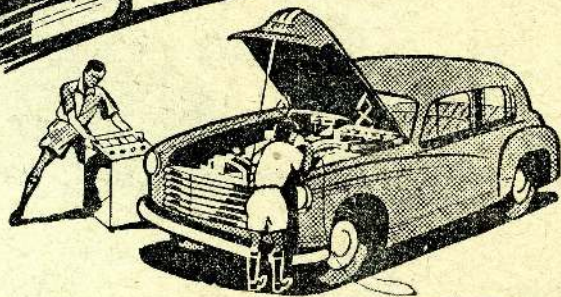
The two things that make for contentment are Food and Employment. There is no reason, why food prices should be so high in an agricultural country like Ceylon. If Government provides the facilities for the production of food there should be no scarcity. Our Agricultural Department does not seem to play its part effectively in helping the people to produce more food. It is understandable why vegetables, eggs, poultry and yams of all kinds, are so costly. There is no justification for the people having to pay 25 and 30 cents for a coconut. Government must see to it that the home consumption is first and foremost provided for before export of coconuts are allowed for profit making.

With the sea surrounding this Island why is fish so scarce and high priced. In Japan more than half the population thrive on good fresh fish. Why can't we emulate Japan? Where are our trawlers. What good purpose do they serve if at all?

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