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VOL 39 NO. 14

COLOMBO

JULY 31st 1960

! WRITING ON THE WALL !

AFTER ten months of Caretaker rule, the country has now settled down to usher in a stable government. It has given the SLFP a mandate to guide the destinies of free Lanka in the best interests of the masses of this country. To ensure a good Government for the people who have reposed their faith in the SLFP, its steam roller majority alone would not suffice. There are three essentials that should combine to ensure that good Government will prevail. For that matter there must be a combination of good brains, plenty of money and a steady majority of votes in the House of Representatives. Of these three essentials the voting strength is what the SLFP can mostly rely on, while the other two essentials cannot attain the desired degree of confidence.

Acts and whisperings of narrow nationalism have certainly been scaring away foreign capital for quite some time now. This situation has got to be remedied if the new Premier is keen on ensuring good Government for the people of this country during her term of office. The talk of nationalisation—positively communist sponsored—has scared away even native rich folk to venture out on any worthwhile major enterprise, not to speak of foreign capital investment. There is nothing to ward off this fear even at this late stage when certain policy statements read between the lines point towards a continuation of the same narrow nationalistic tendencies.

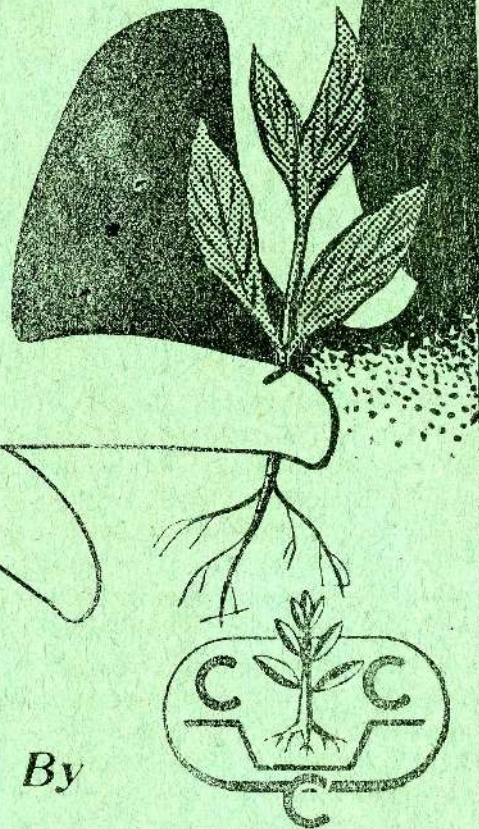
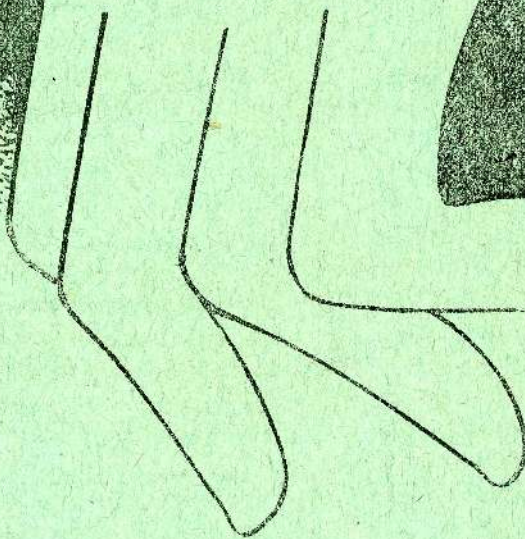
To find the money to meet the requirements of good Government therefore, the SLFP Government may rush in with sugar-coated

proposals for increases in the import duties. Should that be done as will be necessitated, let the Prime Minister make sure that all that is good amongst the brainy Cabinet colleagues is harnessed to the full, lest they commit her to a continuation of narrow nationalism most of them are used to revel in. For any increase of the import duties will certainly send the cost of living spiralling higher, and the burden will eventually devolve on the members of the middle and poor classes of the population.

Suggestions aimed at deliberately creating situations which will drive the supporters of the Government too to cause unhealthy uneasiness and eventual disaster can be forthcoming from quarters offering active support to the Government in a bid to kiss the hand that cannot be severed. This can be an immediate danger to keeping intact the goodwill the masses of this country has offered the present Govt.

Already around the street corners, there is apparent dissatisfaction at some of the measures being contemplated by Government. Even the onslaught on the Press is being viewed by the common man as an act of gross revenge, for they make bold to believe that this is nothing but a move towards paying a grudge off from the Wijewardena Press, while the nationalisation talks of Insurance is only aimed at paying a grudge off the Kotalawala insurance interests. If the motives are bad, the results cannot be too good. Worst still is it to permit the masses to feel that these or any other Governmental measure is aimed at extracting a tooth for a tooth, and an eye for an eye.

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VOL 39 NO. 14

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JULY 31st 1960

The Republic of Ceylon and Fundamental Rights of the Minorities

A few months of coming into power, the M.E.P. — S.L.F.P. Government, with the late S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike as Prime Minister in 1956, announced that Ceylon would soon be declared a Republic and steps were being taken in regard to it. But Mr. Bandaranaike did not live to see the purpose achieved. With his mantle falling on his widow, who succeeded to the leadership of the S. L. F. P., Mrs. Bandaranaike declared that she would carry out her late husband's policy and undertook to complete the programme of work he had mapped out. It is therefore safe to assume that the Government would early in its career declare Ceylon a Republic.

Here two important matters arise. Nobody can shut his or her eyes to the fact that the country today is divided as it was never divided before. There is political hostility between the Sinhalese and the Tamils. The relationship between the two is strained. So much so that the Tamils are seeking to set up their own Government and conduct a Federal State in the North and the East combined. There is no doubt that the LANGUAGE ISSUE sparked off this feeling for separation and the setting up of a TAMIL STATE. For good reasons no mention need be made here to the Communal Riots of 1958. They are as unforgettable as the atom-bombing of Hiroshima by the Americans.

However, there is no getting away from the fact that the passing of the Sinhala Only Bill contributed to, or shall we say precipitated the creation of intense ill-feeling not only among the Tamils but also among other minority communities, and as a result much uneasiness and anxiety prevails owing to racial, religious and linguistic differences being introduced. In consequence, therefore, the minority communities of Ceylon, and Tamils comprise the largest minority, are suffering in silence and with indignation. They have begun to lose heart. They are apprehensive of the future. There is also simultaneously noticeable among the Christian Sinhalese, by no means an inconsiderable section, a feeling of disappointment that their SCHOOLS are to be taken over. All these matters, therefore, have led to the present acute discontentment among the people and which is likely to be more pronounced as time advances.

There can be no question that the unity that existed when Independence was granted to Ceylon has been during the last five or six years entirely disrupted. What sort of a political unity and national fellowship Ceylon will present ten years from now, it is not difficult

(Continued on page 2)

to conjecture. If the truth must be faced it will be a divided country to such an extent that there will be neither understanding or harmony between the majority Sinhalese and the minority communities and hence the estrangement between the two is bound to increase. Something, therefore, must be done to adjust matters before Ceylon is declared a Republic.

On being appointed P.M., Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike in her first Message to the nation stated thus:-

"The people of this country, regardless of race or religion to which they belong, would receive from her government equality of treatment and a fair deal."

Now the above declaration, when we interpret the meaning of the language used, conveys that any inequality which the people of this country regardless of race or religion to which they belong, suffer from would receive from her government equality of treatment and a fair deal. The minorities are people of this country and as such they are entitled to equality of treatment and a fair deal from the S.L.F.P. government as of right. The message further presupposes the existence of inequality which the minorities are undergoing at the present or likely to undergo in the future. We sincerely hope and trust that the disability they have been placed under will not be lost sight of or go without being considered and immediately redressed. The P.M.'s assurance on assuming the government should enable her to help remove that disability and thus restore the faith and confidence the minorities have lost owing to the Language Bill.

The removal of this disability which had brought about disunity can be effected without jeopardising or in any way prejudicing the inter-

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ests of the Sinhalese speaking people, since they, as a majority community, wield greater political power. Besides they out-number all the minorities put together. Where then is the fear and the unwillingness to give the Tamil language parity as one of the official languages of the country? Here the spirit of good-will and reasonableness is called for from the major community who can well afford not only to be just but generous to the Tamils since the two communities have lived together in amity for centuries.

The SLFP Government stands for a democratic Socialist rule and want to see all people of Ceylon enjoy to the full the Five Freedoms that were announced at the Yalta Conference by the leading Western powers as the ultimate goal of all nations of the world. These freedoms are:

1. free to live their own way of life.
2. free to worship or practice any religion they like.
3. free to assemble and express their grievances without fear.
4. Free to go anywhere they like and
5. free from poverty and want.

So that if the major community can enjoy and be assured the above freedoms, should not

the minority communities also be entitled to those freedoms without any restrictions or obstacles being placed against their mother tongue. In the case of the Tamils against their language?

It certainly is a happy augury that with the coming into power of the present government there has appeared a new sign in the political horizon which seems to indicate the likelihood of a rapprochement between the Tamils and the Government and the strained relations that had been so marked a feature since the passing of the Sinhala Only Bill, showing a tendency to be less acute. Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, it is felt, believes that the dispute between the two major races could be adjusted in the interests of the country. This was proved when the Tamil leaders refused to attend the opening of Parliament as a protest against the Throne Speech not being read in Tamil. The Government having agreed to the Throne Speech being read in that language and by a Tamil, after the Governor General had first delivered the Speech in Sinhalese, and also the English version by another member of a Minority, the boycott which marred the open-

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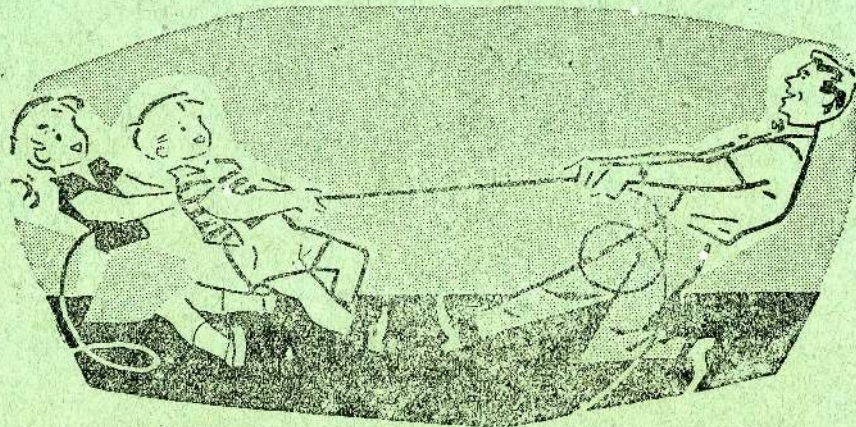
ing of Parliament on the previous occasions, was abandoned with the Federal Party attending the Ceremonial Opening of Parliament in full strength. This gesture on the part of Government goes to show that it yielded a point to the Tamils not merely as a concession to sentiment but as a right claimed by them.

This new policy of the Government will be heartily applauded by everybody. The action of the Prime Minister too deserves to be highly commended for the bold and statesmenlike manner in which she has acted in this matter. Her conduct shows the true spirit of conciliation and the willingness to assuage the wounded feelings of an entire community of people numbering very nearly a million or more.

We are certain that our Prime Minister realises as every true-hearted and patriotic son and daughter of Sri Lanka feels and realises, that it would be extremely ill-advised and unfortunate to allow the country to enter the new Republican State handicapped by a whole category of inter-communal disputes and differences caused by racial, religious and linguistic antagonism.

Now that a point of agreement has been reached and there is every likelihood of a *via media* being found to solve the problem, we sincerely feel that the fundamental rights of the minorities will be embodied in the constitution of the coming Republic remembering that we cannot build a healthier and better tomorrow founded on a today of fear, distrust, discrimination on religious, racial or linguistic lines.

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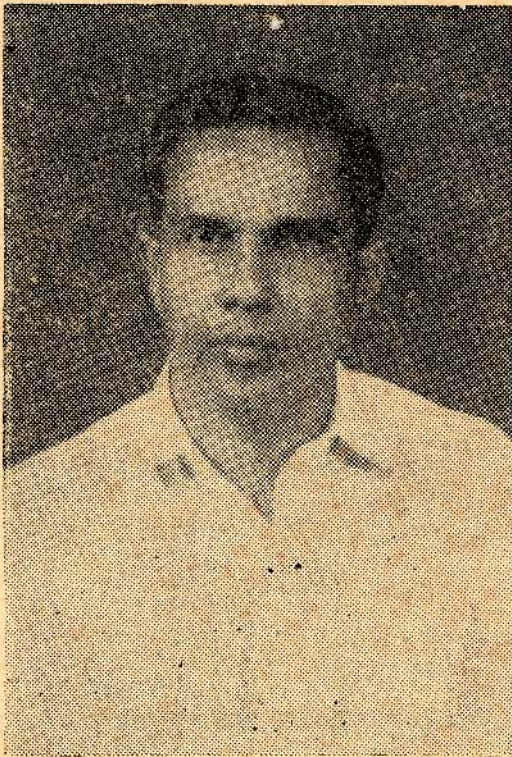
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Wellawatte South Seat in City Council

MR. CHARLES HENRY FERNANDO IN
THE FIELD

THE Wellawatte South Seat in the Colombo Municipal Council rendered vacant by the untimely death of Mr. T. Rudra, who represented this ward for sixteen years, will very soon be filled by the holding of a by-election in the beginning of September.

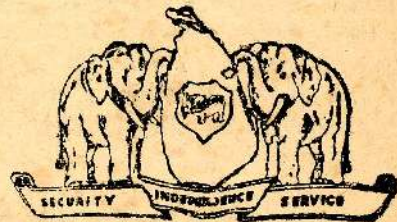


Mr. Charles Henry Fernando

The ratepayers are getting interested to find a suitable candidate whom they can elect to represent them. The leading residents have hit upon Mr. Charles Henry Fernando of Rose Bank, Wellawatte whom they have invited to stand for election. Mr. Fernando has expressed his willingness to serve the residents to the best of his ability. Judging by the present standard of fitness of members who have been elected to the Municipal Council we feel Mr. Charles Fernando is fully qualified and competent to represent the ratepayers of the Ward and there is no doubt he will receive the support of all residents.

Mr. Fernando is comparatively speaking a young man born and bred in Wellawatte where he and his family and their people have large interests and he is bound to get their support in preference to any other candidate. He is the younger son of the late Charles Fernando a big land owner who was extremely popular with all classes and communities in Wellawatte. Charles too is equally popular and has already begun to command the respect of all residents and there is reason to believe that he can rely in getting the necessary backing and see himself elected to represent Wellawatte South. He is the son-in-law of late Mr. E. S. Fernando, founder of Sri Walsaka Vidyalaya and he is also on its Board of Management.

After his collegiate education Mr. Fernando joined the Shell Company of Ceylon, Ltd. where he worked for a long period and retired to look after his private interests. He is a Buddhist and Social Worker and as such came in personal touch with various people whose good-will he commands. His family has large interests in the area and with the help of his friends, relations and the general public he should succeed to enter Council.



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AS THE WORLD GOES BY

Russian Oil for India

MR. ARORA, Managing Director of the Government-owned Indian Oil Company, said today (26th) July the first load of Soviet oil contracted to be purchased by India during the next three to four years will arrive in Bombay in the latter half of August.

In a statement to the press, Mr. Arora said the first tanker would bring 11,000 tons of Kerosene and high-speed Diesel oil.

He added that 300,000 to 400,000 tons of refined products would be received annually at various Indian ports.

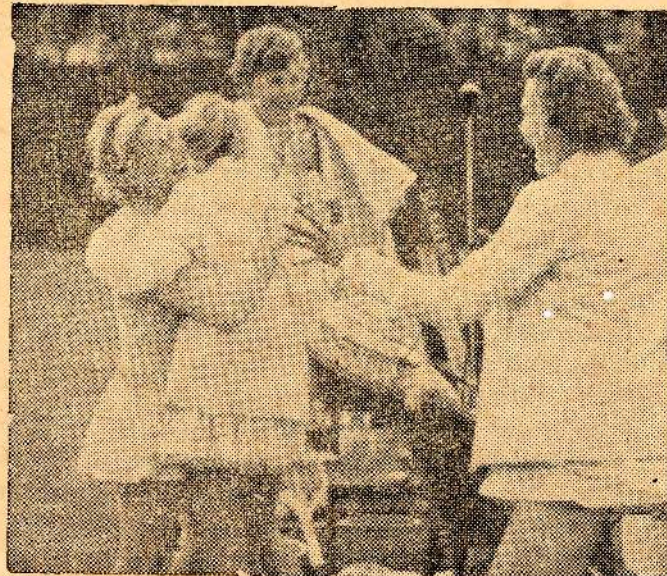
Earlier this month India concluded an agreement to import 1,500,000 tons of Soviet refined petroleum products during to next three to four years at a cost of 200 million rupees.

New Acetic Acid Process

A £2,000,000 acetic acid plant is to be built at Hull to use a new process. The process is essentially a direct conversion to acetic acid of a readily available petroleum hydrocarbon feedstock and makes possible a significant advance in expansion of the British petroleum chemical industry.

BRITISH GIRLS RETAIN WIGHTMAN CUP

The tension vanishes in the joy of victory for the British girls in the Wightman Cup tennis match at Wimbledon. Shirley Brasher and team-mate Ann Haydon hug each other happily, and Christine Truman (Background) has a broad grin; British tennis player Pat Hales runs forward to congratulate the girls after their triumph over the Americans, achieved with a final win in the doubles, to make the final result 4 matches to 3.



Political Storms for Sirimavo

PRACTICALLY every daily newspaper in England published a news story about Mrs. Bandaranaike this week. Most of these—some written by special correspondents now in Colombo—appraise her kindly as a woman and as an individual even if to quote "The Times" and the "Financial Times" as examples—They doubt her capacity to ride the political storms that arise so quickly in Ceylon.

The first of the papers mentioned says Mrs. Bandaranaike "plainly has the affection and support of multitudes of Ceylonese. By birth a member of the Kandian aristocracy she has since her marriage twenty years ago—she is only forty-six now—come to exemplify the pattern of simple living, decorum and dignity which she now urges her fellow Ceylonese to emulate.

"How this will carry her through the storms of parliamentary politics with a far from homogeneous party behind her and a substantial opposition to face is difficult to visualise"

(Continued over)

Skyscraper Flats

BASILDON New Town, one of the new self-contained districts built to relieve pressure on factory and residential space round London, is to have skyscraper flats as the "centrepiece". A block 160 feet high will stand on eight 27-foot V shaped concrete legs. Under the flats will be two storey shops and basement garage.

For The Blind

BLIND customers of Lloyds Bank, one of Britain's "Big Five" has introduced bank statements in Braille. The new service developed by the bank in close co-operation with the Royal National Institute for the Blind, came into force from July 18.

A 'Britannia' Every 15 Minutes

THE Bristol "Britannia" aircraft is now in service to the extent that, on average, one is taking off every 15 minutes somewhere in the world.

Announcing this figure in London, Messrs Bristol Aircraft Ltd. say 'Britannias' are making approximately 3,000 revenue departures and flying some 14,500 hours every

month. And the figures are rising as summer schedules are coming into force.

How We Add Up

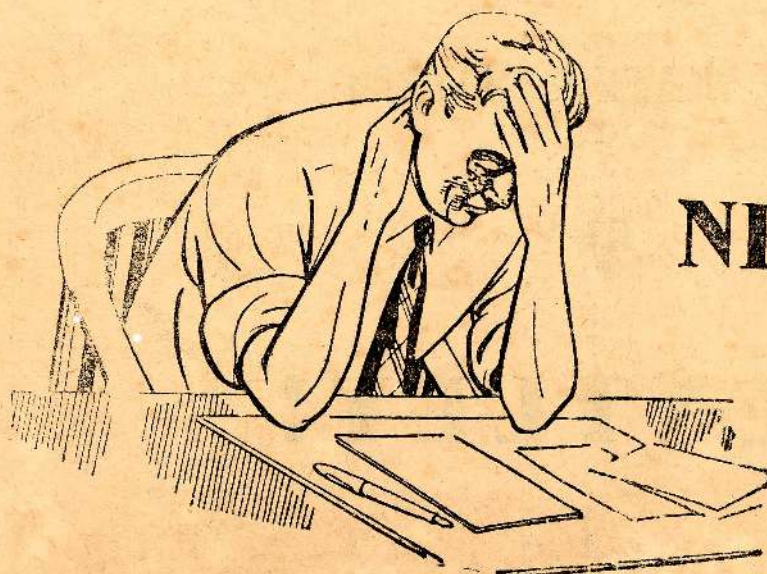
On happiness: 'There are as many nights as days, and the one is just as long as the other in the year's course. Even a happy life cannot be without a measure of darkness, and the word happy would even lose its meaning if it were not balanced by sadness. It is far better to take things as they come along with patience and equanimity.'

Meals On Wheels For Seals

LONDON Zoo has devised a 'food hunt' for two grey seals, Syd and Milly, and one common seal, Billy, who in natural conditions have to hunt for their food.

Hide and seek not being practicable in their Regent's Park pool, an electrical fish dispenser has been installed to make the seals 'work for their living.' The dispenser runs on rails round the rim of the pit and when the seals touch a button two fish are released for catching in mid air—and first come first served

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The Livestock Industry in Japan

BY HERBERT DE SILVA

The Embassy of Japan in Ceylon

THE advancement achieved by the livestock industry of Japan in recent years is almost startling indeed and it is universally admitted that, among various different branches of the country, livestock is the most progressive industry with rosy prospects for the future.

To cite figures by way of explanation, the index numbers of agricultural production for 1955 stood with 1950-1952 average as 100 at 121 per cent. for farming and 124 for sericulture, while the number for livestock reached as high as 158 per cent. which was the highest among the group. Itemizing livestock again, the unit of livestock came up to 115 per cent. and wool and others to 144 per cent., among which the increase by a little over 2 times in dairy and another by a little short of 2 times in eggs and chicks were most noticeable.

Factors contributive to a rapid advancement like this is conceivable to be: first, the diffusion of bread diet among the nation after the war whipped up demand for livestock foodstuffs; second, that livestock raising was encouraged among farm population with the rationalization of management in Japanese agriculture in view; and third, the technical advancement in the improvement and increased production of livestock, improvement of facilities and the complete set up for sanitation and disease control. For the purpose of carrying out research works on the improvement of breeding stock and its breeding and distribution, a network of artificial insemination stations has been built up, comprising fifteen national livestock breeding stations, forty six prefectural livestock breeding stations, a number of non governmental livestock farms exceedingly well organized and keeping close connection with one another.

Besides, there are a number of breeders' organizations performing various tasks fundamental to the improvement of livestock, such as livestock registration, livestock shows, and so forth. With these organizations, progress is remarkable, particularly of late, in their constitution, the scale of their activities and technique.

CHICKEN

The number of chickens raised in the country has reached 50 millions in 1956 and amount of egg production has passed the 6,000 million mark. The number of chickens has remained pre-war standard while eggs have got far ahead of pre-war figures due to much increased egg laying ability. As for breed, white leghorns account for 70.7 per cent of the total number, Barred Plymouth Rocks 4.2 per cent, Rhode Island Red 1.1 per cent, Nagoya 2.9 per cent, Fl. crossbred 7.5 per cent and other varieties 13.6 per cent.

Day old chicks are being shipped mainly to South East Asian regions by air and have given very favourable reception in those markets due to their good quality. A large quantity of day-old chicks have been imported to Ceylon.

(Continued over)

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PIGS

The development of meat industry and improvement of stud pigs have brought about a sudden increase in these days in the number of hogs, which has jumped to 1.16 million mark in 1956. These are, in breed, Yorkshires and Birkshires, the former being predominant to the extent almost of 90 per cent. While Yorkshires are bred countrywide, the breeding of Birkshires centres mainly in the prefectures of Saitama, Miyazaki, Shizouka and Kagoshima.

Japanese pigs have been exported since 1948 to Formosa, Korea, Okinawa, Hongkong, Burma and other Southeast Asian countries.

DAIRY CATTLE

Of livestock industry of Japan, dairy industry is the field, which had made phenomenal advancement. The number of dairy cattle in 1955 numbered 500,000.

Meanwhile, improvement in the quality of dairy cattle is also quite prominent due to which a considerable increase has been realized in milk yield; milk output during the whole of 1955 surpassed 999.38 million kilograms.

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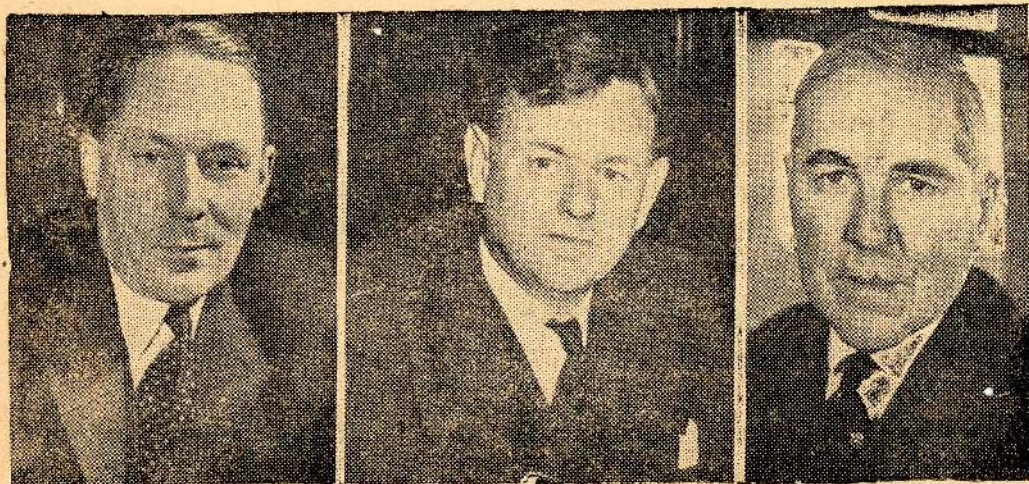
A work cattle "Wagyu" has been playing an important role in the operation of agricultural industry of Japan and after serving as such they are fattened and sold to butcheries to supply meat for the well-known Japanese fare "Suklyaki."

GOATS

Goats now raised in Japan amount to 630,000 in number, the most part of which are of Japanese Saanen breed. Although the goat raising is widespread throughout the country, it is thriving well especially in districts in Nagano and Eumm prefectures. Goats have contributed to a no small degree to the cause of improving nutritive conditions in rural as well as mountain communities.

SHEEP

It is presumed that the number of sheep in the country has come up to 900,000. Here, too, improvements are preminently to be seen



THE NEW BRITISH CABINET

(Left) The Rt. Hon. Harold Watkinson, Minister of Defence.

(Centre) The Rt. Hon. Viscount Hailsham, Lord Privy Seal.

(Right) The Rt. Hon. Henry Brooke, Minister of Housing and Local Government and Minister of Welsh Affairs.

In the density and spinning quality of wool in recent years. The three breeds are Corriedale, Merino and Shropshire. These are the descendants of those imported from Australia and New Zealand before, and are raised mainly in Hokkaido and Tohoku districts.

HORSES

The number of horses in Japan has reached 890,000. Horses are indispensable in farming operation in snowy districts. They are therefore raised mainly in these districts. The breeding of light horses for racing is carried on also extensively in these days.

LIVESTOCK QUARANTINE

Like in other countries, the law stipulates in Japan that all livestock to be imported or vice versa should undergo strict quarantine. Animal quarantine has been placed under the jurisdiction of Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, the Animal Quarantine Station assuming the actual business.

JAPAN A MODEL FOR CEYLON

The livestock industry of Japan has contributed in a large measure for its economic stability among the rural areas. Its an industry that could bring in an additional income to the rural folk, if it is done properly. Ceylon has plenty of facilities for the development of this industry on an islandwide scale. The interest taken by the Government in establishing Poultry breeding centres in different parts of Ceylon should be an incentive for the people of this country to develop this industry both for the mutual benefit of the people and the country



Minister of External Affairs and Defence

WAS the above appointment made in accordance with the legal provisions governing this appointment? How is it that politicians and their fellow travellers, who have been vociferous during the pre-election period, are silent today on a matter of Constitutional importance?

Please, Mr. Editor, find some space for my observations. Here they are.

No. 1—Has His Excellency the Governor General the authority to appoint the Prime Minister?

No. 2—His Excellency can appoint Ministers without the recommendation of the Prime Minister. Is this in keeping with democratic principles?

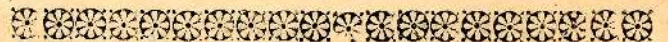
No. 3—The Ordinance stipulates that the P.M. shall *ipso facto* be the Minister for External Affairs and Defence.

No. 4—What was the necessity, in view of the above, for the Governor General to appoint Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike to be the Minister for External Affairs and Defence?

The answers to the above questions would prove of great public interest.

A. F. LIVERA

Gothatuwa.



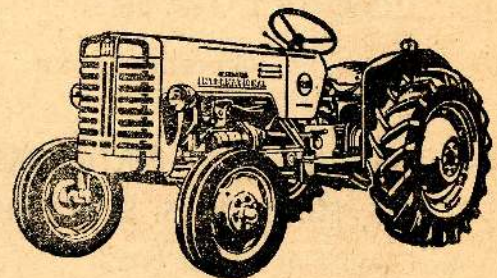
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Maladministration of the Agricultural Dept.

THE All Ceylon Agricultural Congress in a letter to the Chairman of the National Wage Policy Commission has offered to give evidence against highly placed Government officials who are "acting in a manner detrimental to the economic upliftment of the country."

It has been pointed out that they have since been campaigning unsuccessfully for the appointment of an Agricultural Commission to inquire into the "gross maladministration" of the Department of Agriculture, which acts "have positively retarded the speedy attainment of self-sufficiency in food."

The Congress has suggested that the National Wage Policy Commission should take up the question of studying the case of Government officials who act in a manner unworthy of any patriot, especially when such acts concern the economic deterioration of the country and incorporate in their final Report a system to

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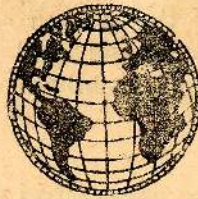
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mete out **deterent punishment** on such officials no matter what their standing is.

The ACAC is prepared to bring to light individual cases of highly placed Governmental officers who deserve punishment by way of cuts in their salaries etc. In this connexion it has also been pointed out to the relevant authorities that the average village cultivator has long tolerated the spoon feeding attitude and the resulting care free nature of all classes of Government servants irgloriously manifest in their day to day routine work and contact with the public.

As we go to press we understand that the Federation of Agricultural Department Trade Unions too has made similar representations and the Commission had called for details of this situation and which have already been supplied.

FIRST HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR THE
U. K. IN NIGERIA

Mr. Antony Head former British Defence Minister, who has been appointed the first United Kingdom High Commissioner in the Federation of Nigeria on the Federation's achievement of full Independence on October 1. The Queen has approved that a Viscounty be conferred on Mr. Head.



SOME USES FOR POLITHENE

BY H. W. POULIER

WHAT is Polythene? It is a plastic preparation largely used for wrapping food, fabrics and medicinal preparations. It is a non-absorbent, water-proof, dust-proof and fly and germ proof product of various textures with a silvery polished surface. The raw material for making Polythene is obtained from petroleum distillate.

The uses of this recent discovery are various and I venture to say infinite. When one purchases a 'good' shirt at any of the bigger shops one receives the article in a little transparent bag made of thin film. This is only one use to which Polythene is put—that is to keep the article free of dust, dirt and from being 'shop soiled.' Enterprising traders and concerns have not very long ago commenced packing lunch packets and fresh fish for sale to their numerous customers. Housewives wrap their vegetables in this thin film before storing them in their refrigerators and this helps to keep their vegetables fresh and evergreen. The variety of uses of polythene are too numerous to mention here. But, last but by no means least, there is one use to which this great dis-

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covery has successfully been put to in other lands, but not so far, I believe, tried out here in Ceylon—which is essentially an agricultural country—is its use in agriculture.

Beans, Cabbages, Ladies fingers, Lettuce, Maize, Tomatoes and Bitter Gourd are some of the crops which grow in this country. One need not make an intensive study of the growing of fruit-crops to know what happens when the fruit is allowed to reach the soil. Months and perhaps years of hard labour, loosening of soil, watering and careful tending, not mentioning the money spent in acquiring agricultural implements and manure may result in

NEW LUXURY IN BRITISH RAILE TRAVEL

—x—

Representatives of overseas countries in the United Kingdom had a short ride in one of Britain's new 90 mph Diesel-electric luxury trains which have been built by the Metropolitan Cammell Carriage & Wagon Co. Ltd., of Birmingham for the British Transport Commission. These new trains will provide non stop links between leading provincial cities and London. Travel in these de luxe air conditioned trains is smooth, comfortable, and almost silent, even at high speeds. Seats in the first-class saloons are adjustable, as in aircraft. Interior decor varies from vehicle to vehicle. The train is powered by two 1,000 hp Diesel engines supplied by the North British Locomotive Co. Ltd., each direct coupled to



a GEC composite main and auxiliary generator. These supply DC electric power for traction purposes

a good portion of the harvest becoming worm or insect-eaten and unsaleable. This is particularly so in the case of cabbages and ladies fingers. Again where the soil is 'bone dry' requiring watering of the crops twice a day, the plants will not thrive so well. This is where the two varieties of the black and transparent polythene film comes into the aid of the agriculturist. Used extensively in Japan and America, polythene has proved a great asset to the crop farmer and paid him back well over and above its cost.

When the field are ready for planting the seed, strips of this film are cut to the size of the 'beds.' Tiny holes are punched on the edges of the film so that water can pass through. The seed is then sown and the strips of polythene laid over the 'beds.' Holes for the germinating plant to grow through are also made in the film which from now on keeps the soil moist. When the plants have grown through the film, the fruit borne will not come into contact with the soil. The black film, if used, will in addition to the above advantages solve the weeding problem as weeds being devoid of sunlight are killed and not allowed to grow and become parasites on the plant food. If the fruits are covered with little bags of the transparent film, there will be no inclination for the fruit to bend so common in ladies fingers and cucumber. Polythene has even been used in the cultivation of rice with the growing result of higher

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yields. Experiments carried out in some countries have clearly proved beyond doubt that polythene produces earlier harvests, *higher yields* and fruit freshly packed and ready for marketing. It is fully worthwhile adopting these measures in Ceylon which will help this country on the road to self-sufficiency in food.



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The Wealthiest Women

PICKING the richest man in the world is a popular pastime. But who's the richest woman?

She is ex Queen Wilhelmina, the grand old lady of the Netherlands who stepped aside for her daughter Juliana in 1948 after ruling for 50 years. Wilhelmina, now 79, always was a sturdy example for thrifty Dutchmen, never bothered much about fashion or society. Perhaps that's why she was able to put together holdings in Royal Dutch Shell and other concerns conservatively estimated to be more than \$600 million. In addition, the Ladies' Home Journal reported last week in an article on "The Richest Women" Wilhelmina owns real estate on three continents and the most valuable royal jewelry collection in Europe.

PLACED: Next in line, says the LHJ article, may be the 51-year old widow of the Aga Khan III, the Begum. The one time dress-maker and French beauty contest winner is said to have inherited a half billion dollars from the wily old Aga. If reports about the begum's fortune are over inflated, the runner up is likely

to be Mrs. Dorothy Killam, a St. Louis-born Canadian who was left more than \$250 million when her husband, Izaak Walton Killam, died in 1955. He made the money in paper, pulp, and other investments.

The French candidate for richest woman honors, Suzanne Volterra, came in to a mere \$40 million and 45 thoroughbred horses. The rich women in Spain the Duchess of Alba a person of "education, charm, and great good fortune. The same things, alas, cannot be said for all the world's wealthiest women."

THE LAND OF PALMS

THE reader must not mistake the caption of this article as referring to the popular coconut or palmyrah palm. It refers to that pernicious habit which has assumed the nature of a menace to the public life of this country and its proper and efficient administration. This menace is the disgusting habit of showing the palm that needs to be oiled or greased to facilitate the manipulation of anything in favour of a person willing to palm-oil. The law looks upon such an act as the acceptance of an illegal gratification. In common parlance it is called bribery and corruption which has so rapidly grown that those in high places and wielding authority fall easy victims to it.

Bribery and corruption is rampant in our Public Services. One sees evidence of this almost everyday in the newspapers. There is no department where it does not prevail. The granting of the Franchise to those who do not know its value has, it is believed, facilitated the growth of this pernicious evil. The coming of Independence helped it to spread amazingly. Ministers and Members of Parliament and Heads of Governments have been known to succumb to the acceptance of bribes. So much so today the evil exists everywhere and flourishes like the Green Bay tree, bribery commissions and parliamentary and departmental committees appointed to probe into cases of Bribery, to the contrary notwithstanding.

What seems unbelievable is the self governing bodies like the Municipal Councils of Colombo, Jaffna, Kurunegalle, Negombo and

(Continued on page 17)

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THE ECONOMIC WAR:

Our Oil vs. Red Oil

IN its great economic offensive against the West, the Red Russian government has unlimbered a big weapon that private companies have found hard to spike. The Soviets can offer bargain basement prices, regardless of costs or profits. Last week, a group of free-world companies met the challenge head on. The place: India. The product: Oil

The squabble began when the Russians offered to sell India some 1.5 million tons of oil at more than 12 per cent below the going world-market rate. Then Shell, Caltex, and Standard Vacuum, the three biggest Western refiners with facilities in India, started making counter proposals. Shell first offered to cut the price of crude oil 7.5 per cent, a reduction the Indian Government called 'too little'. Then Stanvac said it would supply India with crude at prices "fully competitive" with Russia's. Caltex was also reportedly dickering with the Indians about price cuts.

The outcome of the competitive bidding remained in doubt. Favoring Russia was the fact that it offered to accept payment for its oil in rupees, which would conserve some of India's precious foreign exchange reserves. On the side of the oil companies, however, was the fact that they are a dependable source of supply, while the Russians have not always been.

POWER PLAY: So far, the international oil battle was limited. But it might grow widespread and bitter. Though Russia currently accounts for only around 3 per cent of world oil exports, it has plenty of capacity (with production of some 3 million barrels per day last year, third highest in the world) if it chooses to flex its export muscles.

And recently, the Reds have been doing just that. Cuba is the most dramatic case. Not so well publicized is the fact that Russia now supplies 12 per cent of Italy's oil needs, ships sizable quantities of oil to Finland, Sweden, and Japan. It is making fond overtures to underdeveloped countries, where oil demand is increasing far faster than in America.

Oil men are determined to give the Reds a stiff fight. One, in fact, waxed Churchillian. 'We'll fight them on the beaches and in the refineries,' he said. 'But it will be an economic battle.'

The
Ale Conner

EVEN 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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LION LAGER

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The Lands of Palms

[Continued from page 15]



N'Eliya should complain against this very menace. The numerous Urban Councils like Matara, Weligama, Kalutara, Panadura and Dehiwala Mt. Lavinia have passed resolutions demanding of the Minister of Local Administration to appoint a Commission to inquire into cases of Bribery that exist in their respective bodies.

Here is therefore a splendid opportunity for the new government and for Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, with her absolute majority spoken of as enabling her to sustain a stable Government (sic), to be of useful service to the country by firmly resolving to make the Bribery Commission now functioning a permanent body and also enlarging its powers to hear, determine and punish all those against whom bona fide charges are preferred for accepting bribes or being subject to any other form of corruption and thus help to rid the country of a pest that has grown faster than *Salvinia* in our inland waterways.

We have known scores of instances where grave public wrongs had been perpetrated in consequence of officials both Government and Municipal, falling, victims to the offer and acceptance of illegal gratifications or bribes and sanctioning flagrant wrongs. Here are three instances that occurred within recent times.

In Front Street of the Pettah and hard by the Central Railway Station (Fort) facing the

Chalmers Granaries, a couple of ancient and dilapidated houses used as tea boutiques were pulled down to make way for a modern two-storied structure into the construction of which hundreds of tons of iron-girders and concrete entered. When the building was completed it was discovered that the premises encroached on the Queen's highway by several hundred square feet for a distance of nearly 30 feet. How this building was allowed to come up, flouting all building laws, seems inexplicable. Then there is another instance. A cinema magnate was alleged to have diabolically encroached on Crown land in Colombo South by erecting a Theatre costing some four lacs. There it stands today a wonderful example how public highways are deliberately encroached upon. Let the reader ask himself the question, how such things happen? And here is the third instance. The Glass Factory at Nattandiya is said to have cost the Government something like sixteen lacs of rupees complete with machinery, quarters for resident Engineer and Staff with Factory and Bungalow equipment. That the factory failed and was languishing for a long time is common knowledge. But one fine day, recently, we were told that it had been "palmed off" to somebody for the respectable sum of rupees one and half lacs. If this is true then the potentialities of "palm oil" are wonderful.



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

31st July 1960

The Child Protection Society

IN Vol.32 No.6 of The Searchlight of March 15-1953 we placed before the public certain matters pertaining to this Society which we had reason to think were detrimental to it. His Excellency the Governor General, as Patron, seeing the article summoned the Director to see him and questioned him regarding the substance of our exposures and not being quite satisfied with the explanations His Excellency decided to visit the Homes with the Director.

We now feel very unhappy that once again things appear to be going wrong and hence we have to state a few facts which disturb us. We are, however, quite pleased to know that some members, particularly some lady members, do excellent and unostentatious service. The services of the Lady Warden of the Girls' Home cannot be too highly praised, but we are perturbed by the doings of the Honorary Secretary who appears to be running the show as he likes and that with the great help of the President. Anyway we are certainly much disturbed by the news of Dr. L. O. Abeyratne's resignation from the Committee and when one reads his public plea in the Press one is able to understand the reason for all the existing trouble. Sir Razik, one of the most senior members too, had said that he feels unhappy at certain things that happen at the meetings. We are also told on good authority that Mr. P. G. de Silva, a founder member, who next to Sir John Parsons, had served the society regularly since its inception, had himself sent in his resignation not long ago. On that occasion at Sir Oliver Goonetilleke's intervention Mr. de Silva withdrew his resignation out of deference to His Excellency's pleading. In a speech at a meeting of the Society held at Queen's House, His Excellency said:

"I cannot think of the Child Protection Society without associating it with Sir John Parsons and Mr. P. G. de Silva."

But what is the real cause of the present sad state of affairs in the Society? We are now investigating the matter and shall not demur to denounce anybody responsible be he a great personage or any upstart. We have always stood by this institution and still watch its progress with interest.

Following Dr L. O. Abeyratne's resignation, Mr. P. G. de Silva too has resigned. His explanation for taking such a step is that nobody is able to get on with the Honorary Secretary "owing to his arrogance and haughty behaviour." We shall return to the subject in the next issue.

Adverse Trade Balance

CEYLON had an adverse balance of Rs. 12,096,000 in her external trade at the end of the first half of this year, according to the latest Customs returns.

The value of Imports during the period totalled Rs. 960,491,000 and that of exports Rs. 917,731,000, while re-exports brought in Rs. 30,664,000.

During the same period last year, the trade balance was in Ceylon's favour by Rs. 15,203,000.

Food accounted for Rs. 330,967,000 worth of imports, manufactured goods Rs. 208,391,000 machinery and equipment Rs. 162,253,030, chemicals Rs. 67,224,404, miscellaneous manufactured articles Rs. 78,973,120.

From exports, tea (in bulk) fetched Rs. 547,142,675; rubber (sheet) Rs. 116,540,137, latex crepe Rs. 70,151,260 and scrap crepe Rs. 35,623,229; coconut oil (raw in bulk) Rs. 19,669,721 and copra Rs. 13,792,261.

Britain was the largest buyer of Ceylon goods with purchases totalling Rs. 261,311,491. United States was next with Rs. 91,611,664, China, third with Rs. 71,376,297 and Australia fourth with Rs. 60,256,858.

Ceylon's largest imports were from Britain totalling Rs. 221,591,648, India next (Rs. 127,048,644) and Japan third (Rs. 79,191,012).

A NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

BY A. E. GUNAWARDENA

NOW that everything is said and done we can see how we stand and who has acted rightly during the past 12 months and in doing so we cannot help but say that much rejected person Philip Gunawardena has been right to a great extent regardless of his manner and method. His well-intentioned attempt to give an economic price for Ceylonese rice was thwarted unnecessarily. His attempt to give enhanced credit to co-operative production societies was also made to fizzle out foolishly. And lastly his suggestion for a National Government was poohpoohed in the scramble for power. Today the problems of 1956 have appeared again afresh and what is urgent are (1) Cheap food for the preponderant mass of the indigent people and (2) the development of our national economy with the limited resources available in the quickest possible time. The greatest achievement so far is that we are given only plain rice cheap or

'thanni soru,' if we are to use the appropriate word, and that too at the heavy price paid for sugar, flour tobacco, arrack, petrol etc.

The party in power in its enthusiasm to form the government has promised more than it is capable of fulfilling and in order to save face is dwelling on unnecessary matters leaving the main issues neglected.

A National Government for a defined period devoid of foolish party rivalry seems the only way out of the present impasse.

Whither are We Heading ?

LOSSES, LOSSES AND LOSSES

FOUR Government sponsored Corporations have registered an accumulated nett loss of Rs. 12,926,926 up to March 31, last year, according to the last report of the Auditor-General, Mr. L. A. Weerasinghe, on the accounts of the Government of Ceylon for the financial year 1958-59.

LOSSES BY FOUR

The losses have been incurred by the Eastern Paper Mills (Rs. 5,083,764), Ceylon Ceramic (Rs. 970,599), Oils and Fats (Rs. 4,803,190) and Paranthan Chemicals (Rs. 2,069,373).

PROFITS BY THREE

Those Corporations netted a profit of Rs. 532,735. They are: Ceylon Cement (Rs. 243,229) Gintota Plywoods (Rs. 75,224) and D. I. Leather Products (Rs. 214,282 before providing for taxation).

WHAT WILL THEY SHOW ?

A sum of Rs. 25,044,573 has been expended by eight Corporations which at the time of the Auditor General's report were not in full operations

They are National Salt: (Rs. 1,250,858), Kantalai Sugar (Rs. 16,733,000), Ceylon Mineral Sands (Rs. 4 million), National Textiles (Rs. 1,455,868), National Small Industries (Rs. 428,415) Ceylon Hardboard (Rs. 29,444) Industrial Estates (Rs. 15,923), and State Plantations (Rs. 1,131,036).

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Violating Parliamentary Procedure

HERE are two things that contribute to the successful functioning of Cabinet Government. The first is that Cabinet Ministers must not say what they propose doing under the authority of their portfolios, before anything they have in view is brought up and discussed at a Cabinet Meeting and a decision had been reached. The second is the observance of Cabinet discipline. With the formation of a Cabinet there is born what is known as Cabinet responsibility. Every individual Minister shares in the responsibility for any decision arrived at by the Cabinet and which they must stand by, uphold and even defend against public criticism. The same line of conduct applies to Junior Ministers who are adjuncts of a Cabinet.

The promulgation or announcement of a policy in regard to a particular matter is the prerogative of the Minister of the particular Ministry to which the subject relates. On no account should a Junior Minister availing of inside information deal with such information without the consent of his Minister. We do not presume here to teach Junior Ministers what their duties are and how they should conduct themselves in such capacities. Parliamentary conventions cannot be allowed to be disregarded. In the Cabinet of 1956 and later much of the trouble and confusion that prevailed, arose from no attention being paid to the above principle.

Early last week the Prime Minister was put to the necessity of having to request her Ministers, and this applied to Junior Ministers as well not to make any announcement to a matter of policy until it was outlined in the Throne Speech. It is quite plain why the P.M. was obliged to make such a request through the Press. It was because Mr. Hugh Fernando, M.P. for Wennappuwa, speaking at a reception accorded to him somewhere in his constituency, disclosed with glee that **"within four or five months the Government would take over assisted Schools, Insurance Companies and Foreign Banks."**

This announcement was not altogether new. The SLFP Government had foreshadowed the coming of such an event but on finding public opinion was opposed to it on principle that

'Nationalisation would be undertaken in stages if and when it became necessary in the interests of the State'. If one is not mistaken, the P.M. stated that nationalisation would not be immediately undertaken. But here was Mr. Hugh Fernando, M.P. rushing into announce something that causes misunderstanding and even perplexity. The M.P. mentioned that the time limit was **"within four or five months."**

Mr. Fernando was probably anticipating such an event. But the question is not whether he was right or wrong in anticipating but whether he was justified in arrogating to himself a responsibility he was not entitled to assume. Probably his elevation to an official position in the Government for which he had no great claims made him loose his bearings. So fancying himself go with exuberance. Apart from making himself ridiculous we opine that his conduct was grossly irregular. It is hoped that the P.M. will give Mr. Fernando a rap on his knuckles for this indiscreet action of his. May we also remind this political junker of Wennappuwa that excessive enthusiasm coupled with indiscretion could hardly condone haughty conduct and, what is more, a flagrant violation in parliamentary procedure.

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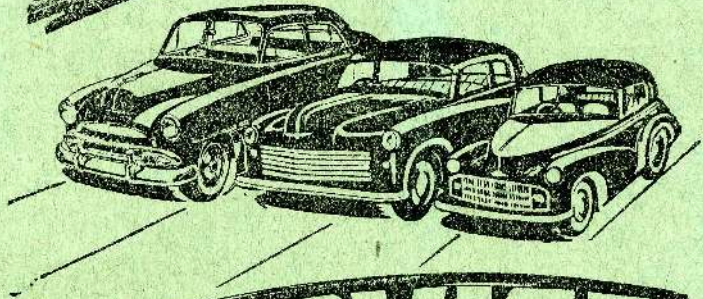


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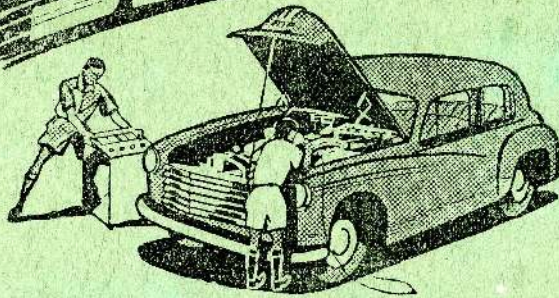
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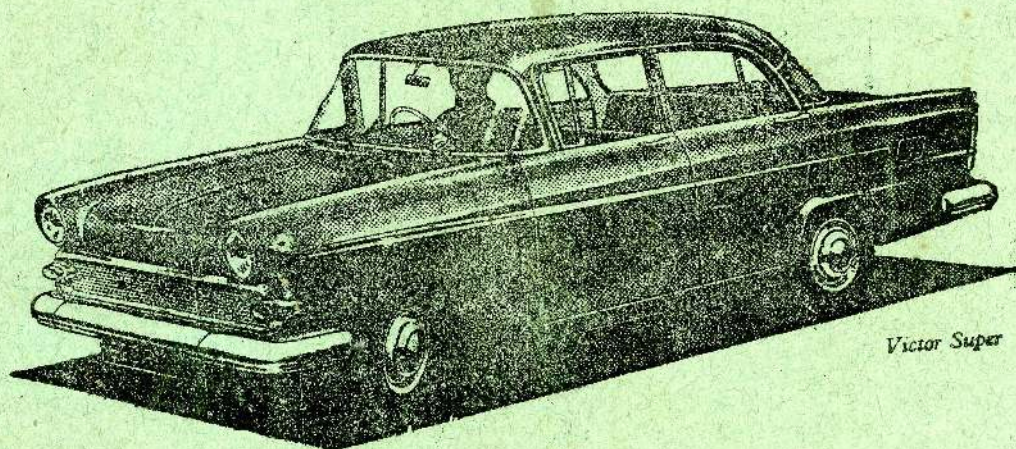


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