

The SEARCHLIGHT

39th YEAR OF
ESTABLISHMENT

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VOL 39 NO. 18

COLOMBO

SEPTEMBER 30th 1960

We Should not do Violence to the Conscientious Objections of

CATHOLICS AND OTHER RELIGIONISTS

THE government says "we are following the policies a lumberated by the late Prime Minister S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike. In so far as the Schools Take-over, is concerned, Mr. Bandaranaike was definitely against any compulsion being enforced. He favoured voluntary handing over. The Government must not perpetuate a falacy or deliberately misrepresent the views of the late Prime Minister.

The Government's decision to take over the assisted schools was strongly criticised in the House of Representatives when the Budget Debate opened earlier this week.

The main points of attack were that—

- (a) it was directly contrary to the policy of the late Mr.S.W.R D.Bandaranaike;
- (b) that it was Communist inspired;
- (c) that it did not have as its aim better education but that it was 'an act of vindictiveness against the Catholics'

- (d) that not only the Catholics but the Education of all children would suffer as a result of this policy.

The man most vehement and articulate in his protest was Mr; W. Dahanayake, M. P. for Galle, ex-Prime Minister and ex-Minister of Education in the late Mr. Bandaranaike's government.

Mr. Dahanayake was adding to what he had already said on this question at a public meeting in Beruwela. At this meeting he reminded the people that the late Mr. Bandaranaike had stated that if the schools were to be taken over by the State, only those schools which came in voluntarily into the scheme would be taken over.

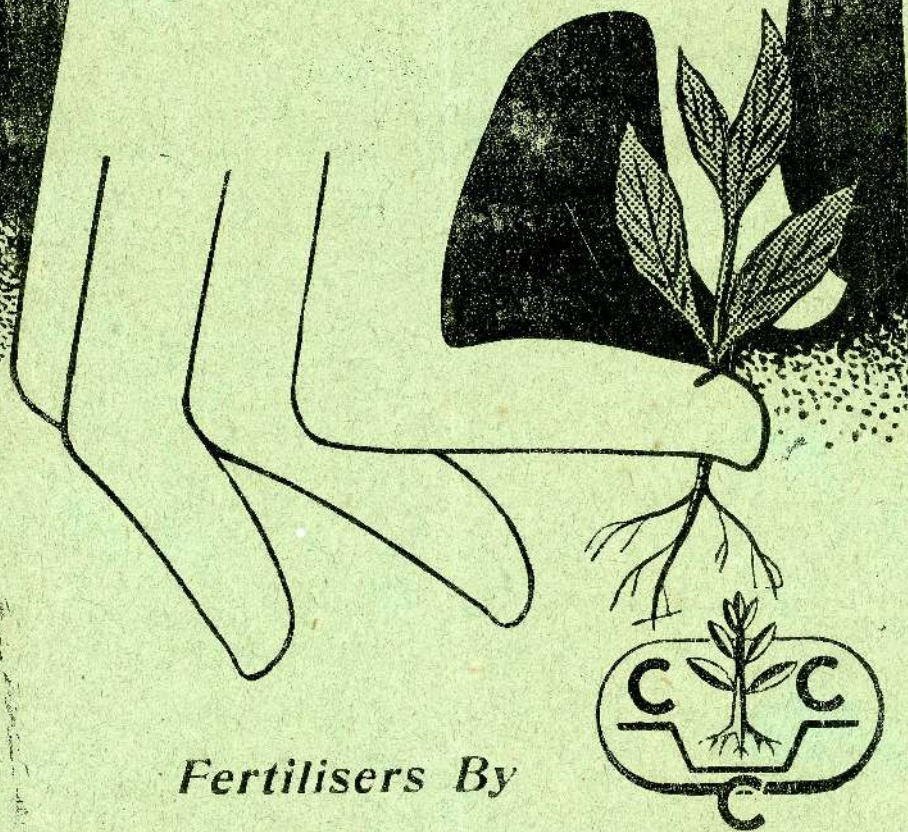
Today Mrs. Bandaranaike and her Cabinet were paying only lip service to the policies of the late Mr. Bandaranaike. Mrs. Bandaranaike and her Cabinet were now being

(Continued on page 9)

WE ARE HEADING FOR A MESS IN EDUCATION

SEE PAGE 17

**CULTIVATION
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(ESTABLISHED 1921)

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VOL 39 NO. 18

COLOMBO

SEPTEMBER 30th 1960

Commission of Enquiry for Railway Demanded

Mr. C. S. Muttucumaru, an old Railway hand, has forwarded to us the following and requests publication. We gladly accede to his request and our comments appear elsewhere. — Editor)

Subject:- Commission of Public Inquiry into the working of the Railway Department, in the Administration, Commercial, Mechanical, Civil Engineering, Stores, Rolling Stocks, Tenders, Contracts, Finance, Accounting, Recruitments, Promotions, Transfers, Wages, Rolling Stocks, Coal, Planning, Etc. Traffic.

The Railway Department with one G. M. R. Mr. Green, one Traffic Manager in or about 1926 had a credit saving in the Bank (Rs. 190) Millions. Thereafter the reorganising of the Railway was started in 1927. From the time of the General Managers, Messrs Dutton, Head, Kanakasabai, Botger, and up to the present G.M.R., Rampala, the losses on the Railway to the Public Revenue has been increasing from year to year, approximately at Rs. 20 Millions per year. The total miles of the Railway is about 1,000 miles including the sidings etc.

All important constructions were carried out by the Europeans and it is only a case for normal maintainance only, at the moment without new constructions.

During the Imperial and Colonial periods no one person was promoted to be the G.M.R. or D.G.M.R. or C.W.W. or D.Y.E.W. unless he had gained about 20 to 25 year experience in his appointment as District Engineer etc. To-day I notice that raw and inexperienced men like Messrs Rampala, G.M.R., Rajagopal, M.E., Vaithilingam, C.E.W.W., Senaratne D.C.E.W.W., Kalidasan, D.C.E.W.W., etc. have been entrusted with the task of running the Railway Department and its Sub-Heads with the inexperience and high sounding designations etc.

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unused and lying at Colombo and other places. Such large numbers are not necessary for the Railway concrete. This is one way of making commission from the firms.

2. Tenders are called for Bricks and they give the tender to their selected parties below Rs. 15,000/- which is allowed by the regulations, and before this is over again another tender order is given, thus splitting it into several such amounts for one purpose.

3. The Railway had its own metal quarry at different places during the European period. Now tenders are called for metal on the same basis as the Bricks, before half could be used, another order is placed, and this is seldom supplied.

4. I find to-day that all the field workmen and officers are working overtime throughout the month after 4 30 p.m. right through the island. How can these people who work during the 8 hours of the day work again in the night and through the month. What is the work done by these men during the day?

5. When estimates are furnished half way for a building no work could be done without sanction of supplementary vote for that work, nor any vote could be transferred

from one to the other. The cost of the building or work is not the estimated amount, unlike the Colonial or Imperial Administration. Even working overtime was not permitted without prior sanction from the C. W. W. W. during the European Administration.

Under the foregoing circumstances. I strongly urge the appointment of a Public Commission of Inquiry into all these representations. I have enough evidence to prove bribery over tenders being manipulated from one year to 3 years and causing a loss of over Rs. 3 lacs to the Public Revenue. I brought this up during the UNP regime in the Supreme Court against a high person and it was exposed in the press.

I trust that in the event of your appointing a Commission of Inquiry, you will be pleased to give me a place in it as I am fully conversant with the full routine inside and outside of everything from top to bottom.

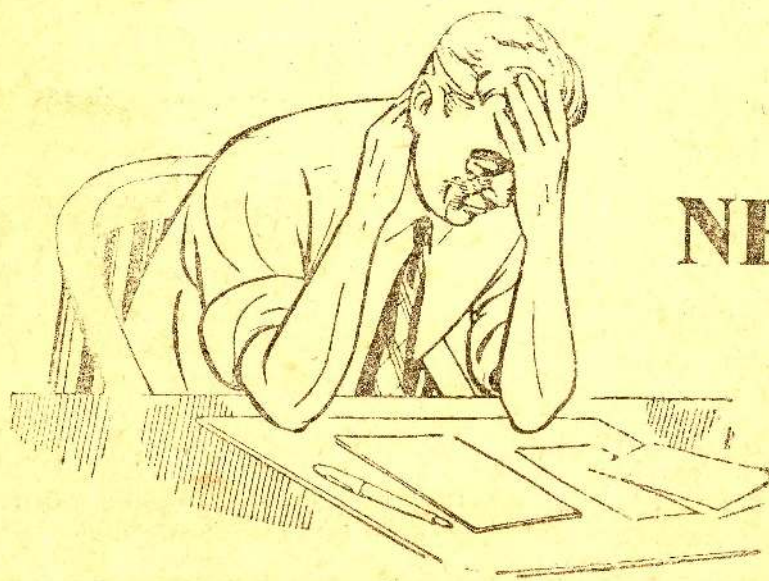
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SOUTH VIETNAM TODAY

SOUTH Viet Nam is now six years old. The people of this stout little nation have seen a remarkable number of things happen in a brief period of time.

When Viet Nam, at the Geneva Conference in 1954, was divided at the 17th parallel, few observers believed that a viable nation could be formed out of the southern half. At the partition, the more industrial portions of the country went to the Communist North, so too a larger part of the 25 million population.

But now, six years later, the Republic of Viet Nam, has laid strong foundations for its national existence. During the second half of

BY

J. F. SAMARANAYAKE

its first decade, it plans to devote its energies to the solution of critical economic and political problems. Its efforts will most certainly be watched by Asia and, in fact, in Ceylon as well.

South Viet Nam, (it is a portion of the 127,000 square miles of territory that was once the French Province of Annam, Tonkin and Cochin China), was fortunate in producing an able national leader at the time it won its freedom. When the Geneva Conference was held; the country's national ruler was the French supported Emperor Bao Dai, who spent most of his time on the Riveira. A few weeks after conclusion of negotiations, Bao Dai had dispatched Mr. Ngo Dinh Diem, a respected and popular expatriate, to Saigon as Premier. In the ensuing months of national danger and near-chaos, Mr Diem played a totally unanticipated role of daring and sophistication.

Mr. Ngo Dinh Diem is a member of a distinguished mandarin family from the Viet namese imperial city of Hue. His father had been a minister and adviser to the Vietnamese Emperor Thanh Thai. Mr. Ngo Dinh Diem attracted attention as a young man in the civil administration, and was appointed Minister of the Interior in 1933. However, he resigned after only two months in office when he found that the Government did not intend to give him latitude to eliminate corruption or to modernize the bureaucracy.

In 1945 the Communists led by Ho Chi Minh, new President of the Communist Republic in the North, wooed Mr. Ngo Dinh Diem, but he refused to participate in the government proclaimed in the North. Similarly in 1948 Mr. Ngo Dinh Diem refused to head the provisional puppet government set up in the South by the French under Emperor Bao Dai. Mr. Ngo Dinh Diem left Viet Nam, travelling first to the United States, where he stayed two years, and then to France. In 1954, when Bao Dai again turned to him on the eve of the Geneva agreement, Mr. Ngo Dinh Diem accepted the invitation to lead the South Viet Nam government,

DESTROYED STATE OF VIET NAM

The problems of the new state were such as to challenge the understanding of people accustomed to living under stable governments. The Geneva Accords ended ten years of devastation caused by warfare. The partition was so intrinsically damaging to both parts of the country that the great powers regarded it simply as

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an interim measure for the restoration of peace. The industrial north, was severed from the agricultural south. Apart from lack of personnel and administrative efficiency, the rise of corruption, the flood of refugees; about a million of them, added to the difficulties of the Southern Government.

In addition, under the connivance of the French, four distinct armed bands, three of them misnamed "religious sects" opposed the government. The Vietnamese government forces were led by General Nguyen Van Hinh who himself aspired to power.

Mr. Ngo Dinh Diem's victory over these many adversaries was one of his major achievements, and the one on which everything else depended. The struggle lasted for two years, although the decisive events took place during the early months.

Mr. Ngo Dinh Diem built his government while he was engaged in these struggles. He severed the Vietnam currency, the piastre from the French franc, and turned the French owned Bank of Indo China into the National Bank of Viet Nam. Ruling with a small group of persons outside the circle of corruption, he instituted extensive clean ups and reforms. He flatly refused to hold the scheduled unification elections, asserting that no free vote was then possible for the people of Communist North Viet Nam. Instead Mr. Ngo Dinh Diem con-



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ducted a national referendum on October 23, 1955, asking the people to choose between himself and Bao Dai as their chief of state. Riding on a wave of popularity, Ngo Dinh Diem won by a 90 to 1 ratio. Mr. Ngo Dinh Diem thereupon proclaimed a republic and assumed the office of President. He then called for a second round of national elections to choose a constituent assembly to draft a constitution. These elections were held on March 4, 1956. The Assembly thus chosen drafted a constitution which was promulgated on October 26, 1956, and the Constituent Assembly was transformed into the National Assembly.

During this period vast programmes were undertaken to resettle the refugees. As soon as

(Continued over)



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Ceylon Brewery Wins Award in United Kingdom

A BRONZE medal was awarded to the Ceylon Brewery, Nuwara Eliya, in the Commonwealth bottled beer competition held at the Brewing, Bottling and Allied Trades Exhibition this week in London. A Canadian brewer won the challenge cup and a New Zealand firm were runners-up.

Claimed to be the oldest trade show in Britain—it was inaugurated in 1879—the Brewers' Exhibition has been the mirror of progress among British manufacturers of brewery machinery and equipment.

This year more than ever manufacturers are concentrating on exports and hundreds of overseas visitors attended the opening. They included parties from Commonwealth countries and Europe, particularly Western Germany.

portions of the countryside were made secure from rebel armed forces, land reform was instituted and tracts of several acres were made available to refugees, along with necessary implements, supplies and credits to begin their new life.

LAND REFORM WORK

South Viet Nam's land reform programme was modelled to some extent on the programmes which had been carried out after the Second World War in Japan and Taiwan. All holdings in excess of 245 acres must be surrendered to the government for redistribution to the tenants or landless cultivators. Landowners are reimbursed, receiving ten per cent of the value of their land in cash, and the rest in bonds which can be used to buy shares in government owned industries or to pay taxes. In this way, land reform and re investment in industry are accomplished simultaneously. The programme will ultimately result in the resettlement of about three million Vietnamese on land which they will own.

When the fertile Mekong River delta was wrested from armed rebelled troops of one of the "religious sects," a great re development project was started. Known as

project, it involved the opening of old canals, the digging of new ones, and the settlement of refugees on 7.5 acres tracts. By 1957 enough rice was being grown in the Mekong delta to supply Viet Nam's own population and to provide a substantial surplus for export.

The army was re-organised and trained under United States guidance and reduced to half its former size.

With the opening of the rice fields and the return of the country to self sustaining agricultural economy, an increasing measure of stability was attained. As early as three years ago the government of Viet Nam began to study the problems which will be its major concern during the years immediately ahead. Viet Nam's resources are primarily agricultural. Few areas in Asia have such a favourable ratio of land to population. Before the war Viet Nam exported rice and rubber in an intensive two crop economy. France underwrote its foreign trade deficit.

The rebuilding of these crops for export is a keystone in the government's current efforts to pay its own way in world trade. Both the strength and vulnerability of such an economy

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have been demonstrated within the past three years. In 1957 exports of both crops were sizable, but in 1958 a poor crop and the world recession created serious difficulties.

While these products have been intensively cultivated, Viet Nam has found it necessary to import many agricultural commodities which might be well grown at home. One phase of the government's attack on its trade deficit, therefore, has been concerned with broadening the base of domestic agricultural production.

North of the Mekong delta are a series of uplands and plateaus which have not previously been cultivated. Through ancient custom, Vietnamese farmers have confined themselves to raising rice in the low lands. In 1956 a United Nations survey team confirmed the potential capacity of these uplands to provide a more diversified agriculture.

Today the Vietnamese government has embarked on a large scale resettlement programme aimed at producing a broad variety of food staples in rich plateau areas. This programme requires the introduction of new crops, the development of new skills, and the breaking of centuries old customs. The success of these efforts will have an important effect on Viet Nam's balance of trade and on the problems created by an agricultural system based on a single food crop.

POLITICAL PROBLEMS

Another major factor in Viet Nam's foreign trade, as well as in its domestic economy, has been its almost complete lack of manufacturing facilities. Viet Nam lacks the resources for heavy industry, but offers many opportunities for the development of lighter manufacturing enterprises based on readily available raw materials. Power is a major problem. Viet Nam has one coal mine, no oil and hydro electric potential which is promising but would require vast sums of capital to develop.

A start has been made, however, in the development of certain industries. Intensive efforts are being deployed to attract foreign capital, and in some instances these efforts have been successful. The building of a textile mill, a sugar mill, glass factory, a plastic factory, a fish processing plant and a pharmaceutical factory are now completed.

At present there is no alternative to Mr. Ngo Dinh Diem's rule. Conditions are not suitable to foster a broader basis of participation in the decision making process of his re-

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gime, Mr. Ngo Dinh Diem and the members of his government have been pre-occupied by the need for a unified cultural and intellectual alternative to the challenge of communism. Mr. Ngo Dinh Diem works on a political theory which he calls: "**Personalism.**" It is based on strong emphasis on the development of the individual as the end and justification of government. It is an answer to Communist collectivism and by passes the rights of the individual. The success of **Personalism** in Viet Nam, is an example worth emulating by other Asian countries, where democracy has caused a dyspepsia in their body politique.

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Wonderful Socialism Our's is!

BY A. E. GUNAWARDENA

THOUGH the present leaders constantly declare that they are continuing the policies of the late Solomon Bandaranaike and believe so because of their close association with him, it will be found that in reality they are getting further and further away from the intentions he had. Mr. Bandaranaike roused up nationalism to build up the nation and never had that as the end of all purposes. Immediately after his coalition government collapsed and he found himself free of conflicting ideologies weighing upon him, he declared that his next important step would be to make food cheaper and, in the best way he could, he made the first measure of rice .125 cts. He stood for a lower guaranteed price for the Ceylonese paddy farmer regardless of immediate unpopularity because that would have been one sure way of bringing down all foodstuffs to reasonable market levels.

The present government after planning for 50% increased expenditure has not made a single edible commodity cheaper and they seem to have forgotten that the Ceylonese people also consume food and drink like anybody else. The increased allocation of 400 millions for development—one wonders how much real development there is—would be useless without assuring the people adequate food. Two sugar factories have begun operations after the new

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Government came into effect but even a token reduction in the price of sugar has not been made. With all the inefficiency conceivable it surely should be possible for sugar to be produced here below .162 cts. a pound. Could Ceylon, really, do that?

The country abounds in trained bakers but flour is made expensive and scarce. Why? All that the government succeeds in is in creating scarcity. If that is the socialism is boasted of so much it is nothing but a huge joke.

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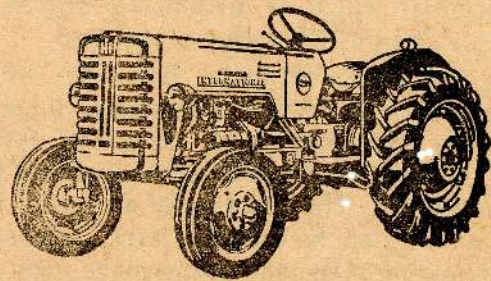
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**WE SHOULD NOT DO VIOLENCE
TO THE CONSCIENTIOUS OBJEC-
TIONS OF
CATHOLIC AND
OTHER RELIGIONISTS**

Continued from cover page

guided by the policies of the Communists who had a long-term plan to establish Communism in Ceylon.

Speaking in Parliament Mr. Dabanayake quoted another statement of the late Mr. Bandaranaike which had a great significance in this context. Mr. Bandaranaike had stated in March 1958 when he had addressed a meeting of the All-Ceylon United Bhikkus Congress at Borella:

"While I try to safeguard the rights of Buddhism, I cannot aim a death blow at others. We should not do violence to the conscientious objections of Catholics and other religionists."

"SHIFTING POLICY"

Mr. Dabanayake further referred to the "shifting policy" of the Government with regard to the schools issue. He pointed out that while the S.L.F.P. Secretary, the present Minister of Finance, had stated before the elections that two committees would be appointed to examine the content of education and the schools take over respectively, they had stated a different thing after the elections. Mr. Dabanayake again pointed out another disparity between the statement in the Throne Speech on education and the subsequent communique of the Minister of Education which ran contrary to the Throne Speech and reduced that policy statement to a "scrap of paper."

He also pointed out that the referendum promised by the Government would also amount to this type of contradiction. The Government promised the freedom to stay out of the State scheme by word but made it nearly impossible to do so in fact, he explained.

He warned the Buddhists of the country that although apparently the Catholics would suffer owing to the take-over of Schools, ultimately all would suffer.

The S.L.F.P. manifesto had undertaken to appoint two Committees. Now there was talk of only one Committee.

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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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Complaints of Failure to Honour Bills

DIFFICULTIES IN CEYLON

Says "The Mercantile Guardian" September 10, 1960

A SPOKESMAN of Ceylon's Department of Commerce has reported an increase in the number of trade complaints following an intensified growth of "mushroom" companies, writes our Colombo correspondent. The complaints are the usual ones, including failure to pay agency commissions, to honour bills, to open letters of credit, or to provide the documents necessary for the completion of transactions. There are also instances of shipments not conforming to sample.

Not all the complaints are made by foreign firms against Ceylonese. Some are in the reverse direction. But of the 6-10 complaints received by the Department of Commerce most are directed against Ceylonese concerns.

The Department is also investigating alleged irregularities by some importers in Colombo who, it is said, are contriving to avoid payment of the appropriate duties on the goods they import. It is nothing new for goods to be listed under false classifications so as to avoid payment of the correct duty, but the practice seems to be increasing, particularly in the matter of textiles. In one of several cases mentioned by the Chamber of Industries an item liable for a 35 per cent. import duty has been imported on a 7½ per cent. basis through a false declaration.

"Loaded" invoices are another cause of complaint, and the Department of Commerce is factically concerned about it because of its unfortunate effect on the exchange position. Exchange control "rackets" seem to be on the increase. A spokesman of the Ceylonese Importers' and Exporters' Association said that

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any real effort to deal with the problem would involve Customs authorities in the obligation to open consignments and check against invoices. That would be a heavy undertaking, but there is certainly nothing against making surprise checks at frequent intervals.

It is now expected that a beginning will be made on the nationalisation of Life Insurance within the coming financial year, which starts in October. Mostly, insurance is a non-Ceylonese activity, and there are altogether about fifty life insurance companies operating in Ceylon. But at least some comfort has been gained from the statement by the new Finance Minister, Mr. F. D. Bandaranaike, that British-owned tea and rubber estates will be neither nationalised nor expropriated. Mr. Bandaranaike said he gave this undertaking for the long term, but in the flux of Ceylonese politics it is doubtful whether any politician can give any assurance beyond the short term.

The Searchlight

(ESTABLISHED 1921)

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

30th SEPTEMBER 1960

The Fith and Sterile S.L.P.P. Budget

NO amount of tinkering with the muddled economy of the country, an economy that has been grossly mishandled from 1956, when the first Bandaranaike government came into power, and which has progressively deteriorated since, can avert the financial disaster that lurks ahead. The general disapproval and disappointment as expressed against the budgetary proposals when the Appropriation Bill for 1950-61 was presented in Parliament, reveals the extent of the condemnation the proposals have met with from the Opposition and even from critics of the L.S.S.P. who are now allies of the Government. The Federal Party's abstention from voting against the Bill at the Second Reading, must not be taken as any indication of the party's acceptance of the Finance Minister's makeshift attempt to retrieve a hopeless situation.

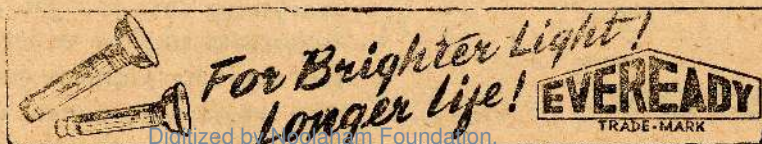
Although the first and second reading of the Bill was got through by the Government's steam-roller majority, time alone will prove how disastrously the taxation proposed would react on the taxpayers and the corresponding effect upon industry and enterprise. What the Finance Minister has presented to Parliament was well exemplified by the Member for Dehiwala Galkissa (Dr. Colvin R. de Silva) as a "Budget of three legs on a shaky tripod—on a Revenue Surplus which was doubtful, on a Borrowing Capacity that was unreal and on Fore-

ign Capital which they could not achieve." In other words what the Finance Minister sought to do is to make a "silken purse out of a sow's ear" so to say.

That the programme of work which the Government pledged itself to carry out with a fidgety and unencouraging revenue, made difficult of realization even with a socialist colouring, and the straffing of capitalists, is hardly likely to help tide over a perilous position brought about by rank prodigality and unabashed inefficiency.

Amidst the encircling gloom, as foreshadowed by the fall in the country's external assets, the increase in the Food and Education Bills and the Government's internal expenditure, and with the corresponding decline in the prices of the three major export products, there is every indication that the gap in the budgetary deficit far from being reduced will be increased as to cause greater financial difficulties than have been experienced during the past three years. Consequently the national economy will continue to be a matter for greater anxiety than now. Viewed from any standpoint, it is not difficult to realise that Ceylon's national economy has been ruined. Squandermania brought about by inefficient handling of the country's finances, is responsible for this disappointing state of things.

It is time for government to have done with subtleties and to return to realities. If our economy is to be made buoyant, government must look to developing industries and giving them every scope. And the way to do that is to welcome capital which is not locally available. We must look to foreign sources by permitting such capital to come in freely without strings being attached. By following a dog in the manger policy and talking of nationalisation of this, that and the other, it will get us nowhere. A country starved of development capital cannot progress. The way to ease matters is to let outside foreign capital come in and come in on generous terms. Then only will deficits vanish and our exports thrive enabling the Finance Minister to present his annual budget that could be balanced without having recourse to harsh and iniquitous taxation that will not lead the country to prosperity and progress. It is a Sterile Budget.



When Liberty Descends to Licence

TWO flagrant and shocking instances of abuse of liberty and wanton disregard for the observance of law and order, are to be witnessed in the tremendous scandals caused by the unparalleled freedom accorded to Hawkers to encroach on pavements alongside the most frequented highways teeming with vehicular and pedestrian traffic. The negligence on the part of the Central Government and the Municipal Council of Colombo over this matter is most amazing and inexplicable.

In the Main Street and the side roads of the Pettah; in the heavily congested Gas Works Street and Norris Road; in Panchikawatte and in front of the Maradana Railway Station, the Police Headquarters and Zahira College and in Dean's Road and Borella, the pavements are chock-abloc with commodities of every imaginable kind from food to textiles and crockery to second hand books. In Bambalapitiya, facing the Majestic Theatre, in Wellawatte right in front of the Police Station, and to some distance beyond it, Beds, Almirahs, Pianos, Birds in cages and Plants in pots, are stacked several feet high leaving only a foot or a foot and a half of the pavement of eight feet provided for the use of the pedestrians. Even this little space has to be traversed with extreme caution if the pedestrian is to avoid coming into conflict with the hawker

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mudalali against whose wares one may have accidentally knocked against.

One is prepared to grant that the Hawkers are entitled to carry on a legitimate business to find a living. But have they the right to settle themselves on the pavements and by so doing deliberately obstructing the public from using the pavement? The pavements are provided for the road users to avoid accidents from cars and buses and those heavily laden lorries of the oil companies and transport contractors that ply on the road right through the day. This encroachment on the pavements therefore is a menace which seems nobody's business to remove. This cannot be allowed to go on indefinitely. Something has to be done and done immediately.

It seems that the police are unable to act. Their hands are tied so to speak. The Mayor and Members of Council are adamant. They do not seem to want to do anything to remove this glaring impediment. As for the Central Government the convenience and the safety of the public seems of little concern. Necessarily therefore, rather than precipitate matters by ordering the whole brood of these hawkers to go elsewhere, Government lets them monopolise such parts of the pavements as they like to the annoyance of the public. Why in the name of everything that is right and proper are the authorities so slow to act. We should like to see the City Council getting busy over this long neglected matter and doing something practical to clear the pavements of obstructions

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THE CONTRABAND THAT NEVER WAS, BUT...

Writes 'Amphibian' from the Water Front thus:

The first indication that all was not well came at 4 p.m. on Thursday when the Harbour Police emergency siren was sounded. From that time onwards nearly 50 men were on stand-by in a large truck and three Police radio cars. Till 9 p.m. when they were dismissed they waited tensely unaware of what was happening except that high officials had gone afloat.

They were looking for several cases of smuggled liquor. Certain officers of the raiding party believed that variots other articles of contraband were also stowed away on board "Mahasena" and "Parakrama" which had returned a week earlier after a two and a half month training cruise in the Far East.

FIVE-HOUR SEARCH

The vessels were searched from stem to stern while two launches remained alongside. Rear Admiral Royce de Mel was summoned on board to be present while the search was being made. Nothing was found.

The search went on for nearly five hours.

The Navy Chief was obviously upset and so were the Officers and sailors on board. Who can blame them? Although later the search was a matter of regret both to the Customs and Police, the damage had been done.

AN APOLOGY ?

Those persons responsible for passing on this type of information and those who ordered and carried out the search for contraband owe the Royal Ceylon Navy and the Rear Admiral an apology. It was altogether a poor show and a sad reflection on the CID, Harbour Police and Customs.

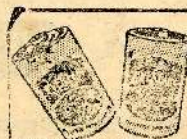
The question now being asked is, who was responsible for leading these men on a wild goose chase? Obviously, the Police and Customs were acting on certain information they had received, but whose information? Was it from a reliable source or was it just another attempt by mischief-makers to sling mud at the RCyN. In this case it seemed to be a definite attempt to discredit the Navy, its officers and men.

It is usual for the Customs or Police to receive information regarding attempts at smuggling contraband either into or out of the country. These officers receive a share of the proceeds from a detection and they have come to be relied upon. Often, too, the Customs and Police receive information from persons who state that they prefer to remain anonymous. It is these people and this category of informant that the Customs and Police have to be careful about.

The system of information is generally handled very secretly. Names of informants are never divulged and informants are entitled to a third of the proceeds from a successful detection. One would therefore agree that it is not usual for a man to remain anonymous while giving information unless he has some other motive. Of course there are exceptions, and this does not necessarily mean that anonymous phone calls and letters should be ignored. On the contrary they should be recorded, checked and rechecked before action is planned. Too often have we heard of petty cases where persons or the vehicles they are travelling in have been vainly stripped and searched at various points in the port.

HASTY ACTION

I have not known the Customs or Police to act so hastily in these matters. Was the information from the CID or was it from a higher level? The presence of the DIG (CID), the Principal Collector of Customs, the Chief Preventive Officer and two assistant superintendents of Police, with a number of police inspectors and sub inspectors seemed to suggest that it was a search based on more than ordinary information.



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That Raid on the Ceylon Navy

THE joint raid by the detective staffs of Her Majesty's Customs and the Police respectively supported as it was by a cordon of fifty armed guards placed right around the two ships of the Royal Ceylon Navy, the 'Parakrama' and 'Mahasena' which had just returned to Colombo from an extended cruise during which they touched certain ports in the Eastern waters, is a most shocking and disgraceful instance of crime detection legitimately though perfectly unwarrantedly carried out. The raid turned out to be the result of a thundering leg pull whatever the motive might have been. The Government should not let the incident pass without a searching inquiry being held in order to get at the culprit or culprits and make a lesson of him or them since the raid was a deliberate insult to the Royal Ceylon Navy and to its high command. Whatever it be the Government should not let the incident pass without orders being issued to probe the matter to the bottom and having got at the origin to cause a public apology to be tendered to Rear Admiral Royce de Mel and the Royal Ceylon Navy and to see that the apology is given similar publicity as was given to the incident.

It looks as if malice, sectional or communal and even religious prejudices, are beginning to play a great part of late among those in the seats of power. Malicious and no doubt envious people appear to stop at nothing if they could succeed in prejudicing certain prominent persons in the eyes of the Government. We have already had three such diabolically conceived instances, where a certain high military official, another top-ranking Police Official and his brother, and yet another V.I.P. were concerned. Can the raid carried out on the two ships of Ceylon's budding Navy, be an instance of the downright rascality of those in high positions ill-disposed to those who are not of their caste or religion seeking to create incidents on absolutely unauthentic and perfectly baseless allegations to damage the reputation of persons who do not see eye to eye and on whom they seek to vent their revenge. And now to the facts.

Was it Due to Unnecessary Meddling?

Information was passed on to by the Customs authorities and also the Police that the two ships referred to were putting into port after a cruise of the Eastern waters were bringing contraband cargo that was intended to be smuggled at Colombo. The cargo supposed to be carried, it was alleged, comprised of jewellery, wrist-watches and also liquor (whisky). Relying on the information conveyed the Police and Customs sleuth hounds had to act since the source of their information was, so it is said, from an official source.

They therefore planned a joint raid and completed arrangements taking even the precaution to intimate and request the head of the Ceylon Navy to be present on boardship when the raiding party started a regular search for the alleged contraband that were to be smuggled surreptitiously. But lo and behold, having searched every part of the two ships

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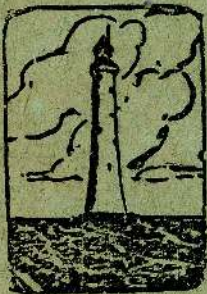
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thoroughly, the raiders were non plussed and drew a blank. They found to their surprise and dismay no contraband or smuggled goods whatsoever save and except the usual ship's stores comprising a few bottles of liquor intended for the consumption of the ship's personnel.

The raid however turned out to be a thorough failure for the good reason that the Ceylon Navy, from its gallant Admiral to the youngest rating, were not smugglers nor of the type of people habituated to unsocial and unpatriotic practices carried out under the cloak of authority and privilege. All that **The Searchlight** has to say is that the whole thing was a put-up affair intended to satisfy a private feud of some scoundrel in authority—who is the real villain in the piece. It now transpires from a statement in the press—and we hope it is authentic—that the information imparted to the Police and the Customs authorities, who have been made the cat's paw, had been conveyed by a Minister of State. If this information is true the Minister should be brought to his senses for misleading the Police and the Customs. It is up to the head of the Navy to

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enter an emphatic protest against this attempt at slinging mud at the Ceylon Navy by carrying out the raid without sufficient and reliable data. Further whoever inspired the Police and or the Customs to bring about this raid should be brought to book.

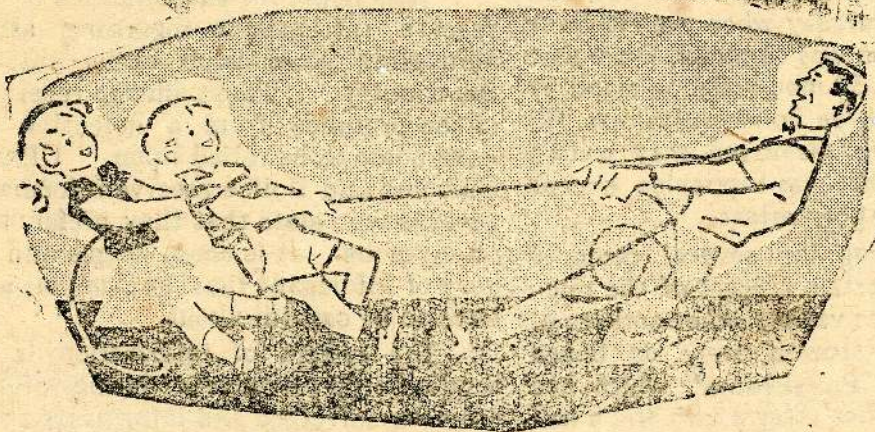
A 'Despicable Speciman of Humanity'

MADALGAMUWA RAJENDRA THERO, of the Wijemangala Pirivena, Yatiyana, Minuwangoda, was sentenced to three months' rigorous imprisonment on each of the three counts (the sentences to run concurrently), by Mr. T. S. Sally, Negombo Magistrate, who found him guilty after trial of the offence of criminal force on three persons by throwing on them human excreta, on June 17th

The three persons on whom the human excreta was thrown were Mr. C. Amarasinghe, a teacher and two students, D. K. Somadasa and B. Wijesinghe.

The magistrate in his order stated: "An offence of this nature in the case of layman may not be viewed with seriousness and met with severe punishment but here is a man who, garbed in priestly robes stoops to such despicable low depths as to throw on the bodies of three innocent passers-by a nauseating substance as human excreta".

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2. to ensure the culture and furnishment of the mind.
3. The timely instilling of conscientious principles and seeds of Religion.

The purpose of education is to fit one, in an intelligent and practical way, to do one's duty towards one's religion, one's family and one's own country.

We are confident that the education given us in assisted schools had responded admirably and consistently to these accepted Aims and Purposes.

Our Professionals, Politicians and Parliamentarians, ranking high even on world standards, are the surest support for this proven confidence.

In our Buddhist Prime Minister we have an outstanding example of a disciplined citizen trained in every aspect of life at a much maligned catholic school. Her strict adherence to the religion of her childhood is not due to her social status, political acumen or material soundness but due to her desire to evince strict compliance to ordinary maxims which she was taught to respect whilst at school. Her public utterances reveal the soundness of her schooling. There is no cause to suspect that her private conduct is different.

Our party politicians have had their education in assisted Schools. It is preposterous to imagine, far more to believe that their education is not of a high order or that their culture does not become their status. Their rise to such prominence nullifies the senseless assertion of certain disgruntled pundits, that the education and culture one assimilates in an assisted school falls short of one's aspirations.



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There is an erring tendency to assume that the moving spirit in an assisted school alienates one from a truly national spirit. Such assumptions are deplorably incorrect. Gentlemen of the type of Messrs. D. S. Senanayake, F. R. Senanayake, Sir D. B. Jayatilleke, Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan, Sir Arunachalam and Mr. E. W. Perera, to mention a few, were all products of assisted Schools. Their sense of national patriotism can hardly be questioned. They were all men of national culture. Those of them who were not Christians followed their own religious beliefs with sincerity and integrity. These are not isolated cases. The very movement for independence was largely led by men educated in assisted Schools. James de Alwis, a Sinhalese Scholar, author and patriot of the first quality was one. More can be named.

In the thick of such convincing proof regarding the commendable services rendered by the assisted Schools where is the need to hinder or frustrate their continuity?

x x x

We were promised a Democratic Government further enriched with the cream of socialism. We all admit that democratic socialism, properly understood, is the best method of

furthering the happiness of the human race. No one has any grudge against Socialisation so long as such socialisation is directed to their proper channels. Any industry that is a menace to peace and harmful in the hands of individuals may be nationalised. Trading monopolies may be nationalised because they hinder even distribution of wealth. Banking and life Insurance may be nationalised as they have the power to create money, so necessary to keep the wheels of the State machinery going. Transport Services, Gas and Electricity are admirably suited for Socialisation because they are steady sources of revenue.

The socialist plan does not embrace the nationalisation of Schools or Education. Such nationalisation is purely a totalitarian or Marxist appendage.

On the other hand socialism very correctly contends that those services that need careful and studied handling at the hands of trained experts should be entrusted to such personnel. Education is one such. Education is primarily a social service. Hence the management of Education should be in the hands of Social organisations specially trained for such purpose.

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Most countries, where the Government is modelled on the Democratic Socialist Plan, have State Schools, State-aided Schools and private schools. Need Ceylon be a sorry exception?

x x x

Says the Buddhist Commission report page 66:-

"Buddhist education requires a mode of teaching system of discipline inspired by the Dhamma. It is not directed towards the gratification of the senses. Its main instrument is the truly Buddhist teacher. No Buddhist education is worthy of the name which does not install into its recipient certain moral Principles which mould his character and guide him through life. A few minutes set apart for *pansil* each morning or the practice of lighting lamps on Poya Days is nothing but the outward show of Buddhist Education. A child educated in a Buddhist school should in the first place have a firmly developed moral education.

This same report on page 85 inquires how it will profit a Buddhist child to receive a "religious education which teaches among other things that the Pope is infallible, that God created the world, that Christ died to save men from sin and that the Virgin Mary ascended to Heaven in the flesh."

The above passages give us a correct insight of what a good Buddhist education should be, and the dangers such an education is now exposed to.

Needless to add that the aspiration of the Buddhist Parents to give their children a Buddhist background commands full sympathy from all without exception.

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Likewise It is admitted that the inculcation of other religious teachings, if there be any such inculcation to Buddhist children, or children of other religionists as well, will only result in confusion to some and conviction to others

Hindus, Muslims, Christians and other religionists entertain similar feelings regarding the education of their children. A religious education is a 'must' to every child regardless of the various religious beliefs.

Thus a Buddhist child needs a Buddhist Education, a Hindu child a Hindu Education, a Muslim child a Muslim Education, a Christian child a Christian Education etc.

A few hours of religious instruction is not a complete religious education. The full richness of a religious education is only possible in a well framed religious environment.

Thus the quotations on which comments are made rather emphasise the need for retention of Denominational Schools than for abolition.

Our Minister of Education and our Government are taking too many things for granted. That all parents favour the take-over the Schools is no truism. Such implied truism exists only in the imagination of certain politicians. Let these same politicians go back to their Constituencies and get first hand views from the parents themselves who are most concerned about children. They will then readily realize how near they themselves had been a party to the gravest injustice to the people of this land.

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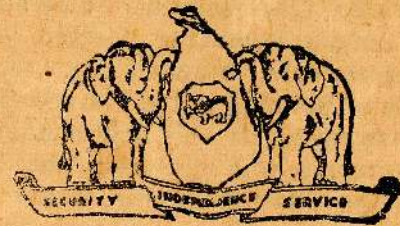
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The Housing Problem

MR. MAHANAMA SAMARAWEEERA indicated in his Budget Speech that he would welcome suggestions to stop the Key Money Racket and other connected problems in connection with Housing etc.

To do this it is necessary that Government set itself up as a Model Landlord not only to set an example to the Private Sector but also to provide the best and easiest method for the Public to acquire houses. As such it behoves the Government to return the non-refundable deposit extracted from the tenants of the Bambalapitiya Fiat Shops which ranged from Rs. 13,000/- to Rs. 20,000/- per shop as Key Money extracted under any guise or for whatever purpose represents Key Money and it is just this type of racketeering that must be eliminated.

In the second Instance the Housing Department should organise itself to receive rents of tenants from the Private Sector for remittance to Landlords after appropriate deductions have been made by the tenant to keep the premises

in good and proper repair. In addition the Rent Restriction Ordinance should be altered to cover all Buildings whether erected before or after a certain date. Now all this would be a disincentive to building in the Private Sector and thus Investment in this field is bound to fall. To overcome this provision should be made in our Taxation Scheme for Relief both from the Expenditure Tax and even Income Tax for those who spend over Rs. 15,000/- for the purpose of putting up Buildings to enable them set off such expenditure against Income Tax over a period of five years and against Expenditure Tax over a period of fifteen years. Government must realize that they cannot have the cake and eat it and as such provision must be made to provide the necessary incentive for Building while safeguarding the tenant at the same time.

Landlords are supposed to be responsible for the maintenance of the Building rented by them and even for the payment of Rates and Taxes. As such it does seem quite contrary to such practice to find Government advertising e.g. Govt. Gazette No. 12,210 of 7-10-60, Page 1249, that Tenants will be required to carry out the maintenance and repairs of houses let them by Government and in addition insure them against Fire and pay any rates required by Local Authorities. Furthermore a Deposit from Rs. 2,500 to Rs. 5,000 is called for in addition to a month's rent payable in advance. These terms would be frowned upon if requested for by the Private Sector, yet here is a published notice by Government which seems contrary to all procedure:-

On Page 1250 of the same Gazette we find an even more extraordinary condition imposed by Government on those renting the Shops at Bambalapitiya Flats which reads as follows:—

"The successful bidder who becomes a tenant shall at all times maintain the building rented out to him in good repair at his expense and erect and keep in good repair a substantial fence or Boundary wall around the tenanted premises."

Can one think of such a condition in the Private Sector without associating it with subtle Blackmail for the rental of the Premises? If this is the method Government proposes making available houses, flats and establishments to the poor public then they are catering to the capitalist group only who have the funds to meet these various requirements instead of the poorer group they said they were dedicated to.

A Special Tax on all vacant land in certain named Towns should provide an incentive to Building or on the other hand income for Government as an additional and welcome source.

Loans for Building Houses should also cease to be given. Government should prepare complete Plans and Estimates for Houses of Type A, B, C, D and E with additional estimates for slight variations within prescribed limits. Then when a Building Application is made the Applicant could be asked to inspect the Plans available and choose one of them with the slight variation he may want to incorporate from the range of variations available. If the loan is passed, the sum of money could be made available by Government direct to a Government Contractor who would have to build it according to the specifications and Bill of Quantities under the supervision of the Applicant's Architect. This would ensure conservation of money by the Government, avoiding of any kind of fraud that the Applicant may attempt to perpetrate on the Government and above all eliminate luxury buildings for which this type of loan should not be available. Those wanting to put up Luxury Buildings or Flats should take their problem to the Banks and Finance Companies.

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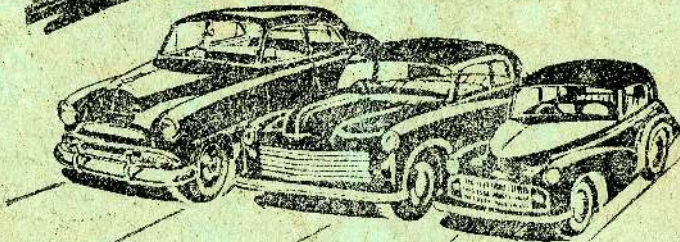
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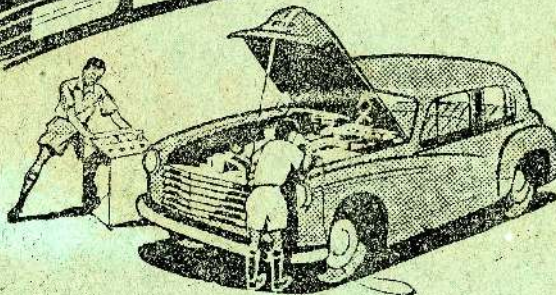
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