



# The SEARCHLIGHT

39th YEAR OF  
ESTABLISHMENT

Price -/25

VOL 39 NO. 19

COLOMBO

OCTOBER 15th 1960

## The Government and the People

**I**T is an axiomatic political truth that the Government of a country governs with the consent of the people. When such a government happens to be 'a government of the people, by the people and for the people,' as we are often reminded ours is, the need for securing the consent of the governed is all the more imperative. For the Government depends on the goodwill of the governed and their ready co-operation and willingness to accept any measure or measures sought to be introduced for the benefit of the country as a whole and to enable it to carry on the administration with fairness and justice to all alike.

The consent of the governed to abide by a measure or measures Government seeks to impose, is generally ascertained in two ways. First by the Government gauging the extent of people's reaction to any proposed measure and how they view it. Second by what information the people's representatives have to report to the authorities. Both these mediums must at all times be faithfully consulted so as to correctly evaluate what the wishes of the people actually are in regard to contemplated measures. In other words it is the duty of the

Government to pay due regard to public opinion. For no government worth its salt can afford to go counter to the general feeling of the country. A Government who seeks to act in a manner contrary to such a principle would virtually be riding roughshod over the people.

In a modern democracy there is always bound to arise differences of opinions and views. One section of the people may choose to look upon a proposal sought to be imposed on them favourably, while another section may find themselves opposed to it and still another section or sections may hold views independent of those two sections who are at variance. Therefore it would be definitely injudicious and unwise to seek to impose a measure on the people in the teeth of popular opposition on the part of the body politic. Even an allegedly progressive proposal in such circumstances, is bound to have certain aspects in it which are not likely to be to the advantage of certain sections of the people.

*(Continued on page 4)*

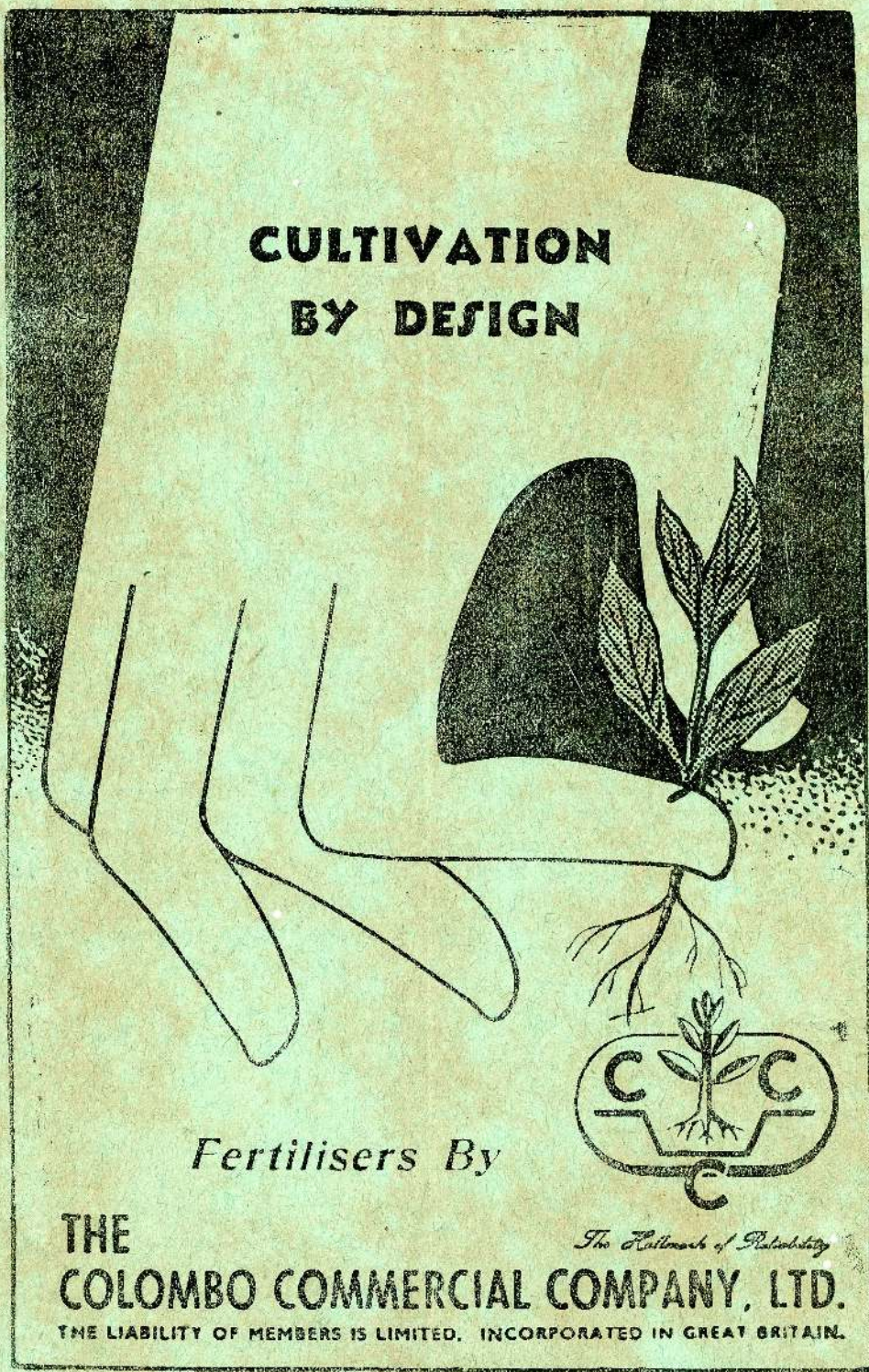
### New Taxation & Industrial Development

By DON DIEGO

See page 17



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# The **SEARCHLIGHT**

(ESTABLISHED 1921)

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VOL 39 NO. 19

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## **WANTON WASTE OF PUBLIC FUNDS**

**R**ECENTLY the Post (Cargo) Corporation advertised 'calling for tenders for the purchase of nineteen barges. Of these nineteen barges six of them had been purchased only recently from Hongkong at a price running into several lakhs of rupees. And now the P. C. C. wants to sell them as being unfit.

These barges have not only been found to be too large and difficult to operate but they had also to be constantly laid up for repairs. It is not known exactly how much these constant repairs have cost the taxpayer but that the figure is said to be very high.

And now the Port Cargo Corporation is trying to get rid of these craft for which they paid a heavy price. Whoever buys them will certainly not pay even a fraction of their original purchase price.

The public would like to know who is the authority who permitted the purchase of these barges which have been found to be totally unfit for use because of their decrepitude and their large size? How was the transaction to buy these barges handled and by whom?

To top off this tale of squandermania the notice of the public has to be daaim to the incompetence and the wasteful ways how public money is handled by the S.L.F.P. Government.

Two second-hand barges which the P.C.C. had sold for a measly sum of Rs. 2,000 each had

sunk in the Belra lake some days after barges had been sold. For some inexplicable reason the Corporation had these two vessels refloated by the Port Commission authorities on payment of a salvage fee of Rs. 6,000.

In the first place, it is interesting to know why the Corporation should have acted the good Samaritan and had these sunken barges salvaged for the buyer at the expense of the taxpayer?

There is no doubt from all this that serious malpractices are going on inside the Port Cargo Corporation of which the general public is unaware.

That is a scandalous state of affairs which calls for immediate investigation. An investigation will bring to light many more unpleasant features relating to the present misadministration of the Port Cargo Corporation.

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## Sir Eric Jansz Resigns

SIR Eric Jansz, Chairman of the Public Service Commission resigned on Monday the 24th instance.

With a brilliant record such as his, rendered as a public servant, merit and outstanding merit at that, has had its due reward. Of him it can be said that he was a complete Civil Servant who earned the regard and respect not only of the Govern-



SIR ERIC JANSZ

ment but from all sections of the people. A high sense of duty and rectitude have characterised Sir Eric right through his career in the Public Service.

His nomination to the Senate earlier, was acknowledgment that in the Upper House of Parliament he could continue to give the State of his best from the rich storehouse of his great knowledge and experience. His valuable contributions to the discussions in the Senate, often as a spokesman for Government, won for him the admiration of his brother Senators. Having resigned from the Senate he adorned the office of Chairman of the Public Services Commission with considerable tact and judgment and held the scales of justice without fear or favour, malice or ill-will.

Sir Eric is a quiet unassuming type of man like his forbears who had won the golden opinions of those great men of the CIVIL SERVICE in the past. When I first came into contact with him he was attached to the Land Settlement Department. He always endeavoured to go through life's way as a plain and modest gentleman, a worthy example of those ornaments of his community.

C.A.L.G.

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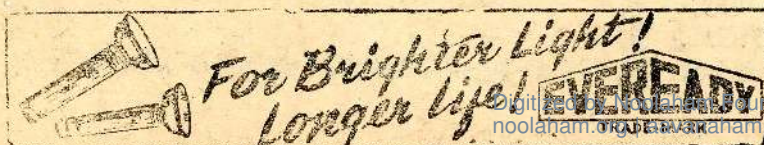
## Anti-Malaria Campaign and Increased Population

CEYLON'S anti-malaria campaign is reducing population pressure in that nation by opening previously uninhabitable areas to human settlement, says an American Public Health Service official (Dr. Harold Frederiksen,) in the October issue of "Public Health Reports."

The author notes that the anti-malaria campaign is relieving the population "explosion" by opening up the four-fifths of the island which previously had been so malarial that it was almost uninhabitable.

However, Dr. Frederiksen points out, many persons feel that the anti-malaria campaign is contributing to over-population in Ceylon and they cite the fact that the death rate has greatly decreased while the birth rate has remained steadily high. Persons expressing this opinion feel that the increasing population may eventually lead to poverty and famine in Ceylon.

Dr. Frederiksen goes on to state malaria control have had only a limited effect on the death rate in Ceylon. The areas in malaria-bearing





mosquitoes have been systematically sprayed with insecticides — four fifths of the country previously were so badly infested with the insects that only 38 per cent of Ceylon's population lived there.

Further, he observes, the most dramatic reduction in Ceylon's death rate took place in the second half of 1946, when only 18 per cent of the population had been protected from malaria. In that period the number of deaths declined 25 per cent in all Ceylon and 24 per cent in the unsprayed fifth of the country. He concludes that the difference is "insufficient" to establish malaria control as the significant factor for the dramatic decline." The article does not attempt to explain what other factors are responsible for Ceylon's lowered death rate.

Supporting his views the learned author cites a statement by the Prime Minister S.W. R. D. Bandaranaike who stated in a 1950 speech as follows:

"Although Ceylon is a small country which is primarily agricultural, nearly two-thirds of the island has been uncultivable chiefly owing to the dreaded disease, malaria. With the removal of malaria, today, a serious menace to the country it will be possible to open up these vast tracts of land considerably to improve the living conditions of the people, the majority of whom hitherto have been living in poverty and misery."

Concluding his article, Dr. Frederiksen says:

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"This analysis of mortality in Ceylon quite unfoundedly supports the fear that malaria control invites famine. The available evidence fails to establish malaria control as the sole or major cause of a population explosion in Ceylon."

Perhaps Doctor Fredricksen is unaware that the late P.M. made an important declaration in 1958 a little time before his death. He said:

"What I am worried about is how we are going to find the food for Ceylon's tremendously increasing population. At the present birth rate we are confronted with the problem of finding the food for over two hundred and fifty thousand additional mouths to feed every year."

The above indicates that Malaria control have sent up the demand for more food. Here Mr. Alagaratnam, we believe, is quite justified when he said in his Presidential address at the Conference of Engineers that "We must produce more Food or Perish." Let Government start interesting itself on the Food question without further delay.

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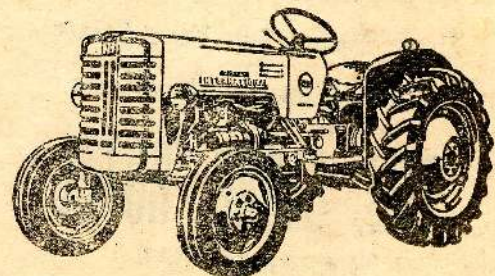
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## IMPORTED FILMS

ON perusing a Government publication recently, we noticed that Imported Films, strange to say, have been classified under the category of 'Luxury goods.' It is understandable how the authorities came to the conclusion that Films, a bye product of Celluloid, constitutes a luxury. In these progressive times the wide and varied advantages derived from the Film have been demonstrated to everybody. It is used in great measure by the Medical Research institutions all over the world and by Scientists, the Army, Navy, Air Force and the Police for educational, agricultural and Industrial development and in scores of other important spheres. The Film also plays a great part in propaganda and acts as a valuable guide to Tourists. Apart from all that, it provides employment to a very large number of people and at the same time Government is benefitted by Customs Duty and revenue from the Trade in the commodity.

The Customs Returns for last year show that the value of imported Films, was in the neighbourhood of 3,000,000 rupees. With the idea of conserving currency the Government placed the article under the heading 'Luxury Articles' and making it necessary for Importers to pay a 50 per cent cash margin to their Bankers on application for opening letters of credit.

There are a very few importers of Films in the local market and we are beginning to wonder whether the ruling given by the Central Bank can be reasonably met by those dealing in Films. As is so often repeated in Parliament and outside, it is always the smaller Trader that gets the hit.

But what strikes us rather forcibly is that X Ray Films imported into the country for Hospitals, Medical Research and Science, have been categorised by the wisecracks of the Central Bank as an item of luxury. Can anything be more preposterous. We all know that the X Ray Film is an indispensable article in all our hospitals and as a result of the ruling given by the Central Bank it will not only adversely effect Hospitals but the health of the people as well.

Were it not for the X-Ray Film what census could the Government have got of the T.B. Sufferers, Cancer patients and numerous other human ailments all detected as a result of the X Ray Film. At least the government should exclude the X Ray Film, if in their unwisdom they are trying to penalise such an important and prime necessity.

Assuming that 3,000,000 rupees are sent out of the country for the films purchased, is it not likely that a fair percentage of this money will come back to the country by way of Tourist Trade. Tourists come here, buy Films and Cameras and take photographs of places of scenic beauty or of historical interest, and have them processed locally. Thus the country gains apart from the propaganda value of these films. Today many thousands of Ceylonese have taken to photography as a hobby and are fast developing their talent and business which can be seen from Newspapers, Photographic Exhibitions and a host of other publications local and foreign.

Take the number of studios that are fast developing and catering to the needs of the people by giving them photographs at considerate prices. Here, too, the film plays an important part. But the Government in its desire to conserve currency, which is a bagatelle in comparison to other sources of outflow, rather than encourage trade, is only trying to hinder and obstruct it. This, indeed, is like cutting the nose to spite the cheek! The sooner the Government makes up its mind to withdraw this ill-conceived imposition the better it will be for the trade of the country.

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THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE  
(Carried over to page 20)



# Sixty Years of British Effort 'Crowned and Fulfilled' in Nigeria

**B**RTAIN'S work of 60 years in Nigeria "is crowned and fulfilled with Nigeria's birth as a new sovereign, independent nation" Viscount Kilmuir, the Lord Chancellor and leader of the British delegation to the Nigerian Independence celebrations, told Pressmen of the world in Lagos on Saturday (3rd Oct.).

"This is the day that crowns Britain's work in Nigeria," he said, "We have brought the task to which we set our hands to the fulfilment we always intended."

Lord Kilmuir said that it was with a sense of mission well accomplished that the delegation had witnessed the impressive Independence ceremonies. To be present at the birth of a new nation was a solemn and inspiring experience—one which had fallen to many British Ministers in the last few years during which time British policy for her overseas territories had been coming to fruition, in India, Pakistan, Ceylon, Malaya and now in Africa.

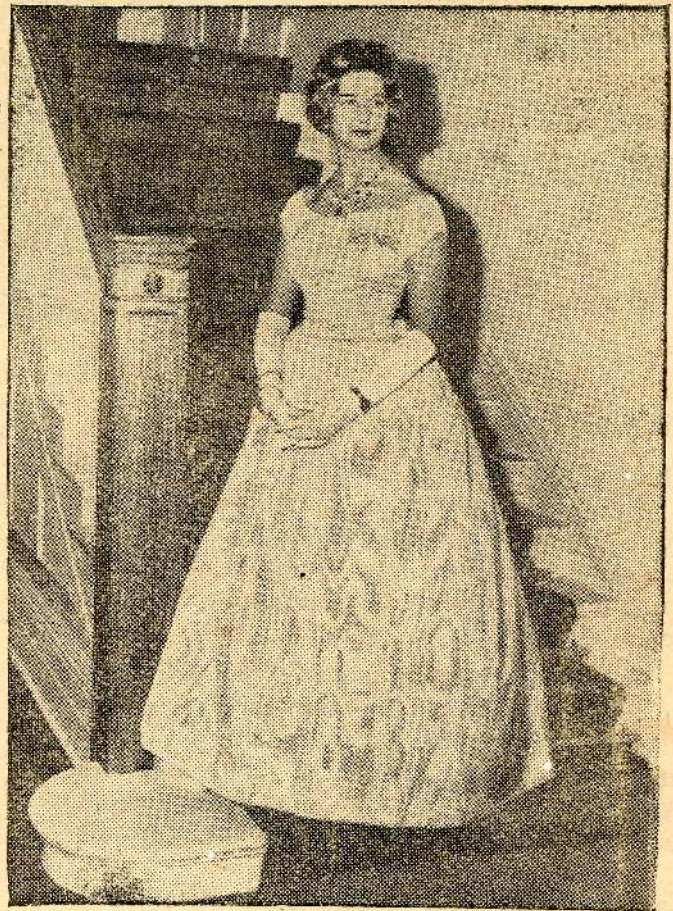
## COMMONWEALTH WELCOME

It was a great pleasure that Nigeria by her own free choice had chosen to remain in the British Commonwealth, Lord Kilmuir went on. This was an association providing a valuable and intimate link with countries in all five continents. And they on their side, were pleased to welcome another African country—on whose size and importance must give her voice great weight.

The responsibilities of independence were great but he was sure Nigeria would find it exhilarating and bear it worthily, said the Lord Chancellor.

## BALANCE AND PURPOSE

Viscount Head said the interpretation was that Nigeria had a fundamental sense of



H. R. H. Princess Alexandra

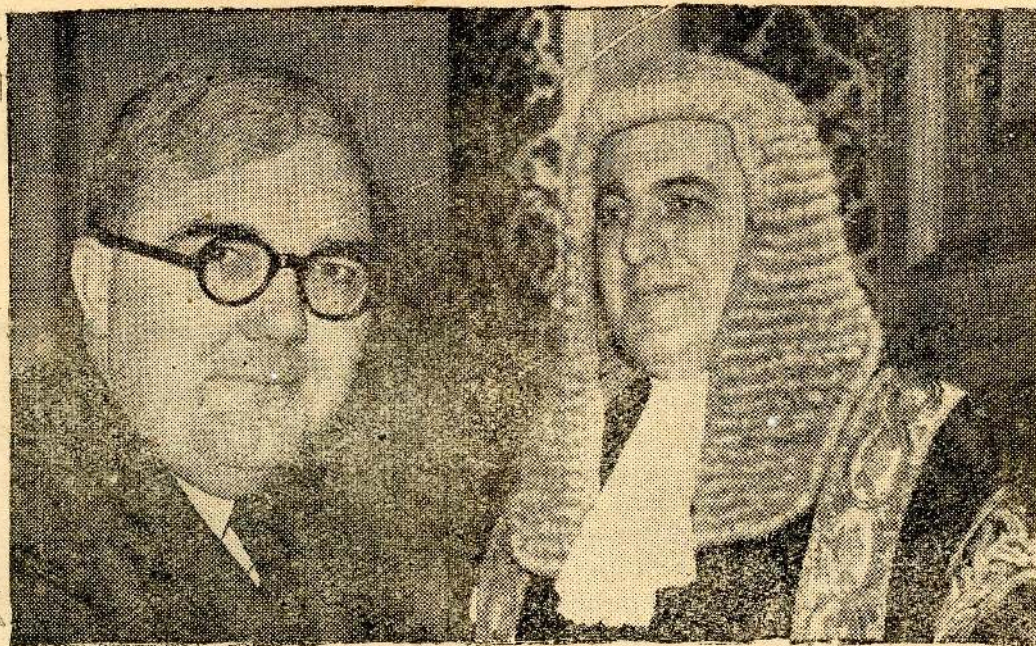
balance, purpose and realism which recognised that independence was the beginning of responsibility as well as the fulfilment of hopes.

Wherever he had been, he had sensed the pervading goodwill towards Britain and genuine gratitude for the contribution the United Kingdom had made in the past, Lord Head added. "That goodwill has been built on the dedication and often the lives of my fellow-countrymen. I feel great humility in becoming the representative of those who returned so much gratitude."





(Right)  
The Rt. Hon  
Viscount Kilmuir



## Queen's Message

**P** R I N C E S S A L E X A N D R A, representing Queen Elizabeth, handed to the Nigerian Federal Prime Minister documents establishing the sovereignty of the new independent State at a ceremony watched by 50,000 people in the Racecourse Stadium at Lagos.

She read a message from Queen Elizabeth—a message broadcast by radio throughout the country—which said: "I have entrusted to my cousin the duty of acting as my representative at the celebrations at Independence of your country. My husband and I retain the happiest

of memories of our visit to Nigeria and our thoughts are with you on this memorable day.

"As you assume the heavy responsibilities of independence, I send my good wishes for a great and noble future. It is with special pleasure that I welcome you to our Commonwealth family of nations."

"I am confident Nigeria will play a worthy part in the councils of nations and remaining true to the high ideals of friendship and co-operation which are so manifest today, will make a positive contribution to the peace and prosperity of mankind.

"May God bless and guide your country throughout the years to come."

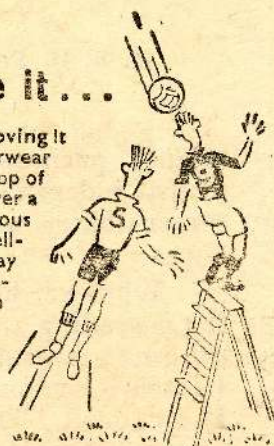
## "Treasured Friendship"

**I** N her own speech on handing the documents to Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, Princess Alexandra said that it was a source of great satisfaction to the people of Britain that they had contributed to the cultural and material progress which had brought Nigeria to nationhood

"The friendship which had grown up between our two peoples is treasured not only in the United Kingdom but in many other parts of the Commonwealth," she said. She hoped Nigeria would always remember that the strength of this friendship remained.

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Sir Abubakar said that he had every confidence, based on the happy experience of successful partnership, that future relations with Britain would be more cordial than ever "bound together, as we shall be, in the Commonwealth by common allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth whom we proudly acclaim today as Queen of Nigeria and Head of the Commonwealth."

He was sure "that history will show that the building of our nation proceeded at the wisest pace. It has been thorough and Nigeria now stands well built upon firm foundations." Each step of constitutional advance had been purposefully and peacefully planned with full and open consultation not only between representatives of the various interests of Nigeria but in harmonious co-operation with the United Kingdom.

The Prime Minister also paid warm tributes to the countless British administrators, missionaries, teachers, bankers, industrialists and merchants whose efforts had contributed to independence. Nigeria was reaping the harvest which they had sowed.



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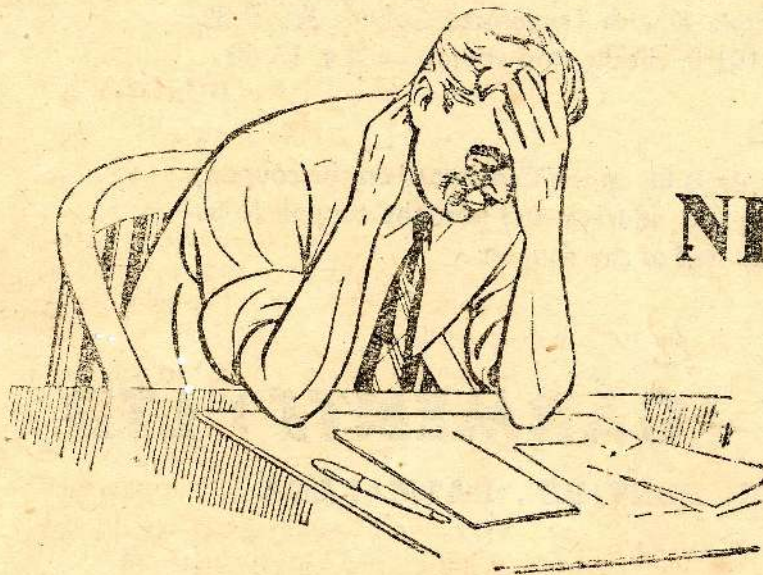
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## Race bias decried

The General Assembly's Social Committee today adopted by 78 votes with three absentions a resolution condemning "racial, religious and national hatred".

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## AU REVOIR BUT NOT GOOD BYE

By C. A. L. Gomes

THE staff of Messrs. George Stuart & Co. Ltd., paid a fitting tribute to Mr. A. D. MacLeod, Chairman of the Board of Directors, by according him a farewell party on the eve of his retirement from the firm after a splendid innings that will always be remembered by those who worked under him.



Mr. A. D. MacLeod & Mrs. MacLeod

Mr. MacLeod was associated with Messrs. George Stuart & Co. Ltd. for over 32 years and he had the unique distinction of belonging to a galaxy of distinguished businessmen known for their probity and independence. It was precisely this characteristic that won for him many glorious and well-deserved tributes. In business and planting matters, his guidance was always sought and he never stinted in giving anyone the benefit of his accumulated knowledge and vast experience in such matters. Whether it was in the interests of the Estates Federation, the Planters Association, the Tea Research Institute, the Tea Propaganda Board, the Caledonian Society or St. Andrews Scots Kirk, he never shirked his duty but was always ready to be of service for the commonweal and the welfare and well-being of the country.

Taking my mind back to those of his predecessors, and they were veritable stalwarts in their day, I recall the late Sir Tom Villiers, Merchant, Planter, Politician and Church worker, Mr. C. G. C. Kerr, another clear-headed businessman and doughty fighter, in the cause of justice and fairplay, Mr W. H. Gourlay also well-known and respected for his sterling qua-

lities of head and heart and his business acumen and others before them. Perhaps the names of those pioneers of the firm, started in 1835 by James Stuart and carried on by his brother George, thereafter by G. A. Mackenzie and Alfred Wise to be followed in their turn by William Anderson, Thomas S. Grigson, Edward S. Grigson, John Paterson and John L. Gordon and successors, are recorded in history for their valuable contributions made towards the progress and prosperity of Ceylon and the success of George Stuart & Co.

With Mr. MacLeod's departure from Ceylon I am reminded of Sam Weller who said "Gone, gone are the old familiar faces". Mr. MacLeod is an affable personality, kind and courteous and a dignified head. As Chairman of the Ceylon Tea Propaganda Board he was a pillar of strength. His ripe experience and mature judgment on planting matters and the Tea Industry in particular, enabled the Ceylon Tea Propaganda Board to go from strength to strength. He was, indeed, a beacon light among the Fort Businessmen. He has left the shores of Ceylon happy in the thought that he spent the better part of his life doing good and carried away the best wishes of a host of friends and well-wishers among the Ceylonese and European communities alike.

(Continued over)

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And what of his good lady, the charming Mrs. Mac Leod, (Betty) to her more intimate friends, who was born and bred in Ceylon. She is loved and respected and many who have known her will miss her very much. She too has contributed a great deal towards social service and Church activities and was always a very willing helper. Wherever she went and whatever responsibility she undertook to do, she added lustre by her dignity and charm. She was indeed a valuable co-adjutor to her husband and his success is due to her in great measure.

It is reassuring to know that Mr. Mac Leod will continue to be very closely connected with Ceylon and its agriculture since he has joined Mr. Fellowes and Mr. Meadin in The Ceylon & Eastern Agency.

I was indeed glad that he has been succeeded by an equally capable and level headed businessman in Mr. R. J. Gilmour, C.A. who has been associated with the firm for over twenty five years. That he will successfully guide the destinies of the firm in the years to come with the same breadth of vision, circumspection and sound judgment, there is no gainsaying. For in Mr. Gilmour, Messrs. George Steuarts have someone who as President of the British European Association of Ceylon a few years ago rendered valuable service and whose insight into matters pertaining to Trade and Commerce and Finance have been widely appreciated. His is a storehouse of knowledge gar-

nered in the University of experience and I have no doubt that he will continue to lend distinction and support to the great Oak that was planted in 1835, for the greater good of the largest number. During these hard and anxious times resulting from Ceylon's political transition, Mr. Gilmour can play a great part by giving his undivided attention to matters of a nation in travail.

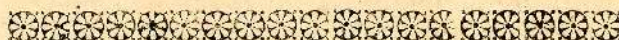


## HUSH MONEY

Ten thousand rupees every year in tax,  
Will not not make Q.C.'s less eloquent wax,  
For though it was levied to strike them dumb,  
These specialists at it their noses thumb!  
Two guineas odd it works out for a day,  
A trifling sum which clients well could pay:  
Even the poor this extra cash will rake,  
When life or property is held at stake,  
To pay the Q.C. arguing their case,  
With gratitude and joy writ on their face.  
There are about fifteen Q.C.'s in all,  
Who'll not by this levy be held in thrall,  
For they will see, ere they eloquent wax,  
That John Singho has fully paid the tax!

—"Observer"

ALEXIS ROBERTS



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**HOLY SMOKE !**

The two cents rise in cost of cigarettes.  
 A hardship on the poor man's shoulders sets  
 For he no longer gets a decent smoke,  
 His money won't allow him: he is broke!  
 Instead, he strives his craving wild to stem,  
 With 'beedies' vile that irritate the phlegm,  
 Which, if neglected, later on will see  
 Him stricken with lung cancer, or T. B.  
 It is therefore a pity, nay a crime,  
 To amass millions with his extra dime  
 And attempt to increase the Nation's wealth,  
 At the fearful expense of Public Health !

ALEXIS ROBERTS.

**PRECEPT AND EXAMPLE**

FELIX FOLLOWS HIS COUSIN'S EXAMPLE

**I**S it true that ("I'm no shamster") Felix Dias Bandaranaike had made a secret visit to the famous Lunawa Devale to invoke the blessings of the Gods and thereby salve his troubled conscience for having attacked others for indulging in shams when he himself is guilty of doing the same. But now he must be suffering from a fresh bout of pricked conscience. As a Christian he must, I suppose, have to make some atonement for having worshipped at the shrine of another religion. Where he will go to make this atonement, I wonder ?

—(Extract from the UNP Journal)

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**The Bandaranaike Socialism**

WHAT A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY  
 CIRCLE SAYS

Mr. F. D. Tillekeratne of Baddegama writes:

**I** was an invitee to your wedding. I drove up to Balangoda to attend the function, with my wife, who is also a Bandaranaike.

Below the "Poruwa", there was a special box for the European planters and their wives.

Your Friends and Relatives took a back seat. That was the "Socialism" practised then.

My great grandfather, the late Monarawilla Keppitipola Dissawa, sacrificed his life, in the cause of Freedom.

As a Direct Descendant of this Freedom Fighter, I make this protest.

Your Government's decision to nationalize schools and the Press, is a blatant attempt to subvert the Freedom enjoyed by the people of this country.

The United Nations draft Declaration on Freedom of Information reads as follows:-

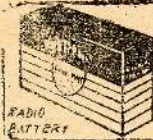
"Freedom of information is essential to the respect for other Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, since no other liberty is secure if information cannot be freely sought, received and imparted."

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The common man may have helped to form your Government, but that does not give your Government the right, to lead him up a blind alley into an abyss.



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LONDON maintained its reputation as international art capital when, at an evening auction at Sothby's, 51 modern paintings and drawings fetched a total of £429,700 in 75 minutes of bidding.

The sale room was crowded when the Jacques Sarlie collection from New York came under the hammer. The collection included 29 paintings and drawings by Picasso, the largest group of his work ever to be offered at one sale, three Braques, two Soutines, and two paintings and eight drawings by Medigliani.

An early Picasso entitled "Crouching Woman" was sold for £48,000, the highest price at the sale. Altogether the Picassos fetched £227,000, with prices ranging from £700 for a drawing to the £48,000 work, which was painted in 1902. The world record price for a Picasso, paid at Sotheby's in May, 1959, is £55,000.

Not only Picassos made high prices. A Modigliani portrait of the sculptor, Oscar Miestchaninoff, made £38,000. A 1946 Braque fetched £42,000.

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## A STORY OF GUN-RUNNING

The following appears in the UNP Journal of the 21st October.

SO it was not 'hooch' really that the raiders were after when they clambered aboard the Ceylon flagship, "Vijaya" last week but smuggled arms.

Some wise guy is said to have tipped off the Minister that the Commander of the 'Vijaya' who is a Roman Catholic was bringing a big consignment of arms to Ceylon with the fell purpose of arming the Roman Catholics to fight the Governments takeover of Catholic Schools.

Of course, needless to say that the raid drew a complete blank; there were no arms aboard and no 'hooch' either to justify this illegal raid.

But what many people who read the astounding news of the raid in the newspapers would like to know is who the unknown informer is who put the fear of Moses into the Minister with his fantastic story of gun-running by the Commander of the "Vijaya".

They would also like to know why this raid was carried out by certain hand-picked outsiders and not by the Naval Police, the Army or the Ceylon Police. Is it because the Minister has no faith in the Navy, the Army or the Police? they ask.

The whole ugly episode stinks with political malevolence, unjustifiable suspicion and Ministerial bungling, is the opinion of people who see in this incident a whole train of ugly portents for the future.

Someone, a Dompe Aya or an Attanagalla mischief maker has only got to whisper into the Minister's ears a concocted tale of dark plottings against the state and hey presto, before you know what's what even the sanctity of your castle will be assailed by noseyparkers. At this rate it won't be long before the Government has its own Gestapo police. Or have they got it already.



# The Return of W. Dahanayake

By A. E. GUNAWARDENA

**W**HEN Radio Ceylon announced the results of the election to the Galle constituency on 19th March 1960, Mr. Dahanayake's defeat surprised everybody. Mr. Dahanayake literally faded out of politics thereafter and his re election to the Galle constituency was not noticed very much in the face of the keen political contest between the Freedom Party and the United National Party. Mr. Dahanayake remained a forgotten man in spite of his sensational administration of less than a year back and his remarkable efforts towards stability and orderliness after a considerable period of stress and strain.

Mr. Dahanayake would have been forgotten but the situation in the country is such that he cannot be easily forgotten. Indecision, confusion, contradictions and absolute tantalisation, have left the people bewildered and puzzled. Leaders are content to be active and eloquent only during elections and few seem to have any real intention to allay the difficult conditions the people have to put up with. After ten long years, food and drink is still expensive though a feeble effort has been made to reduce the price of rice. There is no adequate expansion of industry and agriculture though both taxation and loans have risen. On the contrary waste has increased and uneconomic ventures have begun to squander the energies and resources of the nation.

## No Leadership

The country has been brought to today's plight because leaders have never attempted to lead the ignorant masses and show them what their correct attitude to most matters should be, but instead only try to sense their emotions and feelings with the sole intention of securing seats in Parliament disregarding the future progress of the country. Today the country is on the verge of ruin and only a bold man can save it from disaster. The mess created during the last ten years has to be undone with patience and sincerity.

(Continued over)

# 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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## The Food Problem

The first thing to be done is to set aright the food problem on which depends all other problems. The subsidy given to farmers has to be revised so that the price of rice may fall everywhere and along with a reduction in the paddy subsidy the price of sugar and flour should be brought down to normal levels. Simultaneously the duties on imported fish and meat should be reduced or removed altogether so that wheat in the form of bread, rolls and pastry could be consumed by the whole population. Likewise cakes and confectionery which is restricted to a section of the people could also be consumed by the others as well. If rice, sugar and flour are equally cheap the food problem is virtually solved. If the whole question is understood properly and the general benefit accruing to all therefrom is explained correctly then the greater majority would be for it. If food is cheap there would be no justification for enhanced salaries and the ensuing inflation caused thereby.

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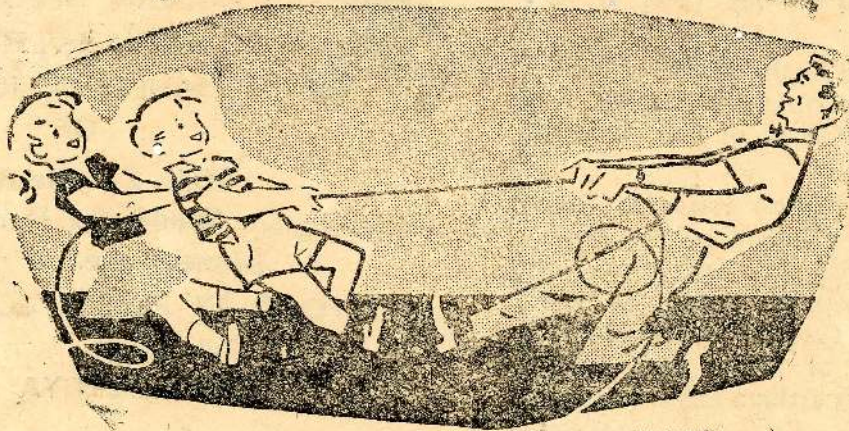
COLOMBO — KANDY

## Always Dodged It

The food problem and other questions like the reduction of the price of arrack have been continually dodged by political leaders so much so that people have lost faith in the ability or desire of the leaders to set aright the mess created by themselves alone. Further it requires an exceptionally bold person to do it. And onlooking around one can see Mr. W. Dahanayake to be one such person. Where there is no one to plead the cause of the Catholics and the Christians over the schools issue only W. Dahanayake dared to come forward. His attitude re echoes his policy enunciated in December 1959. The time has come, he said, for clear cut policies to be laid down. Mr. Dahanayake's boldness and leadership are unequalled. His political sagacity and maturity is remarkable as shown from his attitude towards Press nationalisation in spite of the relentless opposition to him from December 1959 to March 1960. He is a man who knows his onions and is capable of an exhaustive study of a subject.



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## Hope for New Treatment for Asthma

**S**UBSTANCES discovered in certain white cells of horses' blood may lead to an entirely new way of treating asthma and hay fever, it is claimed in London.

The discovery, made in the course of veterinary research, was described by Dr. W. R. Woolridge, Scientific Director of the Animal Health Trust.

He said that at the Equine Research Station at Newmarket a substance had been discovered which played an active part in the control of histamines. Histamine is a frequent cause of surgical or accidental shock, skin lesions of nettle rash type, and such allergies as asthma and hay fever.

The discovery was made during prolonged investigation of the basic functions of the blood of race horses. It is considered to have such far-reaching potentialities for human sufferers that workers of the Medical Research Council and the National Research Development Council are co-operating in its further development.



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## Facts and Not Fiction.

IS THE FINANCE MINISTER  
TRUTHFUL?

**T**HE Sterling assets in 1959 fell by Rs. 194.5 million. In 1958 they fell by Rs. 59.8 million.

And, surely, the Finance Minister did not mean to say that five U.N.P. members sitting in a corner of the Opposition Benches were responsible for the fall of the Sterling Balances in 1958 and 1959!

Let us go deeper into the figures. The external assets when the U.N.P. handed over the reins of office to the late Mr. Bandaranaike, Government were in 1956 Rs. 1177.1 millions. They were rarely higher during the whole history of modern life. In March, 1959 when the U.N.P. Caretaker Government assumed office, the external assets were Rs. 674 million, a drop of Rs. 500 million. So that, the Caretaker Government's fault was that done by the U. N. P.? These five Members, led by Mr. M. D. Banda, sitting in a corner of this House, made the sterling assets drop by Rs. 500 million. Could the

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# THE DANGER OF HOLDING UP INDUSTRY

**T**HE Economic Crisis under which Ceylon had been for the past six years and from which she will find much difficulty from escaping has given rise to important discoveries and realizations. It is devoutly hoped therefore that the present Cabinet has learnt a valuable lesson or two and become wiser men.

Faced with such lessons our economists ought to profit by the experience and be prepared to airm themselves to meet contingencies. In short they must look in several directions and channels from which to gather economic returns. In doing so they must not, as in the past put all the eggs in one basket. It is best to spread them out in as many baskets as possible so as to ensure certain results. In other words they must agree to have several strings to their economic bow.

Already there are grave forbodings before the country. Our unemployed like our population, is growing and judging from the point of Ceylon's economic resources, it is found that she has not opened enough land to help provide sufficient employment and food for the coming generation. In such unfavourable circumstances with the prospects for the future not too reassuring, it would indeed be wise policy for this country to take stock of her economic situation. It is futile to cry over spilt milk. What is needed at the present juncture, is a new resolve. For it is only the courageous and the far seeing who can adjust the shortcomings of the past and lead the people from a state of insecurity and dependence into a state of peace, plenty and contentment.

In Ceylon developed land is on an average of 2 to 3 acres per head. But the present figures worked out with mathematical precision reveal that the average is less than half an acre per head! From this startling figure the Hon. the Minister had proceeded to infer—and perhaps justifiably too—that any increase in population would necessitate an increase in the acreage of cultivated land. But the existing state of affairs cannot possibly continue without causing alarm and even grave anxiety.

Neither taxation nor pious hopes produce money, or what money will buy to keep body and soul together... As it is foreign capital has already been frightened away from this Island and is unlikely to return. Besides the Ceylonese as a nation had no capital nor were they likely to obtain it now.. Further, there had been no land development since 1929 but the population all the same was increasing at a higher rate than work could possibly be found for them at present — let alone ten years hence when another generation would be looking for work and food... Placing further burdens on industry would mean fewer jobs and on the present lines all I could see for the working classes of this country was starvation either in ten years time—or in the first slump that comes along—and we are perilously close to one now, as far as Ceylon is concerned. *(Continued over)*

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What then is the way out of the difficulty from which we may hope most. Everybody knows that Ceylon does not produce anything like the amount of food she consumes, despite the desperate efforts that our Minister for Agriculture is making. All thoughtful people, too, realize it would be better if the agricultural population—this is, of course, vastly smaller than the rural population—were larger. At the present moment when so many people have not enough to eat, or what they eat is not sufficiently nutritious to withstand the ravages of disease like malaria—and consequently there is misery and discontent, intensive land development, the setting up of new industries, finding new avenues of employment and granting of facilities for tapping the resources of the country—both on land and sea, is the only alternative.

One such avenue is close at hand. It has existed for centuries although no effort had been made to develop it. I refer to the Fishing Industry with its wonderful potentialities for providing employment and wealth and which, according to one so well-qualified and competent to speak awaits commercial exploitation. No other industry can give Ceylon a more certain and finer return than the fishing industry can which, apart from being a source of wealth, provides food of high nutritive value besides permanent and profitable employment to the people of the country. And yet that such a valuable industry should be neglected is, as Mr. T. W. Hockly, a friend of Ceylon and a constructive critic of local matters and measures, observes 'a matter for shame and regret.'

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The seas around this Island abounds with vast possibilities but local capitalists seem to ignore it, while they cheerfully let 16 millions of this country's money to be annually sent out to the neighbouring continent and elsewhere. One wonders if there is another country, so favourably placed as Ceylon is, which neglects such an inexhaustible avenue of wealth as this "sea girt isle." To find a better remuneration for our fisher-folk and a steady source of national income and wealth, in a reorganisation of the commercial and distributive side of the fishing industry, is a problem which all see and no one has the courage to tackle. But if any foreigner or foreign syndicate, lured by the abundant profits that are to be made from our seas were to comoround to start an enterprise, which will benefit them as well as the people of this country, immediately there manifests itself, as has happened over the Whaling Project at Galle, a meaningless opposition exemplifying of "the dog in the manger!"



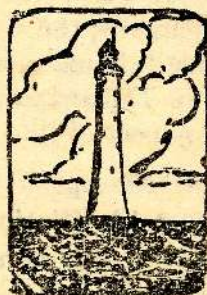
## The Government and the People

Continued from cover page

The Schools Take over carried through Parliament in the teeth of opposition from Buddhists, Christians, Hindus and Muslims is a clear instance where the Government has flouted the wishes of the governed by acting contrary to the declarations it had made to govern the country justly and fairly. What respect could the people have for a Government that violated the fundamental human rights and for the protection of which the people pleaded in vain.

When we contrast the attitude of the S. L. F. P. government with its earlier predecessor, the D. S. Senanayake government, the difference is so obvious that the people cannot but look upon the S. L. F. P. as a tyranny determined to ride roughshod over them. What the Government seeks under the guise of democratic Socialism, is to impose totalitarianism by taking over of the complete control of Education of the country, and that too with discrimi-

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ation and unaccountable partiality shewn the Piriivena Schools, and seeking to remove the religious background which can only be imparted and correctly imparted under the guidance of denominational bodies and not under the aegis or auspices of governmental control.

Much, however, had been made to let the public know that the late S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike had conceived and therefore wanted to take over the Assisted Schools and favoured the compulsory method of acquisition. This was a thundering falsehood intended to mislead the people. The truth of the matter is that the late Premier realised it would be wrong to use compulsion. He knew that the various denominational bodies among the Christians, who were engaged solely in educational pursuits, would be totally opposed to such a take-over as demanded by the Buddha Sasana Commission and the Buddha Sasana Mandalay whose hostility to the Christian Schools, especially the Catholic Schools is proverbial. Accordingly the opposition to the Schools Take-over had to give the lie direct to the statement assiduously spread that the late Prime Minister was in favour of the Take Over. Here is proof to the contrary:

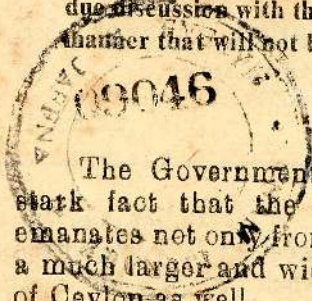
“While I try to safeguard the rights of Buddhists, I cannot aim a death-blow at others. It is not only the Catholics but also some Buddhists are opposed to the take-over of assisted schools.

“The Buddhist Commission Report which demands the take-over of assisted schools is a voluminous book. It is not possible to grant in a short time all demands made there ... A few days ago I discussed this matter with a delegation from the Buddhist Congress. They too agreed that the take-over of schools is no easy problem. They further agreed with me that in solving this problem, we should not do violence to the conscientious objections of Catholics and other religionists.”



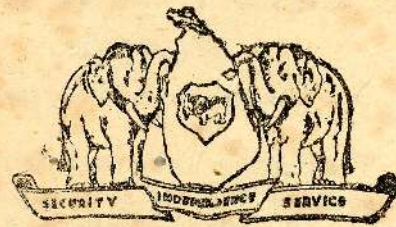
"While I am not opposed to the take-over of schools to Government, I declare that it is a matter which should be proceeded with gradually. When schools are taken over, especially those of the City, like Ananda, St. Thomas', St. Joseph's, compensation would have to be paid for them. Lakhs and lakhs of rupees would have to be given for their lands and buildings. Therefore, this is not a matter which can be implemented in a hurry. It should be done after due discussion with the parties concerned and in a manner that will not hurt the feelings of others."

(Dinamina 17-3-59)



The Government cannot be blind to the stark fact that the opposition to the Bill emanates not only from the Catholics but from a much larger and wider section of the people of Ceylon as well.

There are Buddhists and Hindus, Muslims, Protestants and Catholics who oppose the Bill. There are political parties and organisations of various shades which have opposed and continue to voice their opposition to the Bill. The B.T.S. is against the Bill; the All-Ceylon Muslim League is against the Bill;



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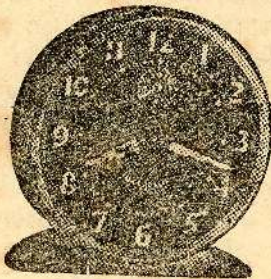
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the Hindu Board of Education is against the Bill; the Anglican Diocesan Council is against the Bill; and the Catholic Church is against the Bill. We go further. Even the Headmasters' Conference has strongly criticised the Bill as a retrograde step; the Federal Party has condemned it roundly in Parliament; the U.N.P. has questioned it in no uncertain manner; and the leader of the L.P.P. Mr. Dabanayake has vigorously attacked every aspect of it.

If this is not a broadbased opposition of considerable force to a piece of legislation, we would wish to know what is; if this is not an opposition that is representative of various shades of opinion, that embraces every religion in Ceylon, and is representative therefore of a comparatively large section of the citizens of the country, we would wish to know what really the government needs. If Government will act democratically, there is only one course open to it. That is to suspend the enforcement of the Bill until a Commission goes into the matter thoroughly hear evidence and report to the Governor-General.



**Bata**

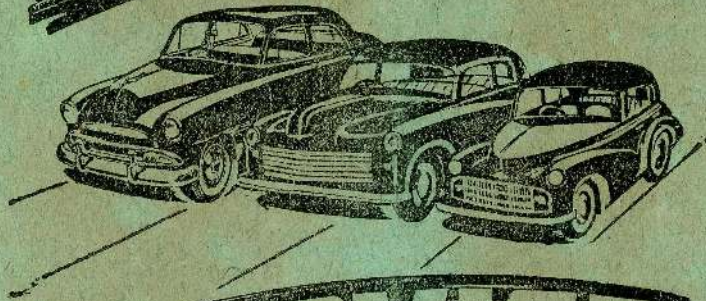
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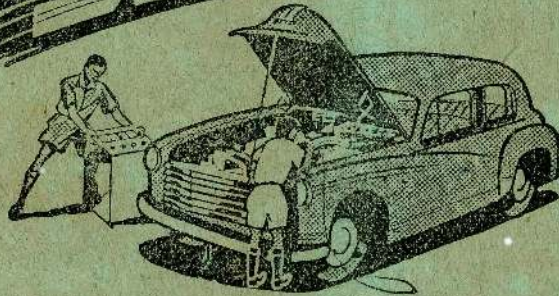
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