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# The SEARCHLIGHT

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VOL 39 NO. 11

COLOMBO

JUNE 15th 1960

## "Honesty in the Service of the Nation"

Independent Candidate for the Colombo South Electorate

THE question everybody is asking everybody else in the Colombo South Constituency today, is... Whom shall we elect as our Representative—a Sama Sama jist, a member of the UNP—and there are two running for that party—or an Independent Candidate?

From the look of things, it is apparent that no single party will obtain a clear cut majority and further the present party system appears to be losing flavour. Hence what the country needs today are men imbued with unimpeachable characteristics to serve the nation.

Steadfast to his political principles and feeling convinced that he is pursuing the Lincolnian ideal "Service to humanity and the nation," Mr. George Jayasuriya has chosen to come forward as an Independent candidate and seeks the support of the enlightened electors of Colombo South. When one looks at him at close quarters, and with all things considered, it seems plain enough that he is a foreman worthy of his steel. If one does a close study of the five candidates, who are seeking to represent Colombo South, and strike a balance, Mr. Jayasuriya should have no difficulty in giving a good account of himself. Let us go into his credentials.

Mr. G. S. Jayasuriya has been the Municipal Member for the Cinnamon Gardens Ward since July 1954. He was re-elected twice each time with a larger majority than on the previous occasion.

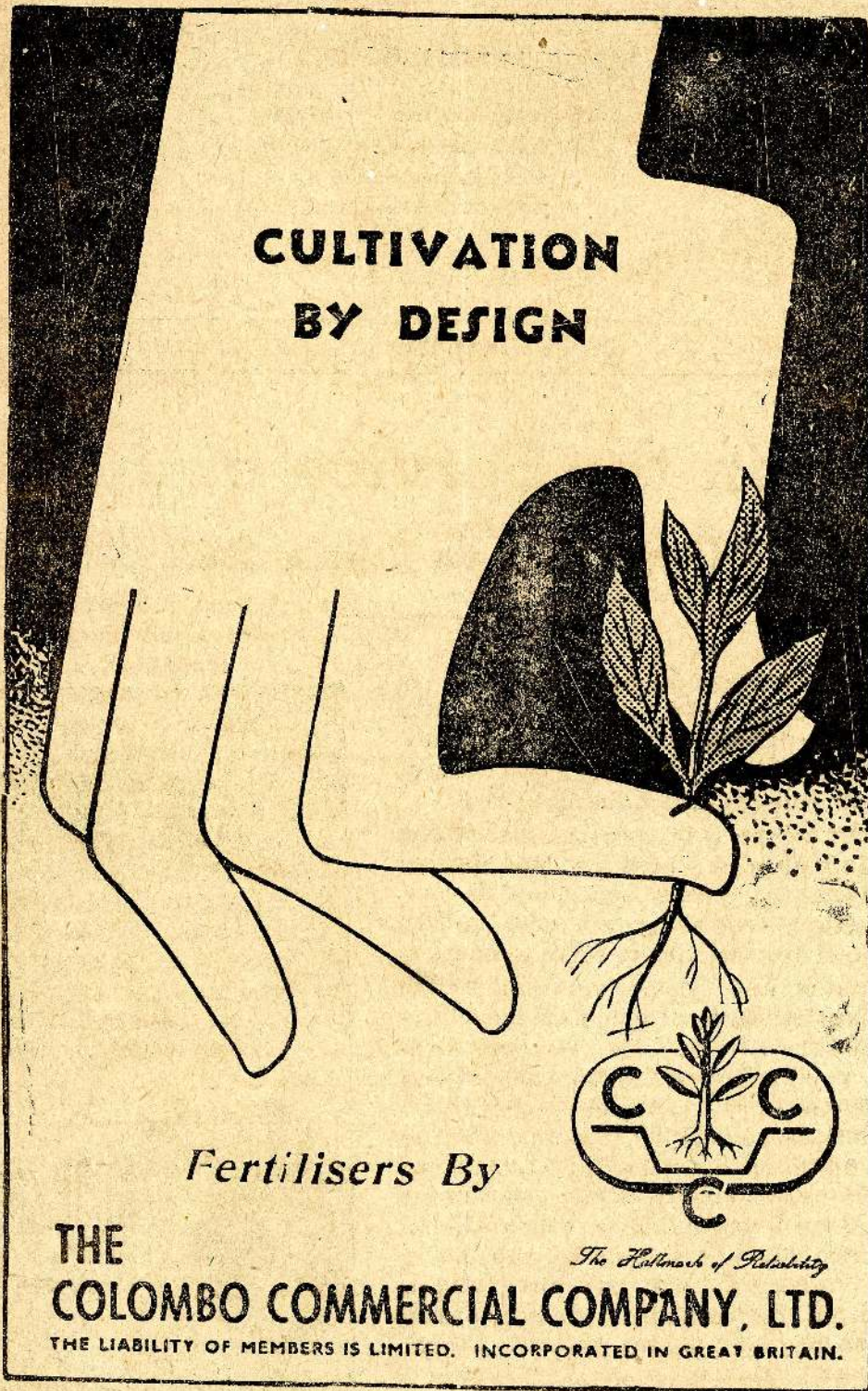
He received his early education at Ananda College. He then entered the Ceylon University College and had a brilliant career being awarded a Survey Scholarship to Cambridge after obtaining an Honours Degree in Mathematics and Physics (B.Sc.) For 8 years he was an Assistant Superintendent



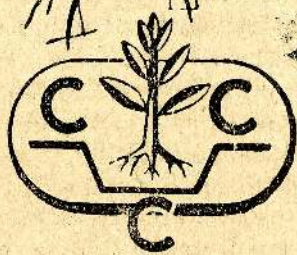
Mr. George S. Jayasuriya

(Continued on page 15)

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VOL 39 NO. 11

COLOMBO

JUNE 15th 1960

## THE TOLL OF THE BOTTLE LAMP

BY A. B. GOMES

CEYLON today is confronted with two deadly perils that are taking terrible toll of human life. The one arises from the use of the 'Bottle Lamp' and the other from the negligent handling of poisonous Insecticides. We shall deal with the first in the present article and follow up with the second in a subsequent issue. The loss of life from both sources is alarming and calls for immediate action. An effective check must be applied whatever happens. It is the Government that must attend to it. The public too can render valuable help in the matter.

The "bottle lamp" is very largely used by the poor and the uneducated masses. It is well to note here that in the North and the East of Ceylon one rarely hears of accidents arising from the use of the "bottle lamp." There is a reason for this. It is due to the people of those areas using coconut or gingely oil as an illuminant. Whereas the people of the south and the central parts of Ceylon have recourse to kerosene oil. The first is non inflammable and the other is highly inflammable. In the Northern and Eastern areas, in the majority of cases the people, however poor they may be, use a heavy brass lamp with a single or double basin for oil and with four parallel grooves. In one of these grooves a cloth wick is placed which is fed by the oil in the basin and lit for use at night. If better lighting is required a second or a third wick is similarly placed in the other grooves and lighted. This lamp does not get upset by a

knock or a jerk. It is broad-bottomed and hence is not easily moved.

The case is different with the "bottle lamp" which is about three or four inches long and two inches broad. Generally it is a glass bottle or a tin vessel to which a very flimsy tin-burner is attached at the neck. This tin burner is procurable for a cent or two in the bazaar. Through this burner a wick is passed and the vessel is filled with kerosene oil. This so called lamp is easily upset by the slightest movement of the table, box or whatever it is placed on. There have been instances when a gush of wind is known to have upset the 'bottle lamp'. When this happens the oil flows out and the lighted wick sets everything ablaze and a conflagration is caused burning the sleeper, man, woman or child and also

(Continued on page 4)



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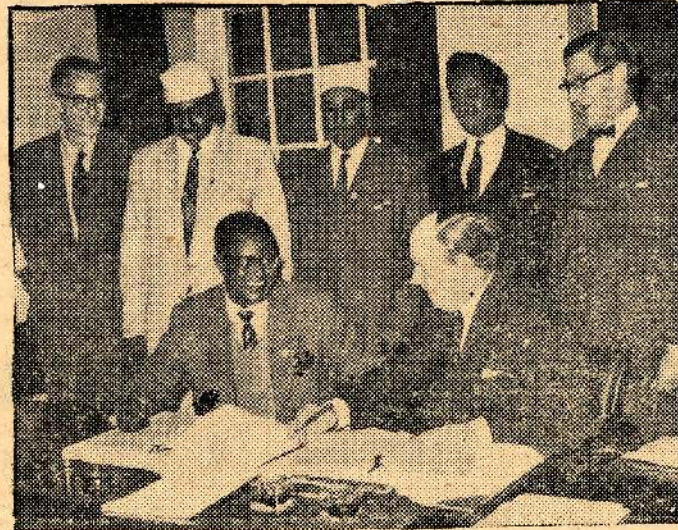
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**BRITISH SOMALILAND INDEPENDENCE AGREEMENT SIGNED IN LONDON**

Mr. Iain Macleod, Secretary of State for the Colonies, and Mr. Mohammed Haji Ibrahim Egal, Minister of Local Government in British Somaliland, sign the agreement giving the Protectorate its independence on June 26 this year, at the closing session of the constitutional conference in the Colonial Office, London. The conference report says that Britain will continue to give aid to Somaliland — both financial and by way of serving officers— for some time after independence.



The territory has been linked with Britain for well over a 100 years. Mr. Macleod therefore proposed that, subject to parliamentary approval, Somaliland should receive

£1,500,000 in the first year of independence, of which half would be devoted to development expenditure.

**Key Money to the Housing Department**

**I**F ever there was a flagrant flouting of the Key Money question it was evidenced at the auction for Right of Possession of the new Shops at the Bambalapitiya Flats.

The Rent was fixed at Rs. 365/- a month. A deposit of three months Rent was called for. But over and above that an Auction was held commencing from Rs. 1000/- upwards for right of possession, which money was credited to Revenue. What exactly did the thousands so collected actually represent but Blackmarket Key Money in another disguise.

What is there to prevent a person now taking the above as a precedent to indicate that he had a house to let, but an auction for possession would be held on such and such a date, with the starting price at Rs. 5000/-? No difference to that done by the Housing Board and made worse still by the precedent being created by the very department which has been set up to protect householders.

One may well ask whether this precedent is going to be the pattern for future allocation of Houses by the Department for then we may as well accept Key Money as a legitimate payment and accordingly request the Income Tax Authorities to give us exemptions for this legalised and deductible expenditure.

When the State takes to receiving Key Money in any form we may as well expect to hear a vacancy of a Peon being auctioned among likely candidates with the money going to Revenue. Surely this ghastly state of affairs should not be permitted to establish itself or our whole pattern of life may become confused.

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# 'FIREFLY' THREATENED

## German Assistance Sought

OUR first column has certainly raised a hornet's nest. We have had a spate of letters beating all our expectations. We only expected the Editor, Compositor and the two Ministers to whom a message was carried in this column to read it, besides ourselves. To make sure of our expectations, we even made nocturnal expeditions to see what the Ministers were up to. We were thrilled, indeed, to find the Minister of Agriculture, reading it nay, re-reading it, in bed late at night. The Minister of Health however had left a copy behind on his official desk at the Ministry, which is a pointer that he means business.

What of those who have been raving as a result. Telephone calls to the "Searchlight" office have been plenty. Emissaries more so. Anonymous letters better still. We reproduce extracts from one such letter which should provide interesting reading, and may be food for thought. Signed by one "A BLUFFER" it goes on to explain in detail how he was most successful in being the master planner of his own fortunes, to ride to power through several Governments, at the expense of the country's agricultural progress.

### EXTRACTS

"Your campaign to expose the affairs of the Department of Agriculture during the past regime, is far too belated and will be ineffective. As long as I was seeking power through my vicious plans, there was none among that galaxy of highly qualified personnel capable of checking me, although I was able to thrust them into oblivion and even enforced their migration to other climes overseas, so that my programme of empire building in that Department and being the lord of all I survey, went unchecked.

"When I joined that Department as an ordinary probationer, I was happy, nevertheless ambitious. I soon manouvered my way one step up, and in the absence of an officer who had gone abroad, managed to annex his duties as well and shortly became the boss of the show. Dissatisfied with the little or no pomp and glory attached to that post, I successfully advocated the creation of a clan of research officers out of

inexperienced graduates and collected wider powers as head of that clan.

"Projects such as the Cinchona project, Mahagastota Farm, Tabbowa Seed Station, as you know were monumental failures and that even after dumping a good Millions of rupees on the pure line paddy project, all that accrued to the country was the loss of age-old varieties of disease resistant strains and the indiscriminate spread of varieties now obtaining. These as you will agree are highly disease susceptible and produce very low yields.

"Then came the UNP idea of a Japanese controlled Paddy Research Institute. But what do you think? The Japanese wanted their own men to man all important posts in that institute. If that had been allowed, I would have had to take orders from the Japs, imagine that! I sabotaged the whole scheme.

(Continued on page 19)

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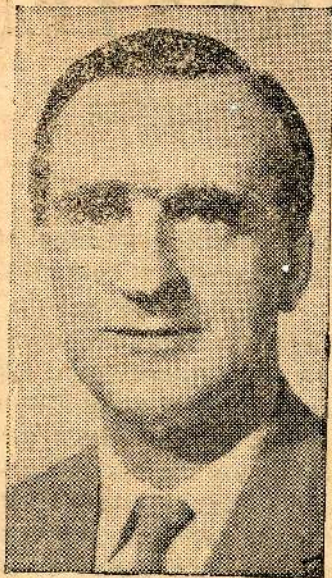
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HIGH COMMISSIONER DESIGNATE FOR  
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Sir Paul Gore-Booth, K.C.M.G., at present a Deputy Under-Secretary of State in the British Foreign Office, who has been appointed High Commissioner for the United Kingdom in India in succession to the Rt. Hon. Malcolm MacDonald, whose term of office will come to an end in the autumn.



thing practical to arrest the terrible loss of life.

The Shell Company is a Multi-millionaire concern. It has had a very long innings in Ceylon during the last seventy years and thriving like the Green Bay tree by the sale of Kerosene oil. The company's profits are enormous. According to a statement of accounts before us the company's profit for 1957 was in the neighbourhood of nearly **four million eight hundred thousand rupees** So enormous that it cheerfully lavishes lakhs, and may be millions of rupees, every year on holding Sports Meets, Carnivals, Motor Car and Motor Cycle races and Reliability Trials besides promoting Beauty Competitions and, last by no means the least, finances Political parties to prove it over again that **SHELL OIL IS WELL OILED!** That being the case, why should not this company offer a handsome reward, call it a prize if you so desire, to anybody here in Ceylon, in India or in England, who can invent a **cheap safety lamp** to replace the dangerous "bottle lamp." That will be conferring a boon and a blessing to the poor and the helpless people of this country.

We make a present of this suggestion to the Shell Company of Ceylon in the belief that British benevolence has not altogether ceased though Ceylon has gained Independence.

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## The Toll of the Bottle Lamp

(Continued from page 1)

spreading the fire around consuming any dry material. The result is invariably severe burns and death follows either instantly or later.

Accidents from the 'bottle lamp' are not a matter of recent origin. They are known to have gone on for years. Yet it is surprising that no action of any kind had been taken. Our Social Service organisations and Benevolent Societies appear to have ignored it or given no thought whatever to the matter. Government must share the greater blame for the neglect shown right through and for the loss of life. May be the Government does not want to legislate. But how else is the menace to be brought under control? If loss of life is to be prevented the only way is to ban the use of the 'bottle lamp' altogether. If that is not possible what is the alternative? The poor man realises the danger that confronts him and his family. Assuming the use of the "bottle lamp" is banned, what sort of a lamp or light is he to use at night? The average poor man cannot afford to invest a few rupees in a lamp that will provide him reasonable security. The only alternative that one can suggest is for some big business concern like the **SHELL COMPANY OF CEYLON** to step in and do some-

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# TEXTILES

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## An Unholy Political Combine

**Y**OUR readers will remember that when the S.L.F.P. harnessed in the LSSP, CP and FP each party plainly stated that the object of that alliance was the defeat of the UNP and incidentally not the good government of the country or its welfare.

The SLFP the prime mover of this venture clearly stated that no portfolios would be offered to those allies and the latter parties were equally emphatic that they would not accept office in the event of the SLFP getting the opportunity to form a government. The leader of the LSSP is reported to have said later that he was now prepared to consider an offer of office. If that report is correct it looks as if an offer has already been made and accepted and that leader is biding his time to break the good news gently to the public.

That leader who always looked skywards for the elusive top hat seems to think that a female in a top hat will look ridiculous and sees visions again. As it is, any other office in the SLFP would be 'infra dig' for a man of his calibre. I have no doubt that he will be a good top hatter for Russia or China but not for little Lanka where his talents will be wasted or cramped,

Another kink in him is his well known and oft repeated hatred of what he calls the "decadent walauwas." If SLFP win at the next general election there will be more walauwa people in our legislature than at any time in its long history with a walauwe mahatmayo controlling the show from outside. With these prospects in view and a host of old stagers like Illangaratne, C. P. de Silva, A. P. Jayasuriya etc. it is a doubtful matter if the learned doctor will get a look in.

When this doctor's political guru and stable companion Philip broke away and took office in the Bandaranaike government, both those leaders said a lot of hard things about each other. Philip said that he would drive away the doctor from Ruanwella and the latter said he would drive away the former away from Avissawella. Last time both of them failed. If both of them succeed in their good intentions next time, it will be a blessing. To give them their due, both of them are good fighters, the doctor with his rapier thrusts and Philip with his sledge-



hammer blows. They can do a lot from outside if they give up their strike activities and not interfere or thrust their unwelcome presence between the employer and the employee, there being enough government machinery, such as the Wages Board, Industrial Court etc. without interference from professional strike leaders.

SLFP & FP combine as Monty Bodkin would say, is inexplicable. When the UNP asked for FP support to carry on the government the latter laid down its notorious four points in exchange for its support. When UNP rejected this suggestion, the FP forgetting the fate of the B.C Pact joined forces with the SLFP. If this combine means that the SLFP in order to secure power is prepared to concede those four points, I predict that that agreement will meet with the same fate as the B.C Pact and that will be the last nail in the SLFP FP coffin.

I congratulate Sir John Kotalawala on his speedy attempt to bring about a coalition between the two major parties immediately after the last general election; but his good intentions were rejected with scant courtesy by the SLFP which has now coalesced with marxists and federalists. How long such opposing forces will carry on, even if they succeed in defeating the UNP, is a matter for the voter to consider in order to avoid another general election in the immediate future.

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**The Question Box**

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HAVE these doctors acted in conformity with the ethics of their profession or ignored their medical etiquette?

WHO can explain the extraordinary phenomena connected with Vita Milk which when boiled or when boiling water is poured to prepare the milk, the cream instead of coming to the surface of the liquid settles at the bottom?

COULD this be due to any chemical or foreign ingredient being added to the dried milk while it is being prepared or at the time of tinning?

WILL the C.W.E. (Ceylon) who are the sole importers of Vita Milk on the recommendation of the doctors above referred to, kindly explain for the benefit of Vita Milk users.

WASN'T the Ceylon Milk Board set up for the sole purpose of popularising the use of

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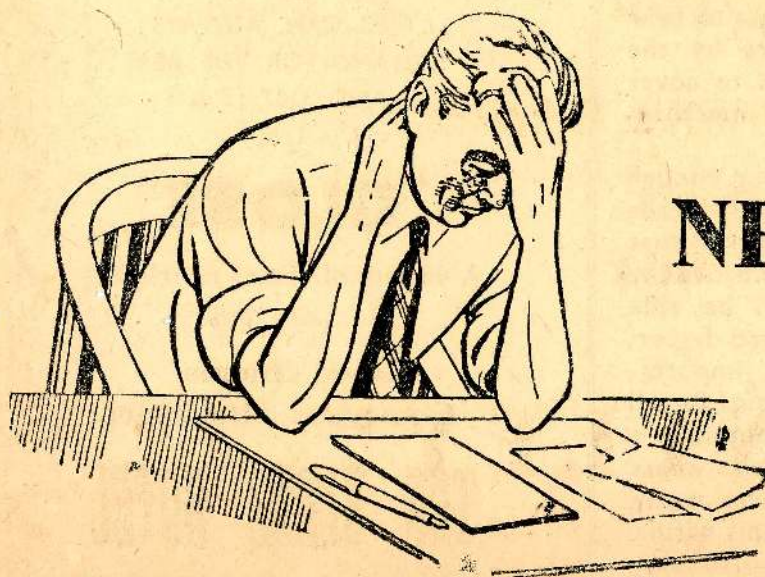
fresh cow-milk among the people to whom it was to be made available after pasturization.

BY selling and serving Vita Milk to the public at the various Milk Bars in Colombo, where pasturised Cow-Milk was to be offered, isn't the original object of the Milk Board defeated?

Is there any Racket connected with the Vita Milk going on as many people seem to believe?

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# The Industrial Products Fair



**S**TOCK piling of Government Sarongs is taking place all over the Island without causing the Government the slightest discomfort as it appears to be almost disinterested in the problem which it has created and now cannot overcome. As if to worsen the situation and accelerate the acute storage problem, Power Looms are being installed in some areas so that even more Sarongs may be turned out without a thought for the consequences or the marketing problems involved. Besides this there does not appear to be any Market Research being done on account of this issue, for if such was being done it would be apparent that Sarongs are being patronised more by the idle rich as a relic of a bygone culture than by those for whom it is intended as they are speedily discarding it for the costumes so kindly referred to by its critics as the M. E. P. Costume.

The I. P. Act was a creation of a former Minister of Commerce who had interests indirectly in the Wellawatte Spinning & Weaving Mills and the brain child of another who saw a way out for a quick disposal of products that could not be marketed under normal circumstances. If the purpose of the Act was to make people wear National Products it would have been simpler to have banned incoming items of a similar nature. Instead of that a direct burden is imposed on the consumer who has to bear the brunt of the imposition of the Act by the Wholesale Dealer raising his prices to cover this unproductive and unmarketable merchandise he is compelled to purchase.

If National Sentiment is not strong enough to make people buy an inferior locally made Sarong then there are only two alternatives that can be fairly followed. One is to improve the product so that competitively it will be able to hold its own on a price and standard factor. The second is to completely ban the importation of sarongs so that it will be equal for all and affect only those desiring to purchase a sarong. For after all why should one who wears pyjamas be forced to subsidise one who wears a sarong. If we force subsidization of this nature then there is a likelihood of over production taking place in the production of this commodity.

To impose the I. P. Act on us is not only to raise the cost of living all around us but also to make the cloth and jacket wearer subsidise the shareholders of the manufacturers of sarongs so that wearers of sarongs may buy such products at rates cheaper than the cost of production, for the cost and profit of the items will be recovered from another line of goods over the counter. Is this sense or nonsense?

To deliberately impose the I. P. Act on us is to make Wholesalers increase the price of their textiles to meet the cost of the purchase of sarongs which they cannot market. Thus the wearers of sarongs must subsidise the manufacturers of sarongs even though they have nothing in common.

Unless there is a realistic and intelligent approach to this problem we shall be soon ensnared in a mess utterly difficult of extrication, because we find more and more manufacturers trying to use the I. P. Act and its principles to their advantage merely to keep ineffective, inefficient and sub standard products in the market.

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## Answers We would Like to Know

Who is the lady who will be leaving the Island shortly on a Rs. 100,000/- Confidence Trick Scholarship on her Committee?

Who is the Police Officer's wife set up to investigate leakage of information from the confidential doings of a Social Services Organization?

Who is the Knight who is not such a Galahad when it comes to defending other peoples wives?

Who is the lady going around weeping that she does not know anything about what she knows.

Who is the Politician who lost his Deposit in four straight Election Contests and proposes to lose it again this time?

Who is the Politician who has had 21 Meetings to date, all running down his own Party men?

Who is the eminent Homeopathic Doctor who got married in England recently?

Who is the Permanent Secretary who is studying Small Scale Industries with a view to retiring should the UNP form the next Government?

Who is the man who is trying to mechanize the Fishing Industry in Moratuwa?

Who are the men behind the scene in the Sarong Problem who have vested interests in the Wellawatte Spinning & Weaving Mill?

Which are the Big Companies that are playing safe by giving substantial donations to both the U.N.P. and S.L.F.P.?

Who is the Politician who has faithfully promised to cross over if his Party loses at the coming Election?

## The U.N.P. and the F.P.

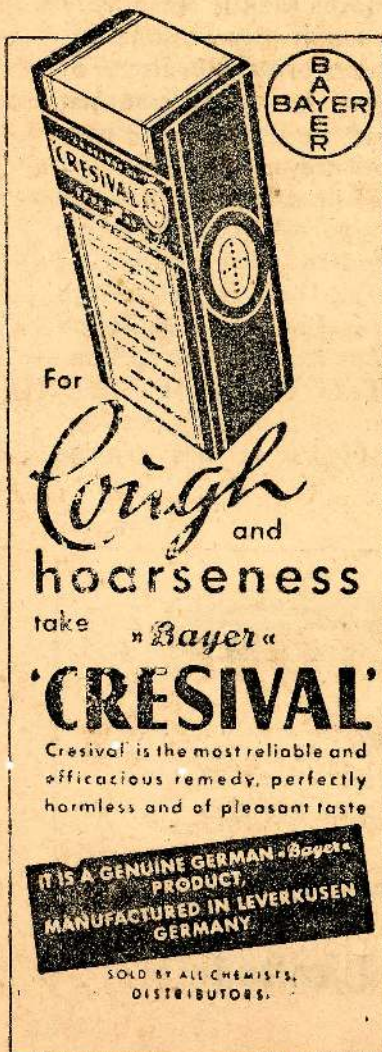
THE relationship between these two Parties have become and is becoming more explosive daily, thanks, due to a Doctor who is more hysterical than logical. But even in this phase one may justly ask what has the U.N.P. done for the Tamils and the answer is evidenced in the fact that through successive U.N.P. Governments Tamils held Portfolios and were permitted to set up a number of Industrial Projects in the Northern and Eastern Provinces. Furthermore certain Departments in Government Service became almost monopolised by Tamils due to the U.N.P. NOT discriminating in any way either on a regional or racial basis against them. The F.P. might argue that more should have been given the Tamils, but that is neither here nor there.

Let us on the other hand examine the position of the Tamils during the tenure of the S.L.F.P. On assumption of office the Sinhala Only Bill was passed. Soon after that the Tamils were assaulted on the Galle Face Green. No Portfolios were given Tamils Colonization Schemes in Tamil areas by Sinhalese settlers were commenced. Government Departments turned to Sinhalese Only overnight. Tamil as a Language was not available in most schools. Lastly we had the bloody communal riots resulting in the deaths of thousands of Tamils with considerable loss of property.

On the face of this record whom would you say should the F.P. join if they come into power. Can the F.P. hold the entire record of the U.N.P. to blame for the unfortunate statement made by Sir John on the Language question. Surely the F.P. cannot have such a short memory to trust those who hindered and harassed them as against those who gave them a rightful place in society.

Irresponsible statements by a Lunatic Doctor that all Tamils resident South of Jaffna were Sinhalese Tamils and their fate or future was

(Continued on page 12)



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# THE MENACE FROM INSECTICIDES

## Minister of Health to the Rescue

Dr. M. V. P. Peiris, Minister of Health has informed the ALL CEYLON AGRICULTURAL CONGRESS that he proposes to summon a Conference of the Government Entomologist, Plant Pathologist and the Labour Medical Officer and in consultation with the Minister of Agriculture and Lands initiate action to introduce legislation to control the use of Insecticides and Fungicides in agriculture.

This is the result of agitation carried out by the All Ceylon Agricultural Congress. It may be recalled that "The Searchlight" spotlighted this issue since April last.

The full text of a memorandum submitted to the Minister of Health by the AACO at an interview with the Minister on June 13th is reproduced below.

x x x

At this interview we wish to point out a grave national disaster confronting the people of Ceylon in the matter of the unrestricted sale and application of insecticides. The All Ceylon Agricultural Congress wishes to emphasise the hazards obtaining in the field of Agriculture in particular as other agents such as Coroners have spotlighted such hazards when confronted with cases of death due to these hazards from the deliberate consumption and misadventure.

We are concerned with the residual effects resulting in increased mortality rates due to these hazards. The increase in deaths due to heart diseases blood pressure complaints and nervous disorders can be attributed to such residual effects through the consumption of vegetable and other food crops contaminated with highly toxic chemical compounds that have free and unrestricted entry into the Ceylon market. The technical aspects of this calamity shall be discussed in detail orally.

The cultivator who grows the vegetables we eat may have handled the insecticides carelessly and in larger doses than is reasonably necessary that such vegetables may be contaminated. Accidental skin absorption in the process of spraying is also the most common chemical intoxication with insecticides. Opportunities for such accidents are many and may go unnoticed, in the absence of adequate protection in the form of impermeable protective clothing on those engaged in the handling of insecticides in agriculture. The high percentage of illiteracy among the rural peasant population in Ceylon is also a serious factor to be reckoned with, for even where literacy is 100%, negligence in the matter of following instructions carefully have resulted in serious damage to life.



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We cannot maintain that Ceylon maintains adequate records of causes of death or serious illness. Often it may not be known that a death resulted through misadventure or natural ailment, so that we cannot determine the toll of health and life. Serious disasters have occurred in India, Malaya, Hong Kong and Japan. In Japan alone at least 6,000 deaths proved as caused by one of the most commonly used insecticides have been recorded.

As far as the Department of Agriculture is concerned, the Government Entomologist and the Plant Pathologist should be responsible for the handling of insecticides and fungicides in Agriculture. These two officers have been appointed on the Commonwealth Agricultural pattern. These officers are normally recruited as Research Probationers in Entomology and Plant Pathology. The Entomologist must of necessity be a Zoology (Hons) Graduate having Chemistry as a subsidiary subject while the Plant Pathologist must be a Botany (Hons) graduate with Chemistry as a subsidiary subject. They are expected to work on probation for about three years after which they undergo a further three years of post graduate training abroad before they are appointed Assistants to the Entomologist and Plant Pathologist. After

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years of experience only can they aspire to be the successors to the Entomologist and the Plant Pathologist then in service. In our Department of Agriculture however, during the last regime (under Mr. Phillip Gunawardene and Mr. C. P. de Silva) an inexperienced graduate has been appointed Entomologist, Mahallupallama while an Agricultural Instructor even without the basic science degrees has been appointed Chief Plant Protection Officer for the entire Island, even though two fully qualified officers were already in service in the Department.

Under these circumstances we strongly urge that, in consultation with the Minister of Agriculture and Lands, you take early steps to introduce legislation, after the requisite conference with the Entomologist and Plant Pathologist of the Department of Agriculture and the Labour Medical Officer of the Department of Health Services and last but not least, representatives of All Ceylon Agricultural Congress and the Federation of Trade Unions of the Department of Agriculture.

THE ALL CEYLON AGRICULTURAL  
CONGRESS

HERBERT VITHANAGE  
Secretary

## The U.N.P. and the F.P.

[Continued from page 9]

no concern to the F.P. should be clarified for if so, many Tamils in the South would gladly give up their nationality prejudicial to the Tamils in the South and not make them the victims of communalism and racial hatred by endeavouring to align themselves with the wrong set of

people or by holding fast to Doctrines which are not practical or secretarian in their outlook. For that matter why should not the Lunatic Doctor take his practice to Jaffna and practice what he preaches.

We are sure that the U N P. will give Jaffna all it needs Financially, Economically and Industrially, but it is certainly asking too much to ask the U.N.P. to guarantee the Indians similar rights when so much remains to be done for us Ceylonese.

---

# *Now it's crying over the spilt milk*

BY A. E. GUNAWARDENA

**I**T is useless crying over spilt milk a housewife would say but when a careless servant has been always spilling the milk because she does not know the value of it then it is something to cry about and that is what has exactly happened in Ceylon too.

The carelessness of the past is soon bringing us to the end of our tether and the colossal waste of energy and money on that account will be nothing but one long regret. And let us see how this waste and dissipation has been brought about.

### CREDIT FOR MOTOR CARS NOT FOR FACTORIES

The biggest break Ceylon ever had was during the period of the Eastern War of 1941-45 Ceylon earned soaring prices for her export commodities and in addition increased her national income by about 10 million rupees a week when the Allied Forces converted Ceylon to a veritable arsenal and fortress. War time austerity helped the Ceylonese to accumulate a sizeable fortune for postwar spending and when the time came it was nothing but a rake's adventure.

In 15 years after the war, we have purchased over 100,000 private motor vehicles but have not had one extra textile mill. Banks, Credit institutions and the Government Treasury

have been most enthusiastic in supplying credit for motor cars and least enthusiastic about any form of textile factory.

### TEXTILE MILLS PRODUCING UNMARKETABLE MATERIAL

Some humble peasants have however on their own initiative produced good cloth on handlooms but bureaucratic interference has caused a glut of Ceylonese handloom products while strangely Indian handloom cloth and foreign textile, are having a roaring trade in the country. Ceylonese textile producers are constantly misdirected so as to produce unmarketable material. If the nation is to be geared up for industry and progress the saree and sarong of Indian influence conducive to lethargy and inactivity and waste of millions of rupees should be discarded for slacks, short trousers and dresses while retaining for appropriate wear truly nationalist garments like the Kandyan saree, Tamil saree, Kandyan dress and the low-country cloth and coat and jacket and cloth all of which could be produced in Ceylon itself.

The proud record of the Ministry of Industries in textile mills for 15 years has been nil and one feels good humouredly that to save its face and weave a little more red tape the Wellawatte Spinning and Weaving Mill could have been nationalised as an excuse.

## FRUIT AND COTTON CULTIVATION

Next let us look at Ceylon's great big ventures that have never been. They are fruits, sugar and cotton. Regarding cotton the position is that large scale cultivation has not taken place because spinning mills have not sprung up to guarantee the market.

Without constantly toiling over rice crops, fruits and sugar cane could have been cultivated more easily at great profit. Pineapples, grape fruit, lemons and mangoes and sugar cane can be cultivated extensively if a sufficient number of factories for canning and preserving fruit and manufacturing sugar is set up. Let us see what has actually happened. Here again the Ministry of Industries has followed its dog in the manger policy and prevented private enterprise, both foreign and indigenous, from pursuing such projects.

Phoney Prohibition Commissions have also put the lid on the possible production of wines from fruit and rum from sugar while encouraging low quality arrack production to keep the state revenue buoyant. But the state seems to be failing even in its Arrack Scheme now for private and illicit liquor manufacture seems to be giving the low down on state arrack supplies.

## GAL OYA OVERDONE BY BUREAUCRATS

Next let us take new projects like the 80 million rupee Gal Oya Scheme. It is a big success venture threatened by the overdoings of bureaucrats. The Scheme should properly be able to pay off its capital investment and expand itself to cover further development and new investment and expenditure is laid down, but that seems uncertain with the type of bureaucrat ruling the country today.

When Ceylon was granted Independence in 1948 the British Government gave us a constitution that enabled Ceylon to undergo a change for the better. The Soulbury Constitution had a safeguard only in the Public Services Commission which was meant really for the residue of the British Civil Servants who continued in this country. D S Senanayake as the first Prime Minister could afford do little against the Civil Service as he imagined, or perhaps was made to think, that instability would arise if the Civil Service was disaffected and as such he had the painful job of carrying on the government resting on the lap of the Civil Service and while he was resting on the uncomfortable lap administration expenses soared

# The Ale Conner

**E**VEN before beer was first taxed every town and village in England appointed its ale-conner to see that only "good ale and wholesome" was sold alike for the children's breakfast and for father's noble thirst. London had four ale conners, who under the Lord Mayor (especially Dick Whittington) had to drink hard for their living.

At Cambridge this Lord of the Tap was resplendent in scarlet coat betasselled with spigots and faucets, though to Chaucer the official's nose was sign enough that "wel he knewe" good beer.

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to over half the revenue. Senanayake's indomitable spirit and brusque manner just managed to help him to put into effect a few meagre schemes through. The Civil Service was bred in the colonial spirit and pattern and for the Ceylonese it was only a lucrative career. Service to the nation was only incidental and rarely motivated by a spirit of generosity and national regeneration.

#### INFLATED CIVIL SERVICE

The background and High Caste attached to the civil service served only as a means of reaction when it appeared that the common man was going to break new ground. Let us see how civil servants, especially those who made cause to serve the nation even after being retired, helped to dissipate the wealth of the nation and bring us to the verge of ruin.

The pet pastime of retired civil servants based on supposed efficiency was working on commissions to revise wages and salaries of state and semi-state employees and investigating prohibition laws and the like. Each commission necessitated a resurgent commission and the cumulative effect of all the commissions is that the state and local authorities are committed to heavy and inflated expenditure on salaries and emoluments beyond their capacity.

The findings of those careless commissions do not appear to have been based on a realistic concept of the actual resources of the country. As a result we are having a series of deficit budgets and the people and taxpayers are choked with unrealistic taxes and rather amusingly these taxes do not seem to get collected.

#### SORING PRICE OF FOOD AND DRINKS

Where the central government is concerned either the U.N.P. or the S.L.F.P. will have to undo its own messes soon and where local government is concerned many a chairman of a local authority is running away from his job handing it over to local government officials. In its desperate bid to get the revenue the state is now attempting to earn more by increasing arrack prices and are losing the little chance of earning what it could as every village is now brewing its own liquor privately.

Lastly let us look at our clamitious food policy which pinches the stomachs of over 90% of the people. When the prices of some cereals rose after the war the people were given a new deal. The prices of cereals were pegged down while those of sugar, tobacco, etc. were raised. But when the crisis was over the same deal continued and today when the price of rice has descended to £ 30 a ton flour, sugar, tobacco and imported meat and fish continue to be priced at even higher levels.

Again while subsidiary foods like potatoes, onions and chillies are restricted cloth is imported a plenty so much so that no retail merchant need sell or even advertise Ceylonese cloth. Food imports can be liberalised only if import of cloth is curtailed so as to find exchange for the former.

On surveying we find that we have failed to put to good purpose our newly won freedom and bureaucrats have unwittingly set the pace for totalitarian inefficiency.



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## 'Honesty in the Service of the Nation'

(Continued from cover page)

of Surveys and was in charge of the surveys of Elabera and Minneriya. In order to devote himself more fully to public and social activities he resigned from Government Service.

Mr. Jayasuriya is a devout Buddhist and has constructed two Devalas and donated a pipe-borne service to the ancient and historic Temple of Bellanwila.

He has taken a keen interest in the Youth of Colombo and their sporting activities and has always extended his very generous support to their welfare, as Patron of their Cricket and Soccer Clubs.

In the Colombo Municipal Council, Mr. Jayasuriya has consistently campaigned to keep the city clean and has continuously agitated for the maintenance of the highest degree of efficiency in the conditions of the roads, often recommending that private roads be taken over by the Council for the benefit of the public. He has taken an active interest in every sphere of activity and has promoted progressive policies towards the amelioration of the amenities of Colombo city. He has been of great service to the poorer sections among the city populace.

It seems certain that he would do his utmost to ameliorate the conditions of the working class in a special manner in his electorate by way of Housing Schemes, Employment, Health, Sanitary arrangements, Poor relief etc., etc., wherever possible. He will be of immense service to the nation too. Hence the voters of Colombo electorate should find in him the ideal representative.

He is in sympathy with the progressive policies laid down by the late Prime Minister Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike. He realises that it is the right of every inhabitant in this island to a fair share of the produce of this country to keep him and his family from want and from insecurity and to live at least in frugal comfort. He realises that every worker of this island must be given a living wage. Hence if elected he will relentlessly wage a struggle for the implementation of those progressive policies.

Mr. Jayasuriya is a man of unimpeachable character and integrity, a man kind and comforting to his poor countrymen, a patriot who will always put his country before self. He sin-

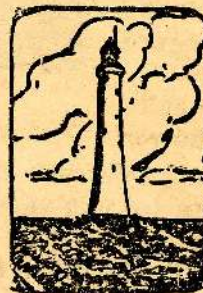
cerely believes that Honesty in the service of the Nation is a crying need of today.

Not being bound by Party conventions, and at a time when the Party System has completely failed, he as an independent is unfettered and free to judge a policy laid down on its own merits and cast his vote accordingly. Hence he could serve the nation better and thus assure a clear, efficient and a progressive administration of the affairs of this country.

Judged by the political trends it will be clear to all and sundry that no single party will obtain a clear-cut majority at the elections. Hence what the country needs today are men imbued with such unimpeachable characteristics to serve the nation. Men who could be of service to humanity in a true spirit of self-sacrifice.

Mr. G. S. Jayasuriya possesses those needy characteristics and it is up to the Voters of Colombo South not to allow a young person of his standing and ability go waste but to harness his capabilities in the service of the Nation, the people and the electorate in a special manner.

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# "God damn Ike!" shrieked a Mob of Ten Thousand

"The President's Personal Safety is Assured"—Prime Minister Kishi

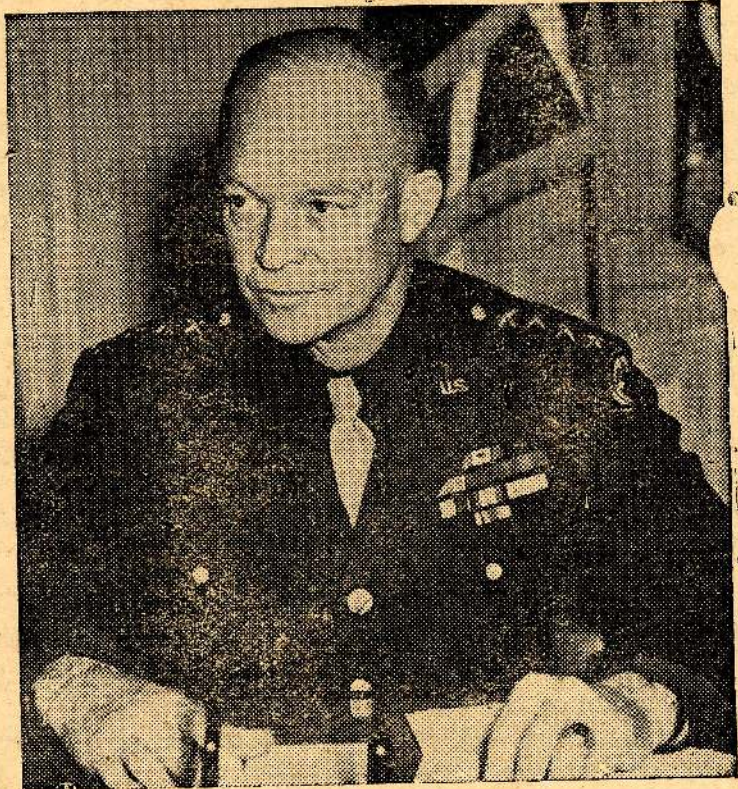
As the big Air Force Constellation nosed in for a landing at Tokyo's Haneda Airport, White House press secretary Jim Hagerty could clearly see the huge, surging crowds massed just outside the airport's main gates. They mean trouble, warned Ambassador Douglas MacArthur II. "We can take a helicopter back to town if you like." "No," said Hagerty. "Let's go in by car."

The Ambassador's black, '56 Cadillac Fleetwood got to the main gate, then was swiftly engulfed by 10,000 howling, shrieking Japanese brandishing sticks and anti-American placards, chanting the Communist Internationale, and shouting "God damn Ike!" Growing brave, the mob was soon beating on the car's sides, shattering windows, ripping tires, clambering on to the roof, and rocking the car from side to side. Locked inside, Hagerty tried his best to look calm and snapped pictures—with a miniature Japanese camera.

Later, after a U.S. Marine helicopter whisked him away in a shower of stones, Hagerty held a press conference in the U.S. Embassy and did his best to minimize the incident. "I don't think the Japanese people will allow the President to be caught in a similar bind," he told the reporters. "After all, he is a guest of Japan ..."

Hagerty—and the Tokyo cops—were counting heavily on the Japanese public's revulsion to the leftists' ill manners to simplify their problem of guarding Mr. Eisenhower this week. But just to be on the safe side, they were also planning these unprecedented measures to ensure the President's security during his visit to the city:

Fully 25,000 police—Tokyo's 9,000—man force plus 15,000 others from the provinces—will line up, 10 yards apart, along the parade route.



President Eisenhower

The President's personal helicopter will be constantly hovering overhead to pluck him from danger if it should become necessary.

*Continued over*

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Six hundred thousand civilian supporters of the Kishi government will be turned out to greet the President, and swamp leftist crowds.

Emperor Hirohito will ride with Mr. Eisenhower from the airport in a bullet proof 1935 Mercedes-Benz rather than the White House's more ostentatious bubble-top Lincoln as previously planned. The Emperor's presence, it is hoped, will help protect the President—but there will also be an American bodyguard in the front seat, ten motorcycle outriders, and carloads of bodyguards, front and rear.

Some of the President's scheduled public appearances in Tokyo may be cancelled, possibly his address to the Diet (Parliament), and certainly his press conference, and a golf match with Kishi.

Aside from these precautions, eight U.S. security officers and nine specially trained men from the Emperor's personal bodyguard will be at the President's side every inch of the way. Forty-five Secret Service men from Washington are going over all possible security measures with their Japanese counterparts, double-checking everything from the food the President will eat to the man hole covers his car will pass over.

It was an incredibly painstaking job, and harassed Prime Minister Kishi was only being realistic when he said last week: "I cannot promise, I'm sorry to say, that there will be no embarrassment to the President. But his personal safety is absolutely secure."—Newsweek 10th June

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## AN OPEN LETTER TO

# Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike

DEAR MADAM,

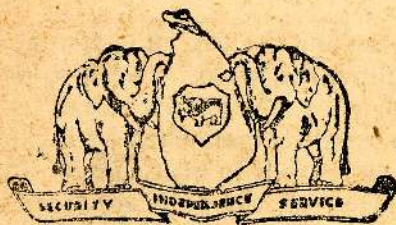
**Y**OU are trying an unwholesome experiment in party politics when you harnessed in Marxists and a section of the Tamil federalists who are opposed to confederalists with a view to implement the policy of your late husband, but as a matter of fact, as you boldly state to defeat the U.N.P.

When your husband gave up a promising career at the Bar and wedded himself to politics before he wedded you, he threw open the doors of his ancient Walauwa in Colombo to the common herd. That gesture of his made him politically popular at a time when the local aristocrats kept themselves aloof from the hoi-polloi. Since then he never looked back but political ambition made him break away from his old love, the U.N.P. When he was told by the first Prime Minister that there was no provision in our Constitution for a Deputy Prime Minister, a post he then sought, He did become the Prime Minister at a later stage, but at what cost?

After reaching the top rung of the political ladder he blundered when he tried to pacify his erstwhile helpers the yellow robed fraternity and he blundered further when he included revolutionary firebrands in his Cabinet. The landslide in his favour at the polls appeared to have intoxicated him and instead of humbly accepting his great responsibility and put the local affairs to right, he and his favourite ministers started playing the big drum all over the world and I repeat, at what cost?

Your attitude, madam, when you harnessed in the services of the reactionary parties who opposed every progressive move of the UNP and later of the SLFP, is not different from the unwise step your husband took to gain power by taking in Marxists into his team and when he did gain that power his whole lifetime as Prime Minister was wasted in trying to keep his power-hungry team together and to pacify his equally power-hungry allies of the yellow robed fraternity. He was a strong man eminently fitted for the high office he held, but his innate goodness was mistaken for weakness by his friends and foes.

Your alliance with the revolutionists reminds me of certain Kattadiyas who claim to have harnessed in some demons to do the farmers' biddings on the promise of white cock birds, fried meat, boiled eggs etc. with Heenati rice, the Kattadiyas—in order to impress their clientele—hinting at a secret pact with those demons. When the food is not to their liking or something goes wrong with the incantations or 'mantrams,' the demon destroys his master the Kattadiya. This is a common belief in demonology and witchcraft as practised still in some parts in Ceylon. The mention of those secret pacts further reminds me of your challenge to the UNP that in the event of proof of the existence of a secret pact between the SLFP and the F.P., you will withdraw all the 90 SLFP candidates from the coming contest. The leader of the F.P. made no secret of his 4 minimum demands for his assistance to any political party to form a government if those 4 demands are conceded. The alliance of the F.P. with the SLFP thereafter is clear proof that the SLFP is prepared to concede those 4 demands, if not more. You will also note that certified copies of written pacts, if any, are not to be picked up



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on the public highways. With regard to your offer to withdraw all the 90 SLFP candidates from the coming contest, I would like to hear the views of those candidates. Do you really believe that even half a dozen of them will agree to withdraw at your word of command? Such loyalty is unheard of in politics.

Madam, pact or no pact, secret or otherwise, see that your allies do not destroy you when you dabble in political witchcraft. Do social work for a few years and if you then feel like entering the political arena, rejoin your party or form another and boldly come forward for a seat, as backdoor Premiers even if permissible are looked upon with suspicion and create enemies in other political parties.

Please do not run away with the idea that I am an agent of the UNP or of any other political party I know all the leader by sight only and I have never spoken to anyone of them.

Wellawatte

Yours Faithfully

D. L. WELIKALA

## 'Firefly' Threatened

(Continued from page 3)

"My ambitions were now running riot. To quench my thirst for power, I managed to annex the Publicity Division as well, and from there carried on my campaign quite successfully building up a large clientele of flunkeys on my side. My next move was to have Research separated from Extension work. But just about that time, I found that Mr X could be manouvered out, and Mr. Z was on his last days. So that with Sinhala Only round the corner, my fortunes were almost assured. Having got to the top, I gave vent to all feelings of frustration I had to put up with, by displacing all those who had been veritable obstacles. I wooed Minister after Minister and misguided them to do just as I wanted, so much so that even the present Prime Minister, finds it impossible to think that I could have been a BLUFFER. For had he not had very good reports of me from his predecessor whom I managed to bluff to glory over a number of years He was of course very hard to beat. He was able to spot a diseased exhibit at an agricultural show with the same ease he could check a doubting Minister contemplating to go the way that Banda went after the famous Madampe ultimatum. I beat that worthy too. Look at this instance. Old John had a fancy for large sized vegetable exhibits. Some unsuspecting junior had allowed specimens of stunted KARAWILA to be entered for an Exhibition. Going the rounds with him. I was almost being pulled up for permitting the display of diseased products. I promptly adduced the theory that although small in size, that was a peculiarly disease resistant strain, in that it was resistant to the Fruit Fly Pest. Thereafter he was keen on advising me to get my men to propagate that strain lavishly throughout the country I could'nt have cared less even to trace the source of such exhibit, which showed signs of positive degeneration.

### 'CP' LIVES TO SEE

"More recently, in the SLFP regime when CP was Minister, I had often boasted about a new paddy strain developed by an enterprising Junior officer, of course, taking all the credit myself. I had heard of it but never seen even its colour. I made so much of it that the Minister wanted to know its colour just before a conference was due to start. "White of course" I said promptly. The Minister showed a desire

to see a sample and the meeting commenced. A junior officer who was present at the conversation, later rushed in with a sample of this variety and fortunately handed it to me. I took a hurried look at it from below the conference table level, and lo, and behold, it was red in colour. The sample soon had a safe repository in my pocket and 'CP' still lives to see its colour.

"Do you like to know how I managed to pull my weight with another Minister. That was easy enough as I had strong connections with him. I was alarmed when he started off as a go getter and looked out for a weak point. He had it all right. He was keen to have a parallel political administration in the Department. I fell completely in line with him. I had an empire built since my entry into the Department. I soon invested them with the VLSSP colours. Even the Publicity Division was fully mobilised with a full time VLSSP er's wife at the telephone exchange. We created new posts of Administrative Officers and eliminated all would be obstacles. The Minister was quite pleased as long as we allowed his kith and kin to be built up, even at the cost of the

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country losing better brains, and as long as propaganda meetings to attack his political opponents, and paper projects kept filling the blanks in the Sinhalese newspapers. The one other detail was to keep his wife contented in her varied demands ranging from appointments and promotions to transfers and tenders.

#### POTATOES

It was at this stage that a potty inexperienced officer blasted my hopes of sabotaging the potato project since 1952. The Minister innocently took up the project and got it going. I was soon able to knock it out of him lock, stock and barrel, and get that hard-headed fool transferred to a place where potatoes cannot be grown. The Minister was won alright, and the prospects of the October revolution gave me added inspiration. You will laugh your sides out if you only hear of how we provided false rice yield figures for the Minister's political platforms. He was indeed a happy man, till he fell by the way, for no fault of mine.

"Then came Prime Minister Dahanayake. During his short stay he had the audacity to transfer some of my key men to remote places. We got them to mark time till Dahanayake fell and cancelled those transfers on the eve of my bidding adieu to the scenes of my exploits.

DR. HARLAND D.Sc

"These are little things compared to my encounters with men like the world-renowned plant breeder, Dr. Harland D.Sc, F.R.S. He was to take over the Coconut Research Institute of Ceylon. The Minister had requested him to submit a report on Coconuts, which was later referred to me for my observations. "Not worthy of a Scientist" was all I wrote across and the whole idea dropped. If I had allowed Dr. Harland to interfere in Ceylon Agriculture he would have certainly unravelled the pure line paddy stunt and have it exposed badly, and on my observations my good Minister did not want him here. You know, I am like the elephant. I do not forget. This same Harland had long years ago assigned my thesis for a Doctorate to his waste paper basket. DID I NOT HAVE MY REVENGE? I warn you therefore, to know that although I am shaken by your moves, I am by no means beaten. If I shall have any opposition to my latest schemes of controlling things from outside, from you...d... Firefly, I shall only stop after getting all your kind liquidated from the world. I am already in contact with a German Firm. I paid a visit to

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last April, to evolve an efficient Insecticide that can do the needful . . .

Yours in animosity,  
A BLUFFER

We are fully aware that "A Bluffer" is speaking nothing but the truth. But as for liquidating me and my kind let us wait and see. The day that a Commission is appointed all these threats would have vanished into thin air, and the people of Ceylon may even follow the example of the inhabitants of BOONARGA in Queensland, Australia and erect a Memorial to Firefly even if we are liquidated.

Due to want of space our observations and encounters at the meeting of "Those Interested in Agriculture" held at a Colombo Company Director's home recently has to be put off for a later issue.

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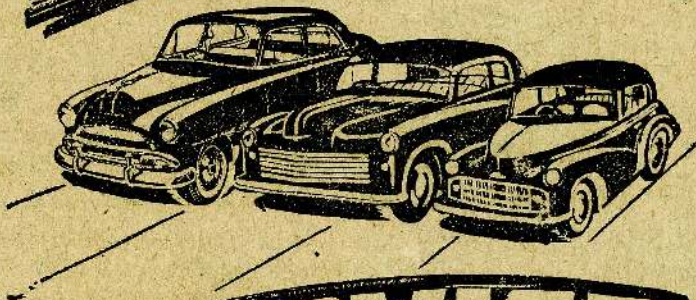
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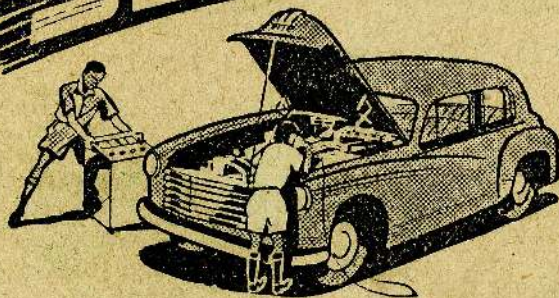
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