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# The SEARCHLIGHT

39th YEAR OF ESTABLISHMENT

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VOL 39 NO. 15

COLOMBO

AUGUST 15th 1960

## NO PUBLIC CONSCIENCE ABOUT BRIBERY ?

THE Bribery Commissioners (Mr. W. Talgodapitiya, (Chairman), Mr. T. W. Roberts and Mr. S. J. C. Schokman have concluded their sittings and are now engaged in drafting the Report for submission to the Governor-General. The Commission has forwarded an Interim Report. However public interest in what the Commissioners have to say, is gathering volume in regard to the Bribery Commission itself and a word of comment here is, therefore, called for.

There appears to be much difference between the L. M. de Silva Commission, the Keuneman Commission and the Talgodapitiya Commission taken in their respective order. In the first instance it was a one man commission. So was the second. But in the third instance it was a three men commission and appears to have enjoyed less power than the two previous commissions. Why this was so, is difficult to say. The first was a live and vigorous tribunal. It did the work expected of it in a thorough and expeditious manner winning both Government and public commendation. The two subsequent commissions did not appear to show they had the powers that were enjoyed by their predeces-

sors. Anyway despite limited powers they did their work well. We have not a word to say about their impartiality, alround fairness and regard for justice. If they had not been entrusted with wider powers no blame could be attached to them.

Here we desire to state that although the practice of bribery is so well-known to exist the public reaction to the evil seems lukewarm and people are inclined to treat it with indifference almost, and only when a disappointment is caused to somebody or the other that a big noise is created. Otherwise the practice goes on with everybody winking at it and even conniving at the perpetration of the evil. Consequently the people are beginning to get callous and what is more accustomed to it. Perhaps it is the public's lack of conscience that is responsible for people looking upon bribery has no infamous crime.

Judging things from the present trends one is amazed at how an adverse verdict by a Bribery Commission is received by the public and what effect such a verdict has on the person found guilty. (Continued on page 11)

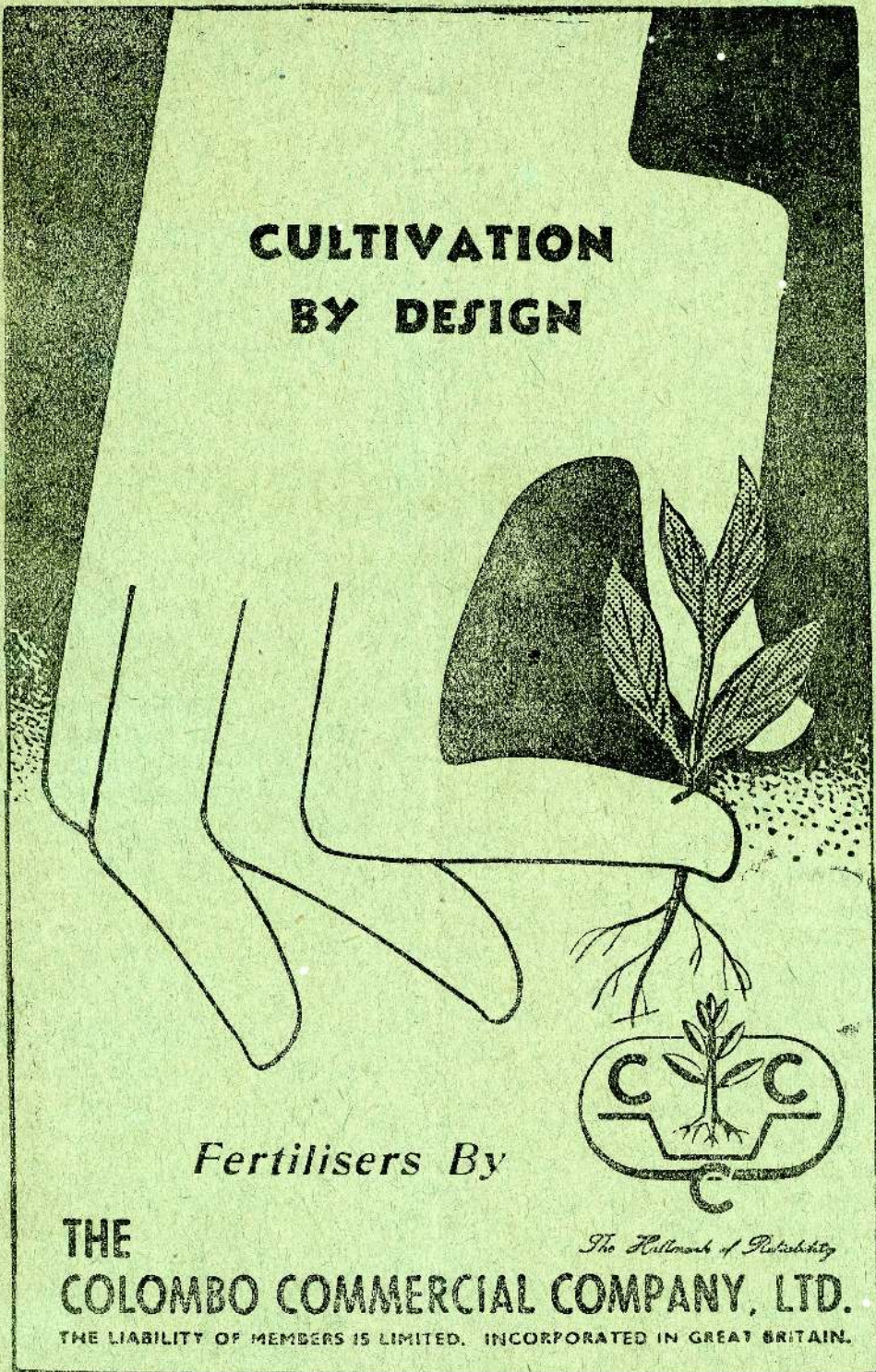
AN OPEN LETTER

to the Hon. Minister of  
Agriculture & Lands

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10



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VOL 39 NO. 15

COLOMBO

AUGUST 15th 1960

## Paying for Past Extravagance- But who's?

BY A. E. GUNAWARDENA

THE country's external assets have fallen from a thousand million to a five hundred due to the squanderings of the last few years and because of that the people's hopes for cheaper food and drink and comfortable living may recede into the background. But it should not be so. A government which is concerned about the welfare of the general population should always assure cheap food and drink to the people. For the last 15 years essential commodities like sugar and flour and other imported foods have been kept at a high price by either raising the retail price or levying high duties on imported foods. As a result the cost of living has soared high and the mass of the indigent people find it difficult to live comfortably. The government maintains a monopoly over essential subsidiary foods and sells commodities like flour and sugar at over 400% profit.

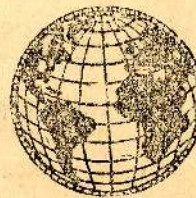
### THE GROUSE OVER THE RICE

While the people were suffering in grinding poverty the U.N.P. fortunately reduced the price of rice from 35 cts. to 25 cts. and though they are blamed for it they have actually done a good thing. The rice subsidy is costing the government only Rs. 40 million extra and is that too much in an expenditure budget of Rs. 1,200 million especially when 9,000,000 benefit by it. What about the squan-

derings of Rs. 50 million in a few days which go unnoticed. The grouse the people have with the U.N.P. is that they did not go far enough and make sugar, flour and all food cheap and solve a legion of problems thereby.

### STAGNANT ECONOMY

If our State finances are bad the way to solve it is by increased production and production can be increased only when each person has sufficient food. Once people have enough food the incentive to work and produce will come automatically. Ceylon can easily be self-sufficient in cloth even through handlooms if the state restricts the imports of cloth and thereby save both our foreign assets and help industry



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In the country itself. Restriction of imports of cars alone would not do unless the bicycle industry is encouraged and repair or assembly of cars are started or even used cars are imported and spare parts are got in duty free to suit the new scheme of things.

#### THE FOUNDATION IS CHEAP FOOD

We have had experience of unhappy budgets for several years where expenditure exceeds revenue to meet the needs of a comfortable bureaucracy and charges on electricity, postal rates and transport rates and food commodities have been raised without compunction. In any system of ordered progress food should be cheap and other prices and wages should be adjusted accordingly. Now food prices are artificially raised in order to find an excuse for high salaries for a few and majority of the people suffer thereby. Cheap food is the foundation for prosperity and the only salvation for the general population. Industrial progress must be preceded by cheap food and that is the lesson from history the world over.

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# 10, Downing Street

BY  
ERNEST ATKINSON

FOR the next two year when messengers are sent with papers for "Number Ten," they will go to Admiralty House at the other end of Whitehall. It is there that the British Prime Minister has moved his official home and set up his office while his official home, No. 10, Downing Street, undergoes a long needed reconstruction.

No. 10 was never a specially robust building. It has been said that there can be few London buildings on which more money per foot of frontage has been spent. Thousands of pounds have been spent on keeping it in repair that might have been saved if the original building had been better.

Now the job is to be done thoroughly. The cost will be at least £ 500,000—a figure which, however, includes spending on No. 11, Downing Street, the official residence of Chancellors of the Exchequer, and the restoration to its full height of No. 12, which stands at right angles to No. 10 and No. 11 and lost its upper stories in a fire in 1879.

#### FOOTNOTES TO HISTORY

Tracing the history of the Downing Street site can provide a fascinating little exercise in footnotes to English history. In pre Reformation days there was a brew-house there, owned by the Abbey of Abingdon; the connection of that foundation with Westminster is recalled by the name of a short length of street opposite the House of Lords.

After that there came a half-timbered house standing in a large garden. King Henry VIII granted it to a goldsmith he liked. Queen Elizabeth I gave a lease of the house to Sir Thomas Knyvett, Keeper of the Palace of Westminster. Knyvett left it to his widow and she to Elizabeth Hampden, her niece

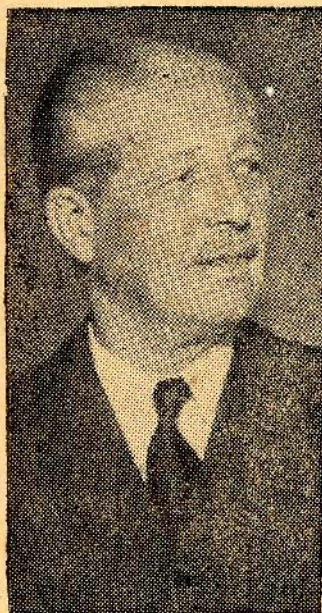
If, as the architect-historian, Mr. John Summerson, has pointed out, this lady's name had continued to be attached to the house, as it was for the 40 years that she lived there, London would have been the richer for a nominal association of uncommon felicity. She was



the mother of John Hampden, that great champion of Parliament against the Crown, and the Aunt of Oliver Cromwell, who overthrow the Crown.

But the property went to George Downing, who acquired the Crown's interest in it in 1654.

“PERFIDIOUS ROGUE”



Mr. Harold Mac Millan

Downing was described by the seventeenth century diarist, Samuel Pepys, as a “perfidious rogue.” He was the son of a Puritan lawyer. He emigrated to Boston, graduated at Harvard University, came home again, organised Cromwell's intelligence services and, indeed, headed the movement for offering him the Crown.

Later he went as British Resident to The Hague, made a time-

ly change of allegiance to Charles II and gained credit by procuring at Delft the arrest of three regicides. He gained a knighthood, then a baronetcy, a membership of Parliament, and much wealth.

Of what he made of the Downing Street site there but  $2\frac{1}{2}$  houses left today. As a speculation that turned out profitable, he built a square. The Foreign Office stands today on what was the south side of this.

But more use is made of the present-day No. 10 than Downing ever knew. Behind the house that he built is another—the structure of which survives—built about 1677, which has been lived in by the Earl of Lichfield, by Henry Nassau, Count and Lord Auverquerque, who was William III's Master of the Horse, by Baron Bothmar, the influential Hanoverian at George I's Court, and since then by such Prime Ministers as have wished to use it.

# 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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# 'English Indefinitely'

SAYS NEHRU

THE place which the English language occupies and is likely to occupy in countries of South-East Asia is the subject of an editorial in "The Times." Under the heading, "Resilient Lingua Franca," it says:

"As each year passes the language question in India becomes less of a nationalist and, therefore, emotional issue and more of a practical one. It is for this reason that Mr. Nehru has now given an assurance that English will remain indefinitely an additional or associate language of India.

"It is true that, in saying this, he is not so much responding to a positive demand for the retention of English as taking note of the hostility expressed in Southern India against the prospect of Hindi being imposed in that area. There is an element of Southern suspicion of the North in this lest Hindi, in becoming the official language, should give an undue advantage to those from the northern States where it is spoken.

## SEARCH FOR UNITY

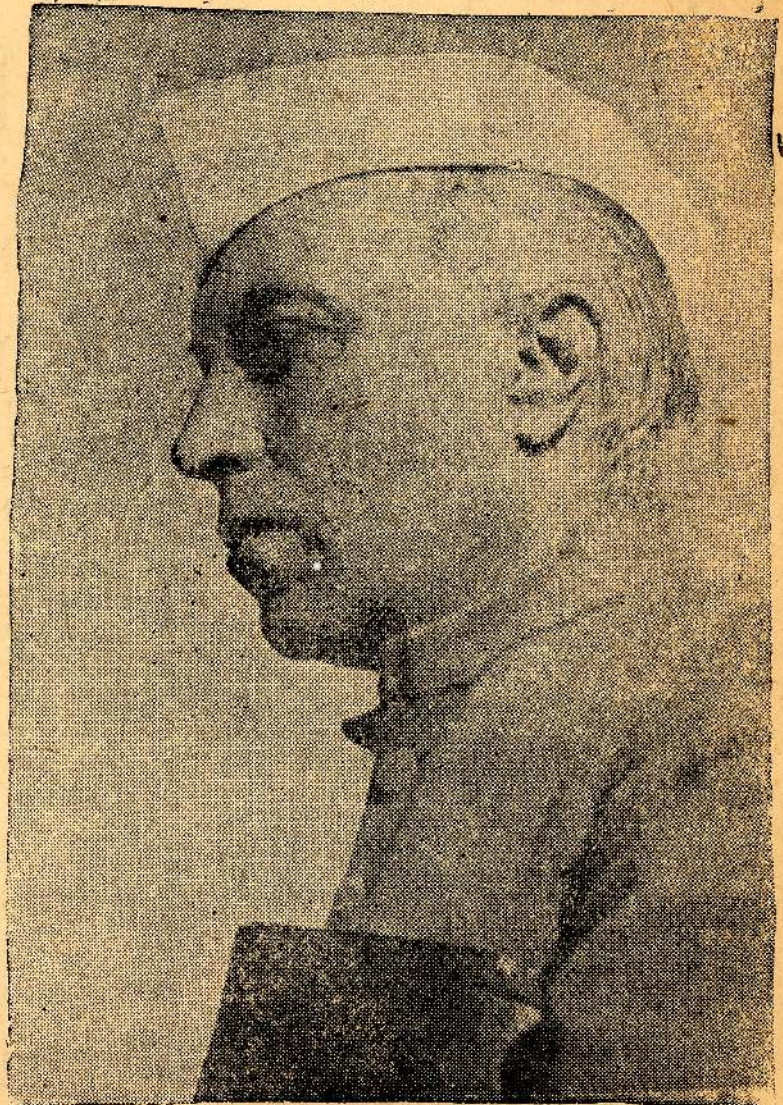
"But, in giving way over the use of English, Mr. Nehru must also have in mind the narrower linguistic issues that still plague the central Government. There were riots in Assam last month when those who want Assamese as the language turned on the Bengali speaking minority and that is only one of the many minor language rows that might yet cause trouble all over India.

"India is not alone in this difficulty, though it is much the largest country in search of unity through language. In Pakistan language is only one element in a much more profound geographical split.

Singapore, another territory in search of a language, has now officially adopted Malay, also for the emotional reason that it wants to displace English but hardly on any practical view that it is the most suitable or rich language to serve for official use. The difficulty in Singapore is to weld different races and cultures. Since Singapore's future depends upon an eventual link with Malaya, the choice goes to Malay.

Any other choice, if English is to be displaced, could only be Mandarin Chinese and, if ever a language would certainly bring political explosion in its train, it would be Chinese as spoken on the Chinese mainland. So it has to be Malay, inadequate though it is. How long

(Continued over)



PANDIT NEHRU



will it be before Singapore modifies this decision as India has modified its decision over English?

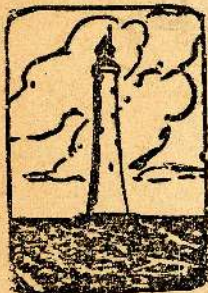
**WORLD-WIDE TREND**

Singapore is a cosmopolitan city and its future depends on its character as a junction of trade and of cultures. There are some things that can be planned in this world in the hope that the end result after five years or more will bear a recognisable relationship to the original. But language is not one of them.

"If ever there were a world-wide trend that now looks unlikely to be reversed, it is in the spread of the use of English. All over South-East Asia, where other foreign languages were once dominant, English is now being eagerly learned.

For the time being feelings may be against it in Singapore and, while the link with Malaya is still to be made, Malaya must be allowed its exalted status. A few years hence, if the welding of races goes on quietly, English may begin to look as necessary there as it does now in India."

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**The New Government**

THOSE who believe that a majority of votes in Parliament will enable a Government to go through its allotted period of life must not build up faith on such a score. True the S.L.F.P., is independent of all other parties. But that is no guarantee it will not break down half-way. There must be money to run a Government. This the S.L.F.P. cannot command. The National Exchequer is empty. Money is getting scarcer in the country. To tax an over-taxed people would be unwise. They will rebel.

Already the Government is confronted with terrible deficits in Ceylon's foreign assets. Losses in every undertaking it put its hands into in recent years are showing themselves. The threat of nationalisation has scared away the foreign investors. The C.T.B. shows a debit and a loss of 15 millions. How is this to be met? The outlook is not too hopeful and, if it continues for another year, the Government will find itself in the mire. Where is it going to find the money for re-construction or development work? Already the country has come to the end of its tether, and its borrowing powers have reached the limit. So what? Let's wait and see!



# Raising of loans from the Savings Bank

WHAT seems to be disturbing news reaches us about the manner applications for loans to the Ceylon Savings Bank on the security of property in Colombo and in the out-skirts are received, considered and disposed off. If what we hear about the manner applications are alleged to be entertained is true, there certainly arises opportunity for the misuse or abuse of authority. It is not suggested that loans are haphazardly given or that the security tendered is inadequate or unsafe. We are concerned about abuses that are likely to occur in the present circumstances. We feel that owing to a lack of proper control and too much power being delegated to one individual trouble can arise.

If, as we understand, the Trustees of the Bank, who are themselves departmental chiefs in high and responsible positions, find they are burdened with more work than they can get through in an eight hour day and therefore cannot spare the time to carry out certain specific duties entrusted to and imposed on them under the Savings Bank Ordinance as the custodians of money belonging to the Depositors then the delegation of their powers and duties to a third party is open to objection.

To be quite frank we are of the view that the Secretary of the Ceylon Savings Bank should not be entrusted with such wide powers as he is said to use at present. The consideration of applications for loans should properly speaking be attended to in the first instance and an order made by the Trustees themselves and not as it happens now by a single individual. The principle that governs applications for loans to the Commercial Banks in Colombo should not be followed or applied to the Ceylon Savings Bank for the reason that the latter is a Government institution.

May be that the Trustees of the Bank have implicit confidence in their Secretary but that is another matter altogether. We are living in extraordinary times when, as a result of the decentralising of power in the Government Ser-

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vices many irregularities have occurred. It is likely that for the sake of convenience or owing to pressure of work, the Trustees of the Bank are obliged to pass on their responsibility to a third party. That precisely is what we submit, as open to objection. Hence it would be in the public interest if some other arrangement is made in this matter of sanctioning of loans, such an arrangement would work out more satisfactorily to the public. We trust the new Finance Minister will immediately look into this matter in view of what the Throne Speech indicated that power enjoyed by the various departmental heads will be reviewed and where necessary amended so as to give the public greater satisfaction in the transaction of their business.

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## Britain Buys More from Ceylon

**T**HE pattern of trade between Ceylon and the United Kingdom remained virtually unchanged during the first six months of this year, compared with the corresponding period of last year, but the latest figures issued by the Board of Trade show a substantially increased balance of trade in favour of Ceylon.

### EXPORTS

During the first half of the year Ceylon exports to the United Kingdom were worth £20,058,065, an increase of £918,308 over the corresponding period of 1959. Ceylon imported goods worth £15,098,443 representing a fall of £1,557,129 from the previous year.

The principal improvement in Ceylon's exports to Britain was in rubber—£372,541. Vegetable fibres improved by nearly £250,000. Tea continued to be the chief export, accounting for £15,881,905 and showing an improvement of £85,971 over the previous year.

### IMPORTS

Ceylon's imports from the United Kingdom declined in the six months from £16,655,572 to £15,098,448.

Road vehicles and aircraft continued as the largest imports although in the half-

year the value showed a fall of over £500,000. Next in importance was machinery, accounting for £3,000,000, and in this sector there was a substantial fall.

Fertilisers showed a rise of value of over £100,000 but tyres and tubes and other rubber manufactured goods fell by over £175,000. There was also a drop in trade in cotton goods but iron and steel and other metals showed a higher import value.

## Record Prices for Indian Tea

**P**RICES which are believed to be the highest ever reached for all but the rarest sorts of 'tippy' teas were touched at the London tea auction on Monday. One lot of 24 chests of spring grown tea from an estate in Assam sold at 17s. 8d. per lb. Numerous other teas fetched prices between 10s. and 15s. per lb.

Most of the demand, says the "Financial Times," is believed to have come from a single blender. However, the basic cause for the high prices which were fetched is the extreme shortage of fine North Indian teas this year—the result of drought in Assam during April and early May.

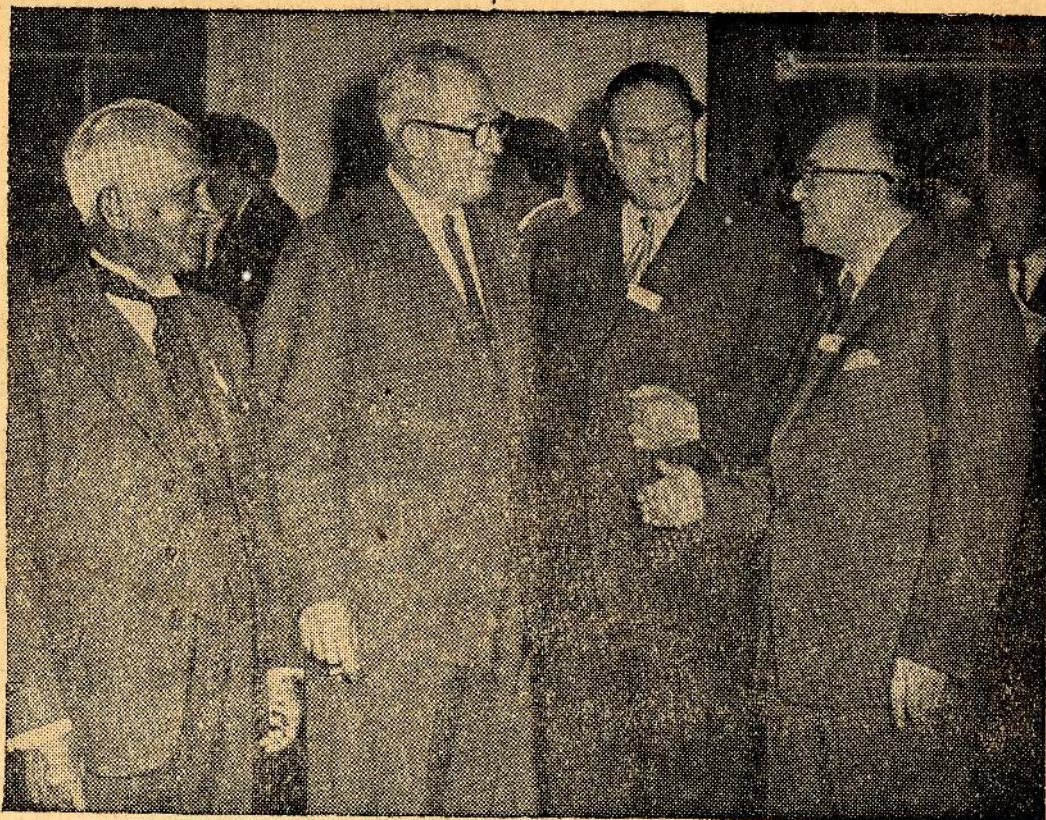
Plain teas, which make up the bulks of most blends, were not affected by this drought. Since plain tea prices are not expected to rise at all in the near future, it is unlikely that the present scarcity of fine teas will lead to any increase in the retail price of teas.



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 SCIENTISTS FROM THE COMMONWEALTH GATHER IN LONDON


Holding an informal discussion at the opening meeting of the British Commonwealth Scientific Committee's conference at Lancaster House, London, recently are (Left to Right) Professor W.A.E Karunaratne, Professor Emeritus of Pathology, University of Ceylon; Dr. F.W.G. White, Chairman, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation from Australia; Sir Harry Melville, K.C.B., F.R.S., Secretary, U.K., Department of Scientific and Industrial Scientific Committee and Chairman, of the Commonwealth Scientific Committee and Professor M.S. Thacker, Secretary, Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs and Director General, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, India. The purpose of the Commonwealth Committee is to increase scientific collaboration throughout the Commonwealth. The results of the Committee's deliberations are passed to the governments concerned and their implementation is then considered by a Working Party of Commonwealth Scientific Officers meeting frequently in London.

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## IN THE PUBLIC EYE

**C**APTAIN TITUS MEDONZA, the Acting Secretary of the Ceylon Turf Club needs no introduction to the racing public of Ceylon. It is gratifying to note that he has been called upon to take the place of our estimable Secretary, Mr. Eric C. de Soysa, who, I understand, has gone on long leave prior to his well earned retirement.

Since the mantle of office has fallen on Capt. Medonza, I am more than confident that he will carry out his assignment and the assiduous and arduous responsibilities of Acting Secretary of the premier racing institution the Ceylon Turf Club, with con-



Capt. Titus Medonza

spicuous ability, sterling integrity and sound judgment. I can think of no other person than Capt. Medonza who is more competent to have filled the vacancy caused by the retirement of Mr. de Soysa, the out-going Secretary, who, as everybody knows is a most genial and amiable personality the Ceylon Turf has had for some time.

Capt. Medonza prior to his appointment was a Stipendiary Steward. He held this office with a high sense of honour and dignity. He has

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rendered yeoman service to the Club and to the entire racing fraternity. He has on many occasions brought to book several recalcitrants who have flouted the laws of racing.

His choice is undoubtedly a well-deserved and merited one. Possessing the requisite qualifications and the social back-ground, Capt. Medonza is a worthy successor and will be an asset to the Club. He has the grit, determination and the acumen to maintain his office with efficiency.

His association with the Ceylon Turf Club has been long and varied, and on one occasion was sent to Australia to study the various methods of detection of doping. He has a storehouse of accumulated knowledge which he gained on his trip abroad. This is ample proof of his capabilities and capacity for work. Gifted with the rich traits & qualities of head and heart, Capt Medonza is without the slightest doubt a 'Pucca Sport' and as such will make an excellent Secretary of the premier racing institution of the country.

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**AN OPEN LETTER**

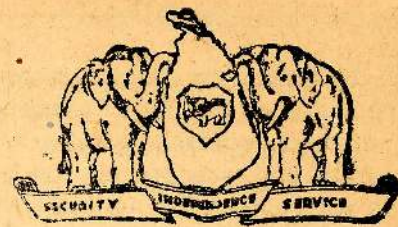
**TO THE  
MINISTER OF  
AGRICULTURE &  
LANDS**

**T**HE Ministry of Agriculture and Lands is not new to you, nor are you new to the subject of agriculture and lands. You owe your present position to avenues opened up for you by a great practical farmer who rightly chose you for the responsible task of colonization of the Dry Zone on the basis of agricultural expansion.

As far as we are aware you adapted yourself to that task so diligently and well, that you soon earned the undying gratitude of the peasantry in the areas of your operations and even surpassed public appreciation the author of the scheme commanded, from the peasantry in those regions. This, indeed, was the reason for your having built up more than one pocket-borough now and may be forever.....

We are agreed that despite the very unlucky break you have suffered in high politics in recent times, you will settle down to an honest job of work in guiding the agricultural and land development policy for your Motherland. You are no doubt aware that the Department of Agriculture, apart from all other Departments under your Ministry, is the most important section to which you should turn your attention most. It has under the last SLFP.MEP regime been bristling with anomalies and was fast becoming a political organisation, to break up which, (we must congratulate you) you were to a very large degree responsible.

You are aware that the Dept. of Agriculture is a highly technical one. If petty jealousies and family-bandyism were to infiltrate into the working of this Department and power politics is thrown into boot, it will sound very disastrous for the entire population of this country. You are therefore well-advised to leave no stone unturned to see that these maladies do not take root in this department, even in matters concerning your own kith and kin



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therein—(if any) if you are to be looked upon as more than a mere politician—a statesman.

A very costly game of bluff has been played in this Department by those charged with the agricultural welfare of this country during the past M.E.P. rule of that Dept.

We referred in an earlier discourse through this column recently, to an instance, when in an Interim period you too as Minister of Agriculture fell a prey to such heartless bluff. Remember the occasion when you wished to see the colour of H4 paddy grain, at a Conference of Departmental high ups?

The Paddy crop—Ceylon's staple food crop—is facing complete ruin. You must move in the matter of arresting it without any further delay. The Citrus industry is well and truly ruined. You should extend your blessings to those officials who are prepared to produce Ceylon's entire requirements of curry stuffs, condiments and vegetables and not let unscrupulous officials to tie up with foreign agricultural vested interests to continue to thrive on the Ceylon market. You must see to it that ambitious men in the Department and in allied

*(Continued on page 13)*



# 'Thamashas' for Cabinet Ministers and M.Ps

**S**INCE the formation of the present Cabinet there had been a spate of tamashas including dinners, cocktail parties, receptions garden parties and processions with garlands thrown in with a view to "honour" those parliamentarians many of whom only a few weeks earlier trudged from house to house and shouted themselves hoarse at election meetings and begged the people for their votes. A murder is alleged to have been committed during a triumphal procession to honour one M.P.

Our Constitution has been modelled on the English system, but we never hear of such goings on by the voters of England. I concede that all those tomfooleries did not commence after the last general election. There had been similar receptions etc. even in the old nomination days of the Legislative and Executive Councils when people vied with one another to sing the praises of the legislators who in return promised them the sun, the moon and the great bear. Today the cry is a little different. The present cry is to take from the rich and distribute what is taken amongst the 'poor sufferers' leaving the middle classes to fend for themselves. Ministers know that the so-called 'poor sufferers' now termed the 'people' are the masters and the mistresses of the situation, and as such they can make or unmake ministers and MPs. In the meantime the promoters of those tamashas by being conspicuous at those shows are out to make what they can whilst the sun shines

out of Government contracts, concessions and cushy jobs for their relations and friends, or even borrowing a car, raising a temporary loan or inviting Ministers and MPs for ear-boring or rice feeding ceremonies of their children or grand children. Perhaps I am wrong in using the same tar brush on all. I have no doubt that there are many genuine admirers of the day's hero. To them I offer my apologies.

I remember reading in a daily paper during a previous government, an account of an interview given to a newspaper reporter by one MP who had received an invitation card from Mr. & Mrs. Voter for an ear boring ceremony some three weeks ahead. Evidently the happy parents had expected a formal acceptance of the invitation or an informal something in lieu thereof. As no reply had been received by the would-be hosts, a week before the happy event that MP had received a second card UNDER REGISTERED COVER.

Some of your readers may remember the evidence given by Mr. C.A.S. Marikkar before the Bribery Commission. He was reported to have volunteered the statement that the life of a Minister of State was not different from that of a prostitute who is being visited by hundreds of people daily at his house and office for favours.

When will the Ceylonese voter rise above offering poojas to the people in power?

Wellawatte

D. L. WELIKALA

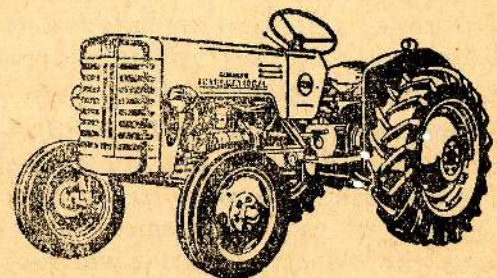
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**AN OPEN LETTER**

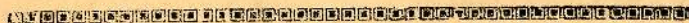
**TO THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE & LANDS**

(Continued from page 11)

spheres outside do not continue their campaign of empire building in this Department.

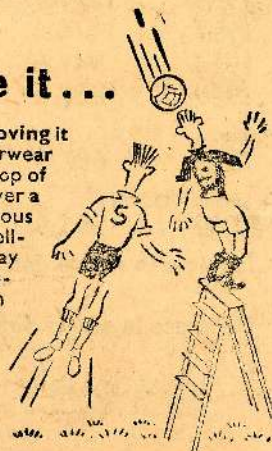
It might interest you to know that a step in the right direction was taken during the last March-July period, when much redress was effected to an otherwise pitiful state of affairs then prevailing. Your task has thereby been made easier for you and let us hope you will, in all sincerity, continue the good work until final success is achieved. You can earn the eternal goodwill of the entire country if you are determined to see this through. The rural masses that have placed so much faith in you and your party are yet not fully aware of conditions prevailing in this Department. It will be a sad day if and when they really get to know this and they have by then occasion to feel that you too have been a party to such a mess.

We believe you too are a strong and powerful advocate of the idea for appointing a Commission of Inquiry into the political aspects of the Bandaranaike Assassination. This certainly will be another expensive idea, which will not produce one more bushel of paddy or reduce one hundred rupees from the ever soaring Food Import Bill of this country "The easiest way to a man's heart" they say "is through his stomach." No amount of sentimental activity can calm the pangs of want and hunger.



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Let the normal channels of law take care of things needing legal justification, effect an immediate change of heart and replace the idea of an Assassination Commission with one to look into the past and future of this important Department, whereby with planned activity for the future, you will build up a well-fed, contented nation, that need not extend its palm overseas for its food.

If there is a will there's a way. You should seriously decide upon the appointment of a Commission of Inquiry to rectify existing anomalies and guide the future destinies of Ceylon's Agricultural progress, aimed at achieving self-sufficiency in Food within the shortest possible time. As much as you think that the country is mature enough to choose you and your party for another lease of life, we are entitled to believe you have matured enough to be a genuine statesman and not (as I said earlier) a mere politician.

I shall meet you through these columns oftener in the weeks ahead of us, and until then may this general hint inspire you to rush into activity and make good use of this avenue to rise to greater glory in the land.

— FIREFLY



## FINANCIAL BUNGLING

**When the U.N.P. went out of office (1956) it left Rs. 1,177.1 Million in External Assets.**

**TODAY THESE ASSETS HAVE FALLEN TO THE LOW LEVEL OF Rs. 595.6 MILLION**

**T**HE Finance Minister, Mr. Felix Dias Bandaranaike, in explaining the need for the increase in taxes on certain items of goods, including consumer goods, stated thus :

"Our external assets have fallen progressively in recent years and at the time this Government took office had reached a level below which they could not be allowed to drop without serious effects on the economy of the country. The fall of these assets is due to the value of our imports exceeding the value of our exports."

There is no doubt that our external assets are in a parlous state. As the tables on this page will show, this is the result of progressive deterioration which began when the Bandaranaike regime came to power in 1956. During

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this period, the import of luxury goods also began to rise steeply.

Figures don't lie. Those which we produce below tell the impressive tale that the S.L.F.P. is now reaping the whirlwind after having sown the wind since 1956.

When the U. N. P. gave up office it left to the M.E.P. a sum of Rs. 1,177.1 million in external assets. Today these have fallen by as much as Rs. 581.5 million to the absurdly low level of Rs. 595.6 million. That showed how the country had been governed by the SLFP-MEP.

### HOW OUR EXTERNAL ASSETS HAVE FALLEN

| Year                  | Amount<br>Million Rs. | Increase | Decrease |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------|----------|
| 1953                  | 607.2                 | —        | 229.7    |
| 1954                  | 895.2                 | 288.0    |          |
| 1955                  | 1154.7                | 259.5    |          |
| 1956                  | 1171.1                | 22.4     |          |
| 1957                  | 1126.6                |          | 50.5     |
| 1958                  | 944.6                 |          | 182.0    |
| 1959                  | 855.6                 |          | 89       |
| Jan.<br>1960          | 687.6                 |          | 168      |
| June (latest)<br>1960 | 595.6                 |          | 92       |

Increase in assets during UNP regime—300.2 million  
3 years

Decrease in assets during MEP regime—581.5 million  
in 3 years.

### HOW OUR LUXURY IMPORTS BILL HAS RISEN:

|      |   |                                 |
|------|---|---------------------------------|
| 1955 | — | Rs. 50.59 million               |
| 1957 | — | Rs. 65.72 million               |
| 1959 | — | Rs. 101.56 million              |
| 1960 | — | Rs. 54.54 million (January-May) |



**MAJOR ITEMS OF OUR LUXURY IMPORTS**

| Items<br>In million Rupees | (Jan-May) |       |       |       |
|----------------------------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|
|                            | 1955      | 1957  | 1959  | 1960  |
| Radios and Radiograms      | 5.29      | 6.41  | 12.55 | 5.07  |
| Cameras and Films          | 1.06      | 1.82  | 2.50  | 0.75  |
| Watches & Watch parts      | 4.46      | 8.06  | 16.06 | 11.92 |
| Motor cars and parts       | 25.26     | 33.84 | 49.82 | 28.96 |

**HOW OUR MONEYS WERE FRITTERED AWAY BY THE BANDARANAIKE REGIME**

|                                  | UNP        | MEP                                 |
|----------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------------|
|                                  | 1955-56    | 1959-60                             |
|                                  | Rs.        | Rs.                                 |
| Ceylon Defence                   | 26,178,344 | 57,812,025<br>(Increase 31,633,681) |
| Ceylon Representation<br>Abroad  | 4,159,161  | 8,767,371<br>(Increase 4,608,210)   |
| Police                           | 28,234,826 | 39,202,130<br>(Increase 10,964,304) |
| Public Debt                      | 61,885,327 | 86,399,175<br>(Increase 24,513,848) |
| Demurrage                        | 3,015,000  | 33,202,960<br>(Increase 30,187,960) |
| Foreign Trips<br>(Approximately) |            | 2,000,000                           |

**SLFP Budget Deficits:**

1956—307.2 million; 1957—220 million  
1958—473 million; 1959—400 million

Total increase in unproductive expenditure Rs. 103,911,003 during the period of the Bandaranaike regime. This excludes COST OF EMERGENCIES.

**Places of worship — Minister's recommendations**

THE Minister of Industries, Home and Cultural Affairs, Mr. Maitripala Senanayake has recommended to the Government that no places of worship should be established within one mile of each other, belonging to different religious denominations in the future.

He has also recommended that NO PLACE OF WORSHIP SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED whether it be a Buddhist temple, Christian church, Hindu temple or Muslim mosque UN-

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TIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE DIRECTOR OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS.

He has also stated that the Government should stop the indiscriminate placing of statues of whatever religious denomination on Crown land.

The Minister has also said that where places of worship have been established with archaeological limits, they should be removed outside the limits and compensation paid.

In a note Mr. Senanayake says that a large number of complaints have been received that places of worship are being set up indiscriminately.

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## No Public Conscience about Bribery ?

Continued from cover page

If the public begins to manifest no sort of "conscience about bribery and corruption," neither the best or the most competent lawyer-judge, who is entrusted to inquire into charges of bribery or corruption nor how conclusive be the evidence recorded at such an inquiry, will have any effect if the public is inclined to treat the verdict that has been reached at such an inquiry as a matter of little or no public concern.

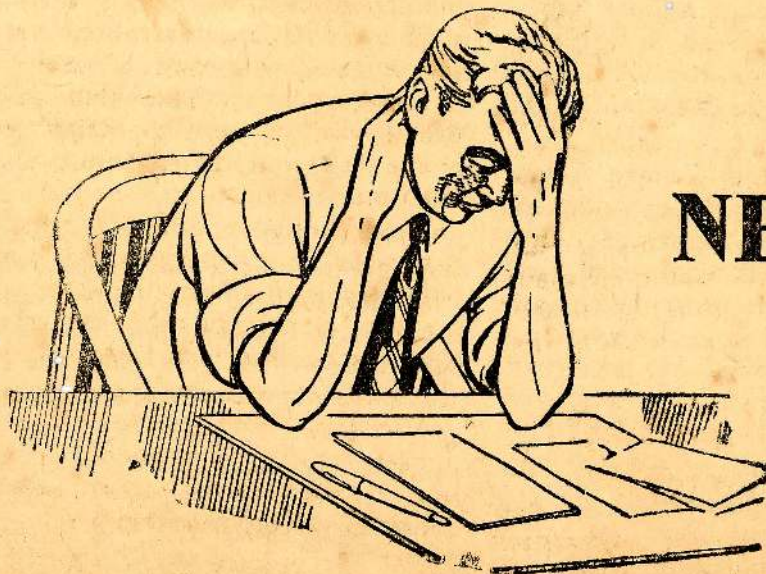
Mr. Victor C. Perera of Hulftsdorp, writing to the press says that "the eradication of bribery in Ceylon is next to impossible because there is no public conscience about it."

He cites the case of a member of Parliament who was one of the three named by the Parliamentary Bribery Commission in their interim report signed on July 13th. In that report the Commissioner said that certain charges against three persons had been established. The newspapers gave the fullest publicity to the findings and published the names of the three persons. But a week later one of the three was returned to Parliament by an electorate which apparently did not mind. And now the Municipal Council of the area has offered its congratulations to the hero!

Everybody had expected that the findings of the Parliamentary Bribery Commission would automatically result in disqualification from sitting in Parliament or standing for election for the usual period, but the public discovered with a shock that because the Commission had not been set up with the approval of either House of Parliament expressed in a resolution, its findings did not mean summary disqualification. "A man who has been named by the Bribery Commission can scarcely be regarded as an ornament."

Mr. C. P. de Silva on March 23rd, 1960: speaking on behalf of the S.L.F.P said, "We should like to reassure the public that in the event of any of our members being found guilty of bribery, not only will the party take suitable disciplinary action but will also assist the law to take its course." This was followed by a SLFP press statement on April 16th 1960: "In regard to the question that there are allegations of bribery against former Ministers of the SLFP, we have already issued a press statement on the subject. In the event of any of our members being found guilty of bribery, not only will the party take suitable disciplinary action but will assist the law to take its course."

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# SOUTH VIETNAM AND THE INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE YEAR

**G**EOPGRAPHERS define parallels of latitude as imaginary lines on the surface of the earth. But never before have imaginary lines played so important a role in human destiny as they have in recent times. The 38th parallel, the 17th parallel—these are today a matter of life and death to people; they stand for differences in values, values of liberty, justice on one side, of misery, hardship and slavery on the other.

Fancy what these imaginary lines mean to the thousands of people who have poured across them in improvised forms of transport, undergoing the grossest of hardships.

Moving in frail rafts they have braved raging seas to get away from the horrors of Communism. They have left hearth and home which they would not leave even when famine and natural calamity threatened them with death, to get away from the clutches of the Reds.

President Eisenhower, previewing the "International Refugee Year," has said that the I.R.Y. is as important to humanity as the "International Geophysical Year" has been to science.

In Vietnam since the Geneva Agreement of 1954, more than a million people have left their homes in the North for freedom in the South. It started with a trickle, refugee movements all over the world started in this way. Very soon it swelled to a million. A million more would still come, if the Communists did not bar the way.

Article No. 14 (d) of the Geneva Armistice Agreement reads: "From the date of entry into force of the present Agreement until the movement of troops is completed, any civilians residing in a district controlled by one party who wish to go and live in the zone assigned to the other party shall be permitted and helped to do so by the authorities in that district."

When this article went into effect, the new government of President Ngo Dinh Diem was only two weeks old. Tens of thousands of refugees were already converg-

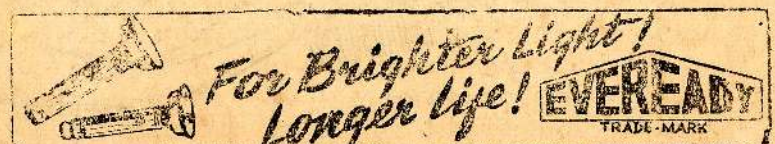
ing on the Communist capital of Hanoi for evacuation to the South.

There were, of course, the soldiers of the National Army and their families. Then there were students, teachers, civil servants and other professional people. There were also farmers, villagers, skilled and unskilled workers. Some of these were Catholics, some Protestants, some Buddhists. Finally, there were ethnic minority groups in Vietnam, like the nomadic mountain tribes of Nung, Thai and Meo peoples.

By working day and night the government quickly completed evacuation plans for these refugees. So quickly did the flood of refugees rise that the government was nearly swamped: in the peak month of September 1954 more than 200,000 refugees reached the South. At the same time, though the Communists in the North were trying to impede the flow of refugees southwards, the Government of Mr. Ngo Dinh Diem helped 140,000 communists, mostly soldiers and their families, reach the North.

All this the Ngo Dinh Diem government, which had not signed the Geneva Armistice, did without obligation. The Communist Vietnam however, dishonoured their own signatures and tried by every possible means to stop the refugees. As a result thousands either failed to escape or lost their lives in the attempt. Many stories of their tragic fate were printed by the free press throughout the world at that time.

Article No. 21 (a) of the Geneva Armistice Agreement called for the release of all prisoners, military and civilian, within 30 days of the cease-fire. This put the latest date at August 26, 1954. But when the International Control Commission arrived about the same





time, it found the Communist Vietminh flagrantly violating the Agreement by holding back prisoners and preventing other Vietnamese from leaving the zone. And when the last Communist soldier was supposed to have reached the North, the communist government refused to allow any more refugees to leave the north at all. Although the Geneva Agreement provided facilities under the International Control Commission for those who later might wish to move from one zone to the other, since then the communists have not allowed a single refugee to move south officially. But despite the official clamp down the story of refugees from Communism in Free Vietnam is not yet finished. From day to day, from week to week, and month to month, more keep coming, more take the dip into Vietnam's RIVER OF NO RETURN, the Ben Hai river marking the partition for freedom in the south. Or they slip across the border by land or sea, bearing a continuing witness against the oppression of the communist regime.

### Resettlement of Refugees

There was a time when refugees were arriving in South Vietnam at the tremendous rate of six to seven thousand a day. At the beginning most of these people lived in filth and squalor, in conditions often worst than what the communists provided. But gradually everyone was sorted out and established in new homes best suited to their needs and capabilities. A Refugee Commission started on a programme of resettlement. As a result some 350 new villages have appeared on the map of the Republic of Vietnam. In unused fallow land, towns, villages, churches and pagodas have blossomed. Industries, new agricultural projects and works of all kinds have placed South Vietnam in a position none would have dreamt of in 1954.

These new villages are classified into farming, fishing and artisan. The smaller villages house from one to three thousand inhabitants, the larger from five to seven thousand. Many of these NEW villages are really old villages whose population came intact from the Communist north, with the same mayor and village elders, their Buddhist monk or BONZE, Catholic priest or Protestant pastor. As often as not, their first act would be to build a pagoda or church around which the rest of the village would quickly grow.

One of the most dramatic and best publicised areas that has been repopulated largely by refugees has been the Cai San Project, south east of Saigon between the town Cantho along the Mekong River and Rachgia on the Gulf of Siam. In this area of 400,000 acres, which were abandoned during the war sixteen new villages house 42,000 people today, out of an eventual total of 100,000. Seventeen new canals totalling 320 miles in length have been dug by the new inhabitants. The Vietnamese movement southward is regarded as the greatest exodus of a single people since Moses led the Israelites out of the land of bondage. The resettlement of one million refugees is the greatest and most successful resettlement plan ever handled by a government.

The Vietnamese refugee problem has also roused the best of humanitarian sentiments not only among the Vietnamese themselves but from the rest of the world. One of the most dramatic chapters of refugee aid in Vietnam has been the story of "Operation Brotherhood", organised by the Philippine Junior Chamber of Commerce. It is the story of "help thy neighbour" among Asian nations, the like of which has never before been witnessed.

*(Continued on page 20)*

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On the negative side, the story of the million refugees in Vietnam is a story of Communists lies, threats, injuries and even death, anything that the Communist Vietminh could do to persuade or actually prevent those who wished to leave from doing so.

It is the story of Vietminh communists bad faith, broken promises and dishonoured signatures.

The problem of absorbing the increasing mass of people is difficult and delicate for a small country like South Vietnam. A slight unwise move could upset its economic and social balance. But the country is largely underdeveloped and potentially refugees are a great asset.

## Commissions Galore

**T**HE Government's decision to appoint several Commissions have received a cold reception from the people.

For they know too well that it is themselves who will have to foot the bill for these Commissions.

With the number of Commissions, the Government has in mind, the cost to the taxpayer will be a princely sum that could be put to better use for the development of the country.

The spate of Commissions the Government hopes to appoint shortly are:

1. Press Commission
2. Assassination Commission
3. Take over of Assisted Schools Commission
4. Commission to probe the workings of the C.T.B.
5. Several Commissions to inquire into allegations of bribery and corruption in several local bodies, including the Colombo Municipal Council.

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The Report of the University Commission, submitted several years ago has been pigeon-holed for years and it is only now that the Government is thinking of taking action on it.

Two other Commissions appointed by the Bandaranaike Government have not yet completed their tasks. They are the Parliamentary Bribery Commission and the Salaries Commission.

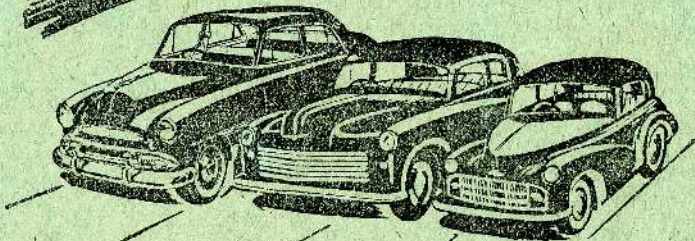
If the S. L. F. P. Government's intentions are to pigeon-hole the Report of these Commissions as it did with the Sasana Commission Report and the Marriage and Divorce Commission Report, no benefit will accrue to the taxpayers.

It will only be a drain on their purses.

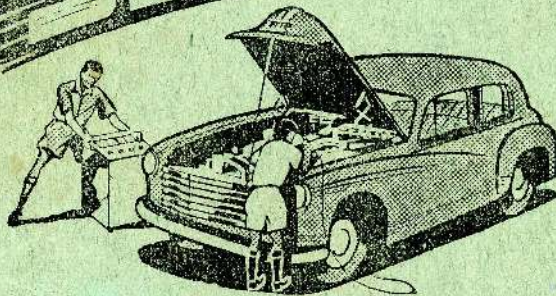




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