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VOL 36 NOS 18-22

DECEMBER 15th 1957

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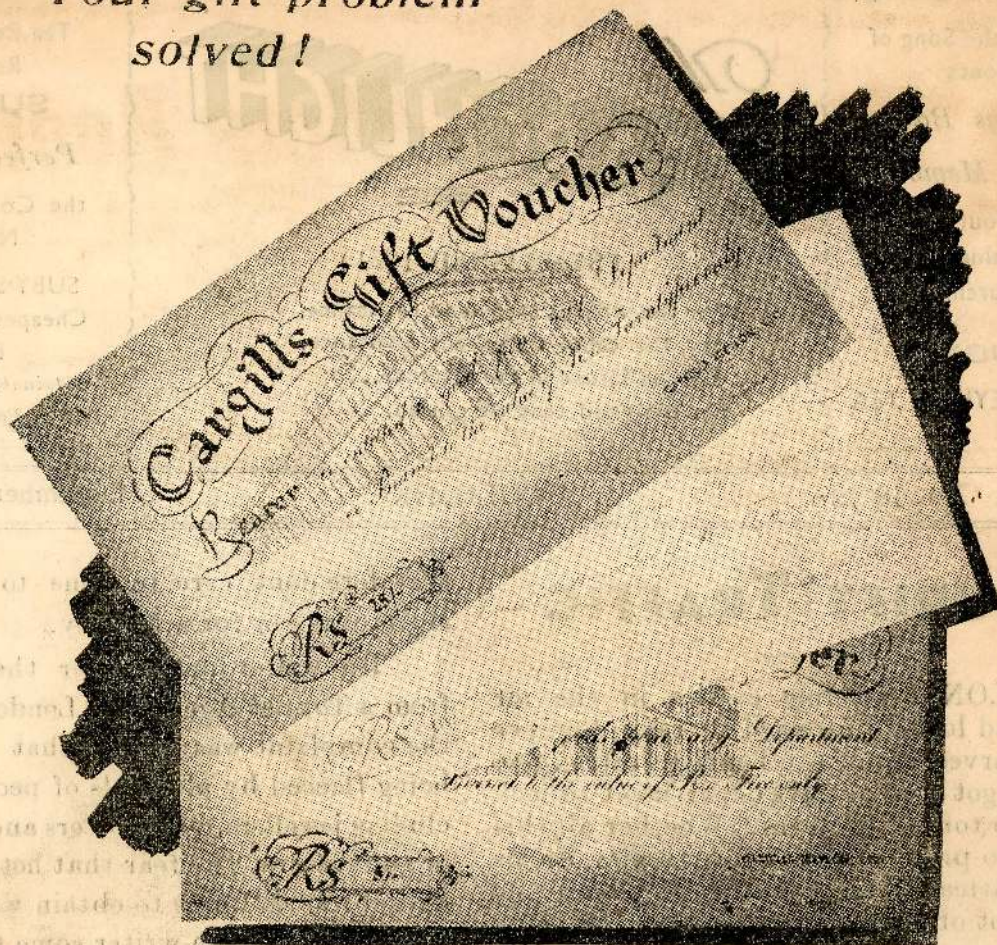
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Vol. 36 No. 18-22

COLOMBO

December 15th 1957

TOURIST TRAFFIC

CEYLON is building castles in the air and looking forward to reap bumper harvests from the Tourist Traffic. She has now got an expensive department to look after the tourist business. Whether all this is going to produce any good results seems problematical. Time was when Ceylon made quite a lot of money from tourists. In those days, not very long ago, the Galle Face and G.O.H. did their best and attracted tourists to Ceylon. Excellent hotel accommodation was always available and the managements secured facilities for tourists who came to this country. The G.O.H. has now been commercialised leaving only the Galle Face Hotel which is beyond compare. But this hotel is generally always full. Necessarily therefore hotel accommodation is not always available as in former times. This is a great disadvantage to tourist traffic. Tourists are aware of this difficulty.

To add to these obstacles Colombo has earned a bad reputation abroad. The news has got about that the Colombo Port is unsafe because it is perpetually strike-ridden. Steamers are unable to find berths or are unnecessarily and unconsciously delayed clearance. Apart from that charges for everything have risen by five hundred per cent. Transport is becoming prohibitive. The other day a whole batch of tourists were unable to come ashore for want of men to work the boats. Hence tourists are discouraged and

therefore don't care to come to Ceylon for sight-seeing or for a holiday.

The writer had a letter the other day from a Tourist Agency in London in which the complaint was made that tourists are being fleeced by all kinds of people here, including jewellers, transporters and their agents or canvassers. The fear that hotel accommodation was difficult to obtain was also mentioned. It took the writer some trouble to explain that conditions were not so bad. But the prejudice created appears to still persist. It has to be admitted that economically and in other ways the circumstances obtaining in Ceylon are not favourable for tourists to come over. They now find things not quite attractive as before. All manner of regulations and frequent impediments both at the Customs and at the Air Port cause visitors considerable inconvenience, hardship and delay. This naturally makes tourists disgusted.

Things are the opposite in Pakistan and India who are scoring heavily on the tourist trade. Unless the Government adopts effective remedies to do away with all the above mentioned difficulties and make things more attractive and inviting there will be a progressive short-fall in Ceylon's tourist traffic. As it is we are of the view that the Tourist Trade is dwindling and if something is not done immediately Ceylon will be killing the goose that laid the golden eggs!



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Holding the Public to Ransom

THE lesson Government learned early in the month when its own and municipal skilled and trained servants working on the water-works, drainage and electrical installations in the metropolis, went on Strike and paralysed the essential services should not be forgotten. Steps must be taken to prevent a repetition of what occurred the other day when the city was plunged in darkness and the sewage system put out of gear.

It is, of course, the belief of Government and Municipal workers manning key positions that they are indispensable and hence could do as they please secure in the knowledge that substitutes to take their places are either not available or forthcoming.

We are prepared to grant that workers had the right to strike and obtain redress or relief for any grievance that is overdue or had been deferred or delayed. But we deny that they had any justification to deliberately cause a deadlock in any essential service of the community or endangering the public safety. In view of what occurred Government had better make up its mind and be on its guard and not allow the city to be plunged in utter darkness again or allow the drainage system to be obstructed in its normal functioning.

Recalcitrance on the part of disgruntled workers who seek to disorganise essential public services must not be tolerated. The way to counter their action would be for the authorities to be ready to meet an emergency. We are happy to note that the authorities are already contemplating action. If so it is to be sincerely hoped there will be no relaxing of measures government proposes taking.

A missionary body recently sought the approval of Government to a scheme it had in view. That is to establish a large modern workshop where 500 men annually would be fully trained and equipped to take charge of engineering, electrical or other workshops. The proposed institution should answer the purpose excellently. A hundred or two of well-trained men turned out at the missionary

workshop could be earmarked and kept in reserve to be called up at an emergency. That would be an effective counter to future strike action of workers engaged on any special work. The knowledge that such a body of men are available and prepared to man the posts vacated by strikers will be not without some sobering effect on trained mechanics and what is more it will help to reduce to a minimum any inconvenience the public may have to undergo as the result of a strike.

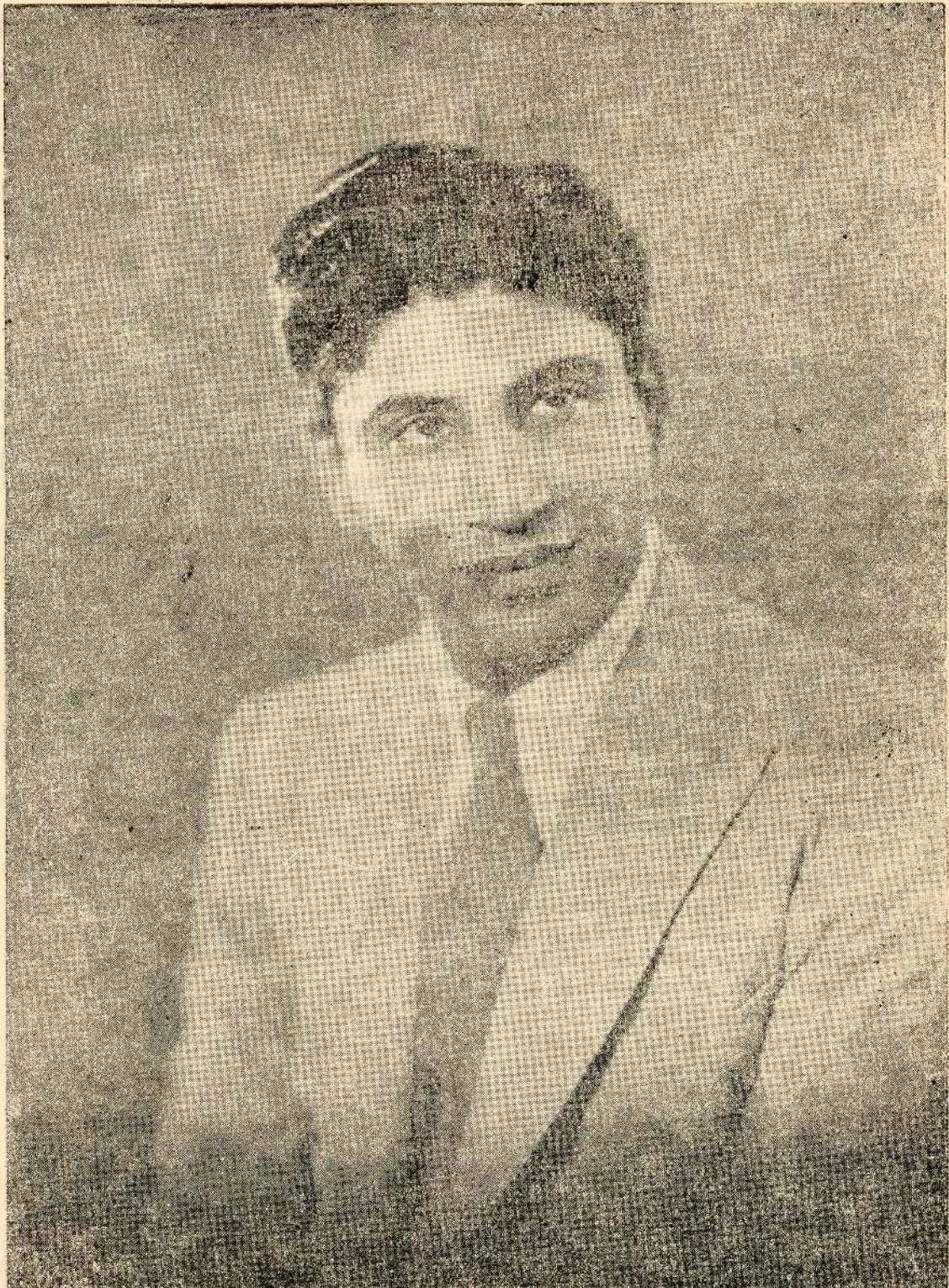
The Premier's Return from India

I HOPE all top rank politicians will be careful in their political utterances in and out of season and learn a lesson from an incident reported to have taken place at the Ratmalana Air Port when the Premier stepped on Ceylon soil. The Premier's remarks about the foul weather appeared to have encouraged a cavalier to imitate Walter Raleigh and spread his coat over a muddy pool in the Premier's path. That cavalier in English History got a knighthood for his foolhardiness and later lost his head for treason. It is a pity that the local cavalier's name and picture did not appear in the newspaper which reported this incident so that his name and fame will go down to Ceylon History.

Without knowing whether the Premier's tour was useful or not and knowing only that it rained in India also, this local Raleigh was prepared to smear his coat with mud. What an example of hero worship! My hat off to the Premier for his silence. The air port is not the place to wag one's political tongue. I have no doubt that at a suitable time and place the Premier will make a statement after some rest.

Havelock Town

D. L. Welikala

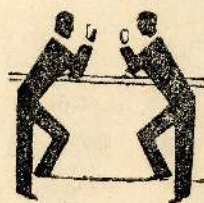


The Hon'ble Mr. R. G. Sananayake, Minister for Trade and Commerce who very ably counted the mischievous allegations of Dr. N. M. Perera and Dr. Colvin R. De Silva in regard to the Ceylon Shipping Lines Limited. The Minister proved more than a match for the two virulent critics of the company. As Minister for Trade and Commerce he has always displayed a high sense of vigilance and undoubted integrity in regard to public matters.

The Canard about the Shipping Lines Ltd

DR. N. M. PERERA and his stable companion Dr. Colvin R. de Silva in Parliament the other day, tried to make out that this concern which the Ceylon Government had undertaken to foster as the nucleus of Ceylon's Shipping Industry—and which is shaping well indeed, was a racket and, therefore a scandal. It was seriously suggested that things were going dead wrong with the company, nay it was being frightfully mismanaged and that unearned or illegal commissions, were being paid to Norwegian freight brokers. For these reasons they seriously demanded Government to nationalise the Ceylon Shipping Lines immediately. Nationalisation is a fetish with our professional politicians nowadays. While leaving the matter of nationalisation aside as too premature and therefore, infeasible, let us deal with Dr. N. M. Perera's and Dr. Colvin R. de Silva's allegations first and foremost and see how far they are justified. It is clear as a pike staff that these two vociferous members of Parliament have been very badly briefed. The source of their information as to how the Shipping Lines was being conducted appears altogether incorrect. Apart from that the allegations they indulged in, are totally incorrect if not malicious. To begin with their attempt at trying to prejudice the company in the eyes of the public, was wicked if not too far-fetched. Besides Dr. N. M. Perera and Dr. Colvin R. de Silva appear to forget that on the company's Board there were Ceylonese Directors of outstanding integrity and business acumen associated as they were with other Directors who were Government nominees. That these men are not the kind to be led by the nose and if there was the slightest trace of anything crooked they certainly were not the type of men to shut their eyes to it and thus jeopardise their own reputation and the interest of the company.

Of course, the public was not prepared to swallow, much less was the Government going to allow, the malicious misrepresentations and unsubstantiated allegations against a well-managed company to go unchallenged. For it must be noted that on the very floor of the House, the Hon. the Minister for Trade, (Mr. R. G. Senanayake) vehemently repudiated and effectively dispelled the doubts and fears the scandal-mongers were out to create. However, investigations since caused to be made into the allegations so recklessly made by the two M.P.'s, have conclusively proved that there was no substance nor justification whatsoever for the insinuations hurled at the



ROCKLAND

pure

GIN

Ceylon Shipping Lines whose shareholders were not asleep but vigilant and on the watch to see that things were above board. They appear to be satisfied that it was all a slanderous campaign and wilful misrepresentation and vilification of those who conducted the company so exceptionally well, and which had to be characterised as the rantings of disgruntled busy bodies or mischief makers who were out to scare the Government, who was interested in the building up of a concern that has already begun to show wonderful results.

The first and most serious charge levelled against the company is that "secret and irregular commissions were being earned by people in the United Kingdom and Norway over the booking of freight for Government cargo." One of the two M.P.'s we refer to in

his in speech in Parliament, estimated that as much as "a million rupees a month" were being earned irregularly in the form of unauthorised commissions and alleged that, in consequence, the cost of food to the Ceylon consumer was being unfairly and wantonly inflated.

Dr. N. M. Perera and his "second" Dr. Colvin R. de Silva know as well as anybody that the payment of commission is inherent in the business of booking freight. When a charterer who has cargo to carry from one point to another, wishes to book freight, he must contact shipowners to find out what ships are available and where they are positioned and whether the ships would be available at the time he wants them and finally the price he will have to pay in order to engage the ships.

(Continued over)

THIS IS WHAT THE PEOPLE SAY ?



WE are living today on Strikes, Fun Faires, Tombolas and Bucket Shops.

THE Big V. I. Ps are raking in a good haul.

WHO is responsible for the appointment of Valuers to the Loan Board, Savings Bank, Ceylon State Mortgage Bank, Agricultural & Indust-

rial Credit Corporation &c. ?

HOW are people with no qualifications or experience appointed ?

IT IS time this matter was looked into.

EVERY Johnny who has an Auctioneer's Licence soon blossoms forth into a Court Valuer and values for other Government Institutions.

WHO fixes lawyers fees for attesting Conditions of Sale in Court Sales.

THE charges in some Court sales are very high.

THESE men should have some qualifications

before they are asked to undertake this responsible work.

THE Shanty problem is giving the Mayor more than a headache.

DOES the Municipal Council get any revenue from this or are the thugs enjoying a free lease-hold and collecting a premium?

THE Government Servants Strikes will cost the Taxpayer 100 Million rupees per annum. How is this additional burden to be met ?

LIKE the beast that had once tasted blood the Government Servant will always thirst for it and ask for more. Else Direct Action will follow as night follows day.

"HATS off" to Mrs. Vimala Wijawardene for insisting on an immediate Cabinet 'attack' on the Cost of Living Problem.

WHY is the energetic Ceylonese Civil Servant, Mr. Seneviratne, who was placed in charge of the Language Department going to chuck up his post?

THE Soviet 'Kultural' propaganda, what with musical concerts, exhibitions of paintings, film shows and sports meet, is capturing the minds of Ceylonese youth about to the Soviet way of life.

Will this help Ceylon ?



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SAYS THE C. P. A. CHAIRMAN

BY C. A. L. GOMES

FROM the economic point of view, the recent visit of Senator Thomas Amarasuriya, to the United Kingdom, the Scandinavian countries and Russia should not be regarded as a date in his private diary. It is an episode in the life of the nation. The enduring benefits that his personal contacts in these patronising countries have accrued to Ceylon is beyond challenge and will serve as a radiating base in our future trade relations with these countries.

This is certainly a rare achievement for a single individual to achieve in foreign lands. It will serve as a

nutritious manure which will enrich our production. It is also the harbinger of the glad tidings of an increased volume of international trade and imparts a new strength to our bonds of international trade relationship.

As an ambassador of our tea industry, Senator Thomas Amarasuriya has used his supple nature to discharge his mission with the quiet dignity that characterises the gentlemanly behaviour of the good Senator. As Chairman of the Planters Association of Ceylon, he represented

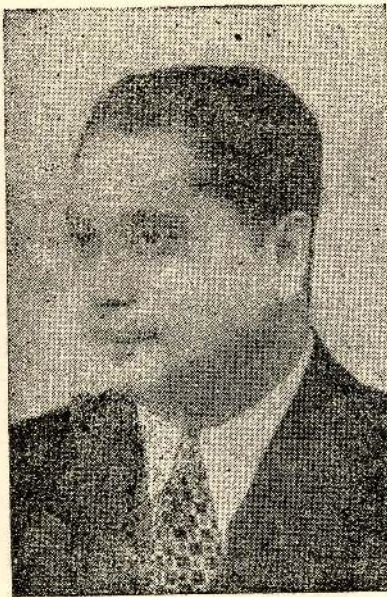
this powerful body in the best traditions of human behaviour. As a Senator, he has, again shewn that the qualities of his matured mind are an asset to the Senate. As a Social Service worker, he has strengthened the hopes of the people of his capacity to ameliorate their misery.

It is, now, pertinent to enquire, what is the Senator's make up? A few strands from a wealth of biographical detail, will be sufficient to compose a recognisable portrait of this well known public man.

The science of the planting industry has no secret which it has not disclosed to him. His rich experience as a planter, his capacity for understanding the vibrations of world markets which fluctuate the prosperity of the planting industry; his deep insight into the pros and cons of production and consumption, and slump and boom, his anticipations; based on the logic of the causes of the "rise and fall" in price, have dowered him with the rare honour of being the first elected Ceylonese Chairman of the Planters Association of Ceylon; the nation's guiding force of the vicissitudes of its major industries.

This is the broad preface which guides you to the other qualities of the colourful character of Senator Thomas Amarasuriya, who is now perched on the pedestal of the nation's most powerful industrial organisation as representing the business acumen, the understanding mind, the prudent commercial speculator, the moderate politician and the good, sympathetic human being that any nation will gladly honour.

His contributions to the debates of the Senate are good examples of moderation, tranquillity and that uncommon sense called common sense.



Mr. Thomas Amarasuriya

It is the capacity of a few people to create an atmosphere. The Senator is among the chosen few. In the industrial sphere, in the social plane, in the combative arena of the Senate, he creates an atmosphere. This is the prerogative which has ensured Senator Thomas Amarasuriya permanency in any sphere of his activities.

The Canard about the Shipping Lines Ltd.

(Continued from page 7)

The freight required to be carried is advertised on the Baltic Exchange when the freight brokers can make their offers stating the terms. When freight is booked on behalf of the Ceylon Government, the commissions stipulated are payable by the owners and not by the charterers. In other words the Ceylon Government does not have to pay commissions, however large may be the number of brokers employed in a transaction. Another point that has to be remembered is that no offers of freight can be made or received on the Baltic except through one of its members. It was to satisfy this essential requirement that the Ceylon Shipping Lines (London) Ltd. was incorporated with the view to this subsidiary company being enrolled as a member of the Baltic Exchange. Prior to the Ceylon Shipping Lines obtaining its membership of the Baltic Exchange, it became necessary for the company to employ a broker in Captain Boxberg (as representing the Westport Shipping Co.) Capt Boxberg it must be remembered is a Director of the Ceylon Shipping Lines without remuneration for performing managerial functions.

Furthermore the only commissions collected from owners are those authorised by the Cey-

lon Government. Hence no illegal commission whatsoever were paid out to any broker by the company. Besides the payment of Commissions when they were earned and therefore payable, were paid out according to a regularised system and practice. Such commissions were not "illicitly" paid much less illicitly earned nor was there any connection or bearing on the price of food to the local consumer. It is absurd to suggest that. Another thundering falacy and malicious statement made by the critics of the Ceylon Shipping Lines is that the company had not given the Government the benefit of the lowest available freight rates. This infamous allegation too was exhaustively and very convincingly explained by the Minister for Trade on the floor of the House and ought to have silenced the critics. The further allegation made that the two vessels bought by the Ceylon Shipping Lines (viz "Chilaw" & "Attanagalla") are old and unserviceable and had been so condemned. Both ships have been passed by the Lloyds Survey which is conclusive that the ships were perfectly sea worthy and serviceable. If this were not so, and if there was the least doubt either of their soundness or serviceability the Bank of Ceylon from whom the money to purchase the ship was obtained & who had caused an independent survey to be held to test the correctness and reliability of the Lloyds Survey, was satisfied that the price paid for the ships was fair and reasonable and the vessels themselves were in satisfactory condition, would not have advanced the money. Hence it is plain as a pike staff that the allegation made by Dr. N. M. Perera and Dr. Colvin R. de Silva were categorically false and malicious. And that ends the story about the great fuss made about the Ceylon Shipping Lines in the House of Representatives.

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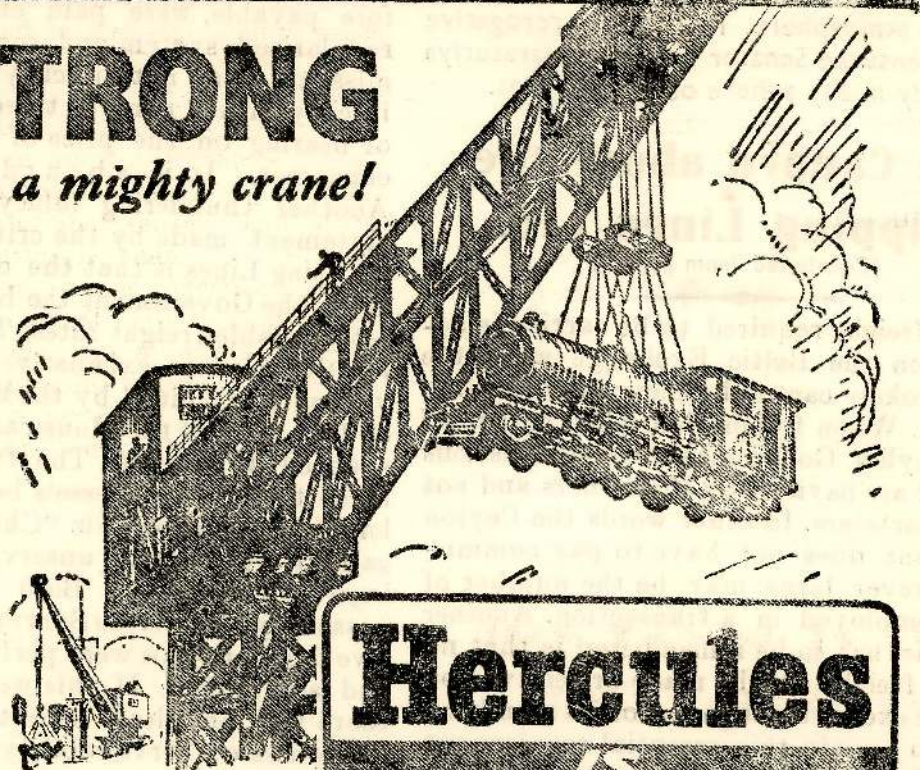
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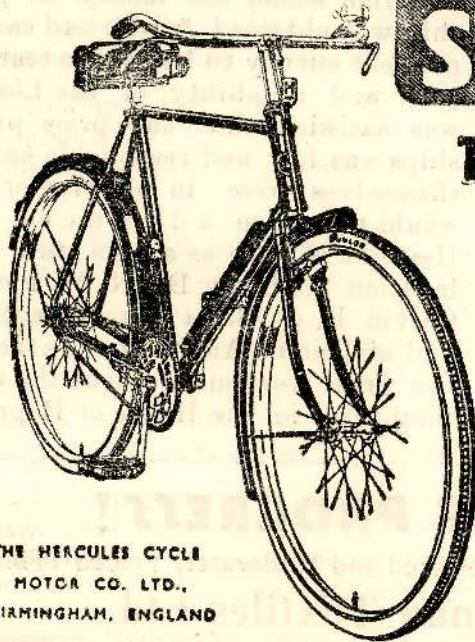
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Will there be any Vandalism or Desecration at St. Bridget's Convent?

THE Reverend Mother Superior of St. Bridget's Convent in Cinnamon Gardens must be made to realize, if she does not, that she is going to do a grave wrong, in fact an injustice, both to St. Bridget's, the Catholics and in short to the City of Colombo. It is well to remember that this excellent Catholic educational institute had very small beginnings. It has now developed to be a great oak. We quite remember the general grouse some years ago that St. Bridget's was beginning to feel that she had no room for expansion. With the phenomenal success the Convent started achieving, the Catholic parents, and even non-Catholic parents, cheerfully harkened unto the cry and helped and aided the Mother Superior in diverse ways. Money came in from all sides, money raised by fees, cantatas, exhibitions, shows, sale of work and in different ways. All this money helped the Mother Superior to pile rupee upon rupee for the purchase of land there for expansion and the erection of School halls, Dormitories etc. All that is to the good. St. Bridget's is now fortunately well placed and have sufficient land for any purpose she may require. But that does not mean that she has any land to spare. Certainly not to sell or lease to anybody. If the Mother Superior does so, she will be doing the Convent a great disservice, for land is not like rubber. It does not and cannot expand and there is no more land available for any building or for extensions. And should such a need arise St. Bridget's will have to pay through the nose and pay exorbitant prices. Hence it would be prudent for the Reverend Mother Superior to drop the idea of selling or leasing even a square foot of land belonging to St. Bridget's.

YIELDING TO YANKEE BLANDISHMENTS

At the moment the Reverend Mother Superior appears to be enamoured of the potentialities of the American Dollar. The Manage-

ment of The Caltex Company of New York, we understand, is wooing the good lady and trying to persuade her that St. Bridget's can well afford to let the company purchase right out or on a lease-hold sufficient land to erect a Petrol Filling Station. No doubt the Caltex Company can well afford to pay any price the Reverend Mother demands for the land the company appears so badly in need. Should the Mother Superior succumb to Yankee blandishments, or shall we say 'importunities,' we use the word advisedly—a grave injustice will be done which the Catholics will certainly not approve or overlook. In view of the soaring price land in Cinnamon Gardens fetch, it will be imprudent for the Mother Superior to part with even an inch of land belonging to the Convent or to St. Bridget's Chapel premises.

RELIGIOUS STATUE TO MAKE WAY FOR FILLING STATION

There is another, and a more serious, aspect in connection with the contemplated alienation of land at St. Bridget's. The identical portion proposed to be sold or otherwise alienated to the Caltex Company is that on which the statue of the Blessed Virgin stands—a statue which a benevolent and pious Catholic at much expense had donated and caused to be erected thereon. Both the statue and grounds is consecrated and therefore hallowed and should not be desecrated. The Catholics would feel offended were the Mother Superior to go counter to religious sentiment and part with the land which would mean that the statue will have to be removed from the spot. Hence any attempt to do so should be resented. We expect the Roman Catholic Archbishop will veto the decision of the Mother Superior.

Apart from all considerations there arises the important question,—what is the

need for another Petrol Station in the vicinity? There are already four stations within a radius of say a 100 or 150 yards of each other from St. Bridget's— one is just opposite. Besides, the spot referred to is right at the junction of Torrington Place and Alexandra Place. The road here was recently widened by the Municipal Council and made more decent looking than formerly, with plenty of road-way and facilities for traffic to move without interruption. What is the need for planting another Petrol Station there and make it unsightly and cause traffic congestion? The Municipal Council who should have a say in this matter, must put its foot down and disallow any more petrol stations about the place. It is expected that the Reverend Mother Superior will harken to what is stated in this article and abandon her proposal. Otherwise the Catholics will have to ask the reason why and she will have to explain. I propose writing further on this subject. I am contacting the leading Catholics on the subject to protest against the Mother Superior's proposed act of vandalism or desecration. I do hope the Reverend Mother Superior will not complicate matters. She must respect public opinion and not hanker for a couple of thousand rupees of American money. More anon.

A CATHOLIC

BOY SCOUTS

INDIVIDUAL performances in the essentials of good citizenship are ancient as youth, but as an organised movement it is said to have originated in 1908 in the British Isles but spread rapidly. Today, the BOY SCOUTS MOVEMENT is in the forefront and found in every civilized country of the world.

It would appear that the cardinal aim of the Movement is the creation of useful citizenship among the rising generation. The scope is unlimited by class, creed, colour or political distinctions. The Movement is non-military, non-political, non-class and inter-denominational.

Honour is made the high ideals of the Boys. The Scout Law on which the Movement hinges and which is binding on every Scout

was taken from the code of the Knights. Every Boy on joining the Movement makes a promise on his honour to do his best, to do his duty to God and his Country or King and to help other people at all times and to obey the Scout Law.

Any rugged youth who gets involved in the Movement is trained under five main headings:—

1. Character and intelligence
2. Skill and handicraft
3. The practice of service for others and, for the State, and thus is developed a full-fledged citizen.

In this Jubilee Year of Scouting, the Movement can look back with some pride and gratification at the progress that the Scout Movement has made in Ceylon since it was founded forty-five years ago.

The Movement owes a deep debt of gratitude to successive Governors and Governor-Generals and

the many officials and unofficials, who ungrudgingly and unostentatiously gave of their leisure and money to make it a success. The Scouts of today remember with thanks those pioneers who have been called to Higher Service and salute those who are still with them.

In the past years through the generosity of many of its well-wishers, the necessary Buildings, Training Centres and Camps have been established and equipped. The Ceylon Government has consistently supported the Movement by giving it annual grants for its administration and training work.



Senator E. W. Kannanagra
C.B.E., J.P., B.A. (Lond.)
Chief Commissioner and Inter-
National Commissioner

In 1934 a great impetus to the Movement was the visit to Ceylon by its Founder, the late Lord Baden-Powell and Lady Baden Powell. In 1953 the Movement was admitted a member of the International Conference and subsequently the Movement received legal status when the Ceylon Boy Scouts Association was incorporated by act of Parliament.

The first All-Ceylon Jamboree held in 1952 was attended by Contingents from India, Burma, Malaya and Australia. The Movement also participated in nine World Jamborees. The Ceylon Scouts can be proud of their modest achievements of the past with pride and satisfaction.

A systematic education in good-will and co-operation is established in each country and this is extended to international relationships at the various Jamborees. In Ceylon the Movement has played a very important part and is very fortunate in having such an able leader as that of Senator E. W. Kannangara, whose understanding of the supple psychology of youth has resulted in the youthful scouts assimilation of the cardinal principles of scouting. The Boy Scouts Movement of the Island owes him a great debt of gratitude for his splendid and invaluable services towards the cause and more enduring would be the results of his heavy and anxious labour for the moulding of sound good character through the high ideals of the Boy Scouts Movement.

At that time Mr. G. Stevens was thinking of introducing cadeting to Christ Church College, Matale, and he had wisely consulted Mr. Foenander as to what steps he should take in this matter. Mr Foenander had replied that he should start the Boy Scouts at Matale, and advised him to write to General Baden-Powell in England. As a result of this communication Mr Brimhaun, Baden Powell's Inspecting Officer, who was on a world tour, arrived at Colombo from India in 1911 and was greatly pleased with the very small beginnings that Scouting had made at that time. Mr. Brimhaun addressing the Boy Scouts said that in his travels round the world, in Canada, Bermuda, India etc. he had not come across a company so smart in drill and marching as the Training College boys.

According to records seen at the Ceylon Boy Scouts Association it would appear that the first Training Camp for Boy Scouts attached

to the Government Training College, Colombo was held at Mount Lavinia on the premises of St. Thomas' College. Messrs L. Mc. D. Robinson S. P. Foenander and G. Gratiaen were the pioneers of that first experimental Camp held in Ceylon.

The Boy Scouts' Association was formed in 1912 By Mr F.G Stevens. Its Patron was then H. E. Sir Henry Monck Mason Moore, G.C.M.G. who was also Chief Scout for Ceylon and among others were K. Somasuntharam C. D. Green Col. C. P. Jayawardene, Harold de Mel, K. B. Alahakone, J. N. Thomas, R. H. Manders, V. D. Paul Raj, & C. P. Dharmakirti to mention a few who have contributed in no small measure to the success of the Movement in Ceylon.

FIRST SCOUT TROOP

In 1912) Mr. Stevens started the first Troop at Matale, but credit for the first scout troop in Ceylon should go to Mr. S. P. Foenander, who was then a Cadet Officer and Organiser of the Boy Scouts of the Government Training College. Among those who joined the troop then as boys, were the Rt. Rev. Lakdasa

BY A. B. GOMES

de Mel Major James van Langanberg, Captains Byrde van Cuylenberg, V. Van Langeberg W. E. Gratiaen and E. W. Jayawardene. Mr. Foenander paid a great tribute to Mr. E. Evans the then Principal of the Government Training College, who gave every encouragement to Scouting in those early days ably backed by Mr. L. Mc D. Robinson who retired as Director of Education, Ceylon some years ago.

Thus the Movement is fortunate in having as their Chief Commissioner and International Commissioner Senator E. W. Kannangara a striking personality who will always be remembered as a true guide, philosopher and friend and above all he bears the good old appellation of a thorough gentleman, maintaining his dignity, he is a cool head, a placid temper and though he walked with princes and dukes he yet kept the common touch, and never failing his Manilla Cigar between his lips, chastening the atmosphere with the aroma of a delightful blended tobacco and wearing the charming smile he moves about with a gentleness which bespoke his amiable nature He is an ornament to the nation.

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Industrial Development

WITH the advent of Independence the country has seen the rise and fall of many Industrial developments, some of Government undertaking whilst the others were sponsored by private enterprise. With the hope of seeking "fresh fields and pastures new" many people entered the field of industry by subscribing capital with the hope of getting big dividends, but low and behold the prospects envisaged by the gold diggers proved to be chimerical. The question may here be asked how such adventures flopped at almost the start? If one examines the matter critically it would be found that the schemes have proved to be misadventures largely owing to the means and methods adopted in the promulgation of such undertakings.

The boast that sound technical knowledge and capital was at the beck and call of the pioneers, and in certain instances included Ministers and with the added support of Government finance to back them. Even despite the fact that technicians from abroad were got out and handsomely remunerated yet all this proved of no avail. For one thing that had been noticeable was that political meddling and interference with the working of the schemes soon saw the gradual but sure deterioration of industrial development. The primary cause or causes were due to the fact that the nucleus of such schemes entirely depended on the importation of the essential raw material which go towards turning out the locally manufactured product. Millions of rupees have thereby gone down the drain and the taxpayer continues to foot the bill.

It was only recently that the Minister for Industries and Industrial Research made a pronouncement with regard to the closing down of the Paper Factory at Valachenai. This Factory was started by the previous Government and millions of rupees were expended with no earthly benefit to the country. And in no mistaken terms Minister P. H. W. Silva now says that he is not going to burn his fingers with regard to this project! We admire his candidness in making such a pronouncement. Perhaps he visualised that such an undertaking was not going to prove a success in view of the poor prospects.

With all these failures staring us in the face, we are still being asked to believe that the chances for the industrialisation of projects still untouched are an imperative necessity for the economic advancement of Ceylon. The Cement Factory, the Leather Factory, the Plywood Factory, the Vegetable Oils Corporation and many such ventures have proved dismal failures and now comes the news that the Elephanlite Corporation and the Illemenite Project are beginning to rear its head with, of course, subscribed capital. It is a general belief that at the outset when the Elephanlite Corporation submitted a memorandum asking for financial assistance this memorandum was turned down. Perhaps the authorities concerned saw that the scheme held out no prospects and the venture would eventually turn out to be a failure and that the investing public and the Government will soon chew the end of disappointment. But strange things do happen in Sri Lanka and the Elephanlite Corporation has somehow or the other been able to clear the hurdle and with the support of some people, are making a desperate bid to start their scheme in right earnest. The subscribed capital of the venture is in the neighbourhood of 5 lakhs of rupees. And the daily papers boldly announced that the Corporation intends asking the general public to further subscribe another 7 lakhs of rupees. The total capital of the Elephanlite Corporation will be 12 lakhs of rupees. The Government of Ceylon has subscribed a nominal amount of 10 000 rupees. There is one feature which strikes us rather forcibly in regard to subscribed capital and that is that such capital is free of Income Tax. With this in view many subscribers have been encouraged to invest in shares. Now what will be the position of the Government if the Corporation proves a flop like many other doubtful schemes that were started before the Elephanlite Corporation embarked upon this venture. If the technical authorities refused their first Memorandum how comes it that they are given the opportunity to now carry on. What is the ruse behind this scheme?

Will not the Income Tax department suffer the loss of such revenue and will not the people who are gulled into buying shares

bitterly regret that they have been more or less misled into such a venture. If the scheme works well it is all well and good, but what will be the position if the unforeseen happens, as it has happened before to many other industrial ventures. It will therefore be better to be wise in time than timely wise.

Tackling the 'Living Cost'

Let the 'Ape Anduwa' address itself to this

FOUR days discussions by the Cabinet on the Cost of Living has led the Ministers to appoint a Sub Committee of the Finance Minister, the Minister for Food and one or two others (to be named soon). They will work out immediate measures to knock down the cost of living"—a Daily Paper.

It is to be assumed that Government has fully realised, though belated, that the frequency and multiplicity of Strikes is due to the high cost of living both to the manual and the white collar worker.

The allowances and increase of wages etc already promised as a result of the strikes, is estimated to cost Government nearly 100 million rupees a year.

Supposing half of this sum was set off to bring the price of Rice, Sugar and Flour down, the first to 25 cts a measure and the other two to 30 & 15 cents per pound, what a tremendous difference it will make in the domestic budget of the wage-earner.

The price reduction on these three main items of living is bound to have repercussions on vegetables and other food-stuffs. Bread, for instance, can be retailed at cents 18 or 20 cents a pound loaf as before.

Government should know that a worker drinks very nearly 5 cups of tea a day during working hours. A cup of tea & milk is



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retailed at 7 cents. With a pound of tea (ordinary or of a better quality) costing say Rs. 2/- a pound 300 cups could be made. The cost of these 300 cups would work out roughly as follows:—

Cost of 3 Lbs sugar @ 55 cts per lb 1. 65
 3 Tins of Milk (tinned) @ -/85 „ tin 2. 55
 1 lb of tea 2. 00

6 20
 3. 50
 incidentals (liberal)

Rs. 9. 70

Selling Price 300 cups (three quarter full of tea and milk @ 7 cts 21. 00
 Cost price (making liberal allowance) 9. 50

Net Profit Rs. 11. 50

Now fancy the tremendous profit the tea boutique keeper makes out of the poor man's cup of tea alone. Here it must be noted that there is no Import Duty on Tinned Milk and Tea is a local product;

If the price of a cup of tea was fixed at 04 cts, the worker stands to gain 15 cents a day, or Rs 4.50 a month. That is a saving that cannot be despised. I see no reason why a cup of tea and milk should be retailed at 7 cents, 3½ cents or 3 cents should be the fixed price as it use to be before the war.

There is no justification for selling it at 7 cents a cup or less. Here is something for the Cabinet to ponder over and also for Mrs. Vimala Wijeyawardene whose insistence that the living cost should be tackled, and all praise to her for that, to talk about and rub in her point of view.

Let the proposed reductions start from the New Year and I am firmly of the belief that strikes in 1958 and after will be rare.

Let the Cabinet be practical and get down to business if they want to bring down the cost of living.

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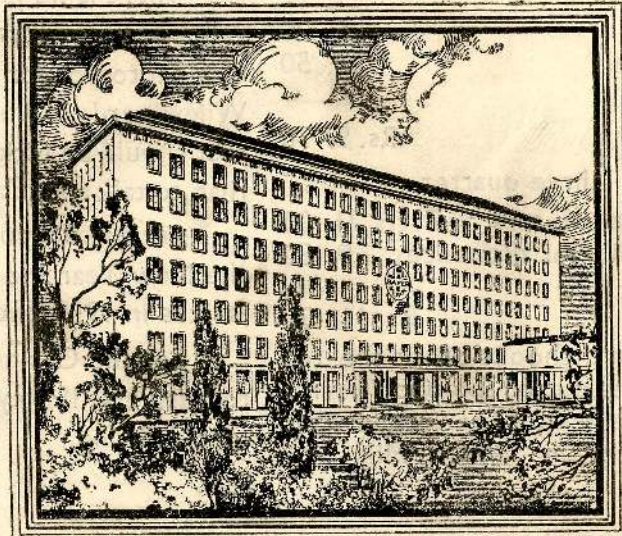
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IS "TEMPLE TREES" HAUNTED ?

"The grey-haired, shot-cropped and clean-shaved white man in Pyjamas sauntering along the back and front verandahs of the Prime Minister's residence"

BY FRANCIS H. P. GOMES

AT a time when accusations are being persistently hurled at the United National Party, accusations both ill and well-founded, that it was seeking by all manner of means, both legitimate and illegitimate, to overthrow the M.E.P. Government, it is to be sincerely hoped that this article which has no connection with local politics or politicians in any way, will not be attributed as conceived to prejudice, or in any way to bring the Bandaranaike Government into disrepute or ridicule.

The subject under reference is one of pure academic interest. The article is based on a story that had been current since the late D. S. Senanayake's untimely death. Whether the original story is based on fact or fiction, the writer does not undertake to say. There is, however, a belief in certain quarters, based probably on either a rumour or hearsay, that "Temple Trees" is a haunted house. It is further alleged that Ceylon's first Prime Minister had himself mentioned it to an intimate friend of his on the strength of a report made to him by a servant at 'Temple Trees.' Whether Mr. S. believed the story in question is immaterial. Nor does the writer vouch for the truth or falsity of the statement attributed to the Prime Minister. In any case here is the story as told the writer by his informant:

It appears a servant at 'Temple Trees' came up to Mr. Senanayake one day and said that he had something to report. Asked what it was, he is stated to have told Mr. S. that at 11.30 p.m. one night, he had seen a "grey-haired, short-cropped and clean-shaven white man in pyjamas, walking up and down the verandahs of the premises."

Not wishing to disbelieve the informant, Mr. S. it appears, asked him whether he had mentioned the fact to anybody else in the premises. The reply received was in the negative. Asked further why he did not do so, his answer was that if he had done that he stood a chance of being found fault with when the matter reached Mr. S's ears.

"Forget about it," Mr. S. is reported to have said and 'let me know immediately if you happen to see the same apparition again.'

Several months later, one night Mr. S. returned to 'Temple Trees' somewhat late. The sentry was on duty at the entrance and one of the servants was keeping vigil in the front verandah. All the lights of the house were on. Alighting from his car, Mr. S. made straight for his apartment upstairs; did a hurried change, had a wash and came down to the office to attend to some state papers. From the office table where he was seated, he saw an elderly figure walking about. In order to get a better view he got closer. As he approached the figure vanished. He noted the time as 11.30 p.m. 'The likeness of the figure tallied with the description given by the servant who had seen it at close quarters.'

* * *

The reader here has only to go on conjecture. Whether one is inclined to give credence or not to what is written here, the fact that the spirit of departed souls do appear and haunt places where they had lived and died, is a matter of common knowledge. There are thousands of persons who believe that to be so. However, the history of "Temple Trees" cannot but lead one to the belief that the premises has not been quite a lucky

place after all, judged by the many vicissitudes that it had gone through and the several events, unfortunate and sudden, associated with the place.

Inquiries made about the early history of 'Temple Trees' disclose that it was the residence of two Coffee Planters, both brothers, who purchased it from an old Burgher family by name of Ide, for their joint residence. When coffee crashed and the planter brothers found themselves financially crippled, the elder brother became insane and the younger brother was compelled to sell off the property and take his brother to England. The new owner was a syndicate of Arrack Renters. They bought the place to build godowns or warehouses to store arrack. But from the time the syndicate purchased it, there was trouble among the partners. A prolonged litigation over the legal ownership of the premises ensued and ended disastrously with two parties to the dispute going bankrupt and the pro-

perty again changed hands. The new owner was a Burgher lawyer who, within a couple of weeks of going into residence at "Temple Trees", had the great misfortune to be bitten by a snake in the very compound and eventually died.

In 1903 the late Arthur Alvis, the well-known and respected Proctor of "Newlands" Polwatte, who later was nominated as Burgher Member of the Legislative Council, was commissioned by the Government to negotiate the purchase of 'Temple Trees' for the residence of the Lieutenant Governor of Ceylon and Colonial Secretary, as the office was then known. Mr. Alvis persuaded the owner, who was a client of his, to part with the property and the Government acquired it and immediately had it renovated by the P. W. D. Somewhere late in 1904, Sir Alexander Ashmore, Colonial Secretary, went into residence there.

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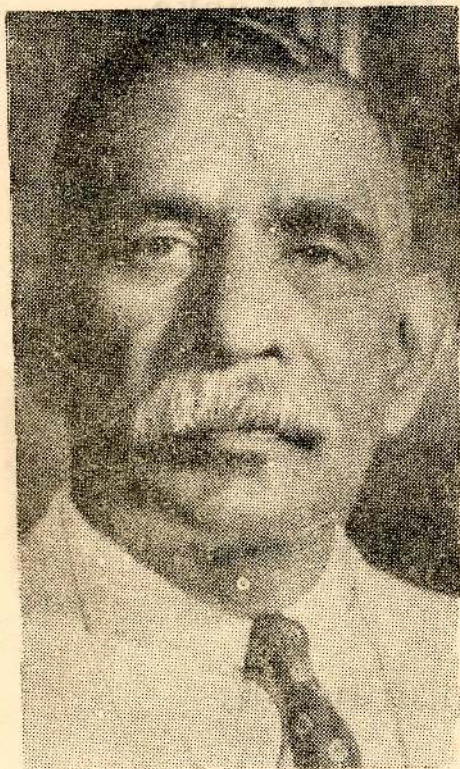
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THE SPELL OF ILL-LUCK PERSISTS

It was expected that with the change of ownership the series of misfortunes associated with the premises would cease, but the contrary proved to be the case. The spell of ill-luck, as popularly believed, did not seem to abate. On the contrary, it appears to have been more pronounced as events later proved.



The first Prime Minister of Ceylon

Alexander Ashmore was an irascible Englishman and inclined to be a haughty individual. His record in the Ceylon Civil Service was a chequered one. He was, however, an able Civil Servant. His greatest failing was his bad temper. He hardly got on agreeably with the members of the Ceylon Civil Service. It was said that he suffered from a superiority complex and took a delight in making capital of the shortcomings of others; and owing to this great failing he found himself eternally in trouble. Sir Alexander was admittedly very fond of the place. He held regular dinner parties there. He was an epicure and known to be lavish in his hospitality. It was said of him that his salary was not enough to pay for the dinners he gave in any one month! Even Governors of Ceylon, especially that good old Irishman Sir Henry Arthur

Blake, found it difficult to wean Sir Alexander of the nasty habit of saying things he ought not to say much less go interfering in other people's affairs.

A TRAGEDY AVERTED

One day a high-ranking Naval Officer, belonging to the East Indian Squadron of the British Navy stationed at Trincomalee, is reported to have rushed into "Temple Trees" close on dinner time. On that particular night Sir Alexander was giving a dinner party. Unceremoniously, drawing out a revolver from his trouser pocket and pointing it at Sir Alexander, the infuriated visitor threatened to shoot him unless Ashmore gave a written apology forthwith, for some wrong done him. A couple of guests, who had already arrived for dinner, tried to quieten the Navy man.

"An apology in writing and nothing less. Otherwise it will be two lives instead of one," the Naval Officer is reported to have exclaimed in apparently a murderous mood. Sir Alexander, however, kept calm and is said to have replied

(Continued on page 21)

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Is 'Temple Trees' Haunted ?

(Continued from page 19)

"Very well young man, you shall have my written apology. Wait a bit, please, and help yourself to a chair" was Sir Alexander's reaction to the threat as he is said to have walked up to a writing-table hard

by. There he sat and indited, what is said to have been, an abject apology which satisfied the Naval Officer, who having read and re-read it, pocketted the document remarking, as he did so, "Don't do such things again, Ashmore . . . Gentleman, I



Mr. Dudley Senanayake

am really sorry for causing you all any inconvenience or excitement. Ashmore must keep his tongue in the proper place". So saying the Naval Officer is said to have got into a rickshaw waiting for him under the porch and departed.

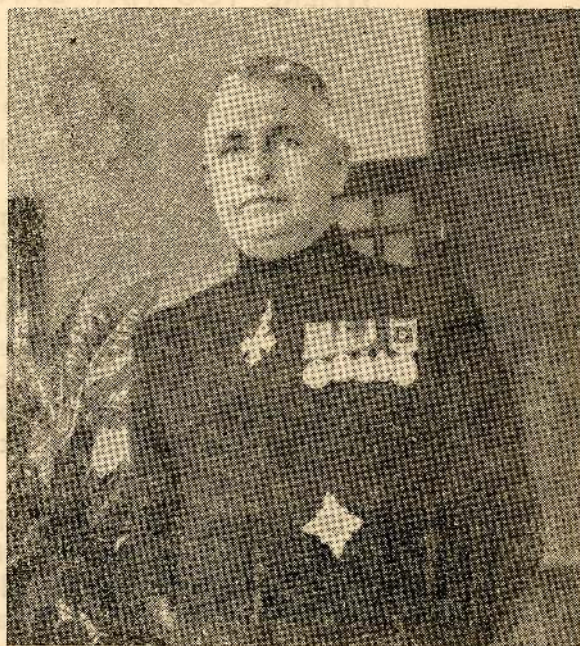
ASHMORE SLANGS THE CEYLONESE

An Indignation Meeting follows

In early 1906 Ashmore was invited by the Revd Frazer, Principal of Trinity College, Kandy, to preside at the College Prize giving. The Lieut. Governor accepted the invitation and travelled up in a Railway Special for the occasion. In his speech he made certain nasty reflections. He hurled an unwarranted and deliberate insult at the Ceylonese character. He characterised Ceylonese as 'LACKING IN A SENSE OF HONOUR AND DUTY WHICH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT EXPECTED FROM THEM.' The 'Ceylon Independent,' then in its zenith 'opened fire' on Ashmore and, day after day, went for him hammer and tongs. Public indignation at Sir Alexander's unwarranted aspersions rose to

fever heat. The Ceylonese press was full of fulminations and the demand was for a public meeting to call upon Sir Alexander to justify or withdraw and also to demand his re-call by Downing Street.

A representative Committee of lawyers soon got busy over the matter. They wrote a polite letter to Sir Alexander, sending him a newspaper cutting of his reported speech, and enquired if he had been correctly reported and if not in which respect the report was incorrect. Sir Alexander wrote back promptly. He said that his speech was materially correctly reported but he begged to be allowed to make just a 'trifling amendment' by adding the word 'ordinarily' before the word 'lacking.' He further said, in his reply, that he had not the 'slightest objection' to the holding of a public meeting 'if such a meeting provided a band of men, who had no opportunity for public speaking, of earning a bit of cheap advertisement.'! The signatories to the letter to Sir Alexander were H. J. C. Pereira, Allan Drieberg, E. W. Jayawardene and Donald Obeyesekere.



Sir John Kotelawala

It must here be noted that by his reply, Sir Alexander added insult to injury. The public meeting—the biggest ever held in Ceylon up to that time or since then, was presided over by the cultured Dr. W.G. Van Dort, M.D., an eminent



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scholar-physician. The chief Resolution before the meeting was moved by Mr. H. J. C. Pereira, K.C., seconded by Mr. B. W. Bawa, K.C. and supported by Mr. Allan Driberg, K.C. and Mr. E. W. Jayawardena, K.C., all of whom reduced Sir Alexander Ashmore to pulp by their eloquent and incisive speeches and this Resolution with two other minor ones, were passed with acclamation.

Shortly after the indignation meeting Sir Alexander took suddenly ill from appendicitis and an immediate operation was advised. He was reported as willing to undergo the operation but refused to have it performed at a hospital and insisted that it should be carried out at "Temple Trees." This having been agreed to, the best medical talent was called in and despite all the care, attention and nursing, the Lieut-Governor and Colonial Secretary passed away some days later regretted by all. His fune-

ral was largely attended and the greatest sympathy manifested by the Ceylonese.

Ashmore was succeeded by Mr. Herbert Wace, if I remember right, who went into residence at 'Temple Trees.' Strange as it may appear, he too died there a little time later. These two events had a tendency in creating somewhat of a prejudice against the "official residence of the Colonial Secretary." Nevertheless several Colonial Secretaries resided there.

THE GERMAN MERCHANT WHO SHOT AT A GHOST!

At this time there lived next door to "Temple Trees" a German merchant by name of A. Randel who imported German Sewing Machines and Bicycles. He ran a big show at the present premises occupied by Burtols Limited. The house was owned by Mrs. Hugh Joseph (nee Mrs. H. G. Thomasz). While Randel's business establishment was carried on downstairs, he and his wife

had their living quarters upstairs. The Randels was known as a peculiar couple. They had no friends, not even among the local German residents at the time. Both of them were pronounced Aethists.

One night Randel noticed a figure seated on the boundary fence between his house and 'Temple Trees.' He went up to see who it was when the figure disappeared. A few days later, he again saw the same figure. He shouted so as to scare it away but the figure did not move. Exasperated, Randel next brought his Gun and shot at the figure and still it was there. Getting hold of a lantern and armed this time with a revolver, he approached the figure and it vanished. Randel discovered that he had taken the correct aim but he shot not the ghost but the trunk of a cotton tree!

THE WHITE MAN IN PYJAMAS

Here the question arises whether 'Temple Trees' is a haunted house and whether the apparition seen later by a servant at the Prime Minister's official residence of "a grey haired short-cropped and clean shaven whiteman in pyjamas," also reported as having been seen by the P.M. himself, was the identical figure as originally seen and shot at by A. Randel, the German merchant, who lived next door? If so then the spirit of some departed soul is probably hovering about the premises. According to the description of the ghost in question, anybody who remembers the late Alexander Ashmore and familiar with his appearance and make-up, will be inclined to agree that Ashmore was of a slim

build, that he was 'grey-haired, short-cropped and clean-shaven.' As for Herbert Wace, who also died at "Temple Trees," he was a big burly man and wore a moustache and had a full head of hair which, if I remember correctly, was somewhat copper coloured. Then there is the old Burgher lawyer, who owned and resided at 'Temple Trees' and who died from snake bite while walking about the premises. The description "whiteman" (meaning an European) and the late D. S. Senanayake's own observation that it was the figure of a 'whiteman' could hardly apply to the Burgher lawyer.

Anyway whether the ghost above referred to is that of the late Alexander Ashmore or of Herbert Wace his successor, or of the Burgher lawyer or even that of either of the two Coffee Planters, who had lived at "Temple Trees" is a matter for conjecture. However, coming down to more recent times, if the reader is inclined to believe in 'Evil Spirits' or ghosts, there is sufficient grounds for accepting the story that it is the spirit of somebody who died at 'Temple Trees' haunting the place. Furthermore, the premises, according to its known history both past and recent, viewed in the light of the series of events connected with it, is not quite a happy place as Mr. Dudley Senanayake and Sir John Kotelawala are likely to admit. As for Mr. Solomon Bandaranaike, what he really thinks of 'Temple Trees' is worth speculating.

He certainly cannot say that it is a lucky place at all. History has a funny way of repeating itself. So let's wait and see!

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BY MARMADUKE

ON the agenda paper of the meeting of the House of Representatives, on Thursday, the 4th December, there appeared the following motion standing in the name of Mr. Don Romulus Samaranyake member for Badura eliya.

'In the opinion of this House it is desirable that the payment of salaries of Government servants hitherto paid five days prior to the Festival of Christmas be deferred until the last day of that month i.e. on the 31st December but if the thirty first falls on a Sunday then the payment should be made on Saturday the 30th and that by so doing help promote thrift and prevent Government servants from avoidable expenses which the celebration of Christmas involve.'

The newspapers somehow published the text of the motion several weeks in advance of notice being given by the mover. The result was a flood of correspondence both in the English and Vernacular Press which indicated in an unmistakable manner that a powerful section of the public including the Government and other public services of the country, was against the proposal.

In due course the Parliament met. There was a record gathering. The Public Gallery was full to overflowing. There were a few absentees among the members. In the Public Gallery there was a brave show of ladies, the wives of Government Servants. Liquor dealers also mustered strong.

A feature of the meeting was the presence of the peons of the Secretariat and other Government offices. This was perhaps natural, because the passing of Mr. Samaranyake's motion would entail a loss to them of their annual 'Christmas Box,' coming — or not coming — on the top of their salary cut.

After the usual preliminaries were gone through, and a few Government Bills passed their first and second reading, the House proceeded to deal with the *piece de resistance*, when Mr. Speaker called upon the mover to move his motion.

Rising from his place unceremoniously, — and on this occasion Mr. Samaranyake had divested himself of his national toga and instead wore a Bond Street suit — he said:

'The object he had in mind in bringing forward the motion was to stop by Government's action if possible, an evil which had to be taken serious notice of by the legislature. He refer-

ed to the enormous expense people of all classes and creeds were put to on account of Christmas. In Ceylon, he said Christmas was being overdone; at any rate Christmas, Buddhists, Hindus and even Mohamedans vied with one another in celebrating it. Therefore it behoves on the M. P. Government to put a check to the sheer waste of money on foreign drink, dress and food which the celebration of Christmas involved—'

Mr. Juan Mendis (member for Pamunuwila) [sotto voca] More Christian-baiting and hits at the minorities!

Mr. Samaranyake: Sir, I find the member on my left, the M. P. for Pamunuwila, is murmuring a protest. He says I am trying to hit at the Christian minorities.

The Speaker: I did not hear that said:

Mr. Hema Somadasa: (M. P. for Hettipola) Many of us heard the member's remark, Sir

The Speaker: The member for Badura eliya will continue

Mr. Samaranyake: In considering this matter, Sir we must put religion aside. It is not a religious matter at all. I don't seek to create any religious discrimination. I am only wanting to prevent the people from spending their money, wasting money on foreign food and drink and delicacies and practices, all of which could be avoided were the facilities to indulge in them be removed. I'm referring to Government Servants especially. They are paid their salaries about five days ago prior to Christmas and therefore the temptation to spend on Christmas Cake, Ham, Bacon, Toys, Foreign liquor and such luxuries as dress is great. When

I am referring to Government servants generally. They are paid their salaries five days prior to Christmas hence the temptation to spend on luxuries like Ham, Bacon, imported Cake, tinned provisions and foreign liquor has become irresistible. Were payment of salaries deferred until after Christmas, the waste of money will not be so colossal a loss both to themselves and the country. I therefore move the motion standing in my name.

Mr. Alick Schumacher (Appointed Member): I rise to oppose the motion proposed

by the honourable member for Baduraeliya. I fail to see any useful purpose being gained. It is an absurd motion. To start with, it is a downright attempt to interfere with the liberty of the subject. It is a direct encroachment on his freedom. The motion is ill-conceived and, I would even say, malicious.

Mr. Marthalis Godakumbura (M.P. for Wellassa): The motion has not been seconded, Sir

Mr. Thapal Themis (Member for Koobigama) I second it, Sir

Dr. Gladvin Godapitiya (Patha Dumbara) Sir whatever be the merits or demerits of this motion, it does surprise me, indeed, to hear the mover seriously suggesting, or shall I say insinuating, that Ceylonese indulged in eating Ham, Bacon, Cheese and that sort of thing only at Christmas time and drank foreign liquor and thus wasted their money on such extravagant things and, therefore, should not be encouraged any longer. I was of the belief that these very things are largely consumed by the Ceylonese right through the year, I my-

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CITIZEN My doctor tells me to drink beer. May I ask you a few questions?

EXPERT Certainly, anything you like.

CITIZEN Well, you are an expert brewer. You ought to know what beer is made of and why it should do me good.

EXPERT I certainly do.

CITIZEN I see they advertise that beer is brewed from the finest malt, hops, and yeast. Is that true?

EXPERT Yes. For hundreds of years pure barley-malt has been recognized as one of the purest and most digestible forms of nourishment.

CITIZEN And why are hops used?

EXPERT Hops not only give a delightful flavour but act as an appetizer and a magnificent antiseptic.

CITIZEN Antiseptic?

EXPERT Yes. Many medical testimonies endorse this, and during certain epidemics in bygone years beer was made compulsory on account of its nutritive and antiseptic qualities.

CITIZEN That's interesting—and why is yeast good?

EXPERT Surely you don't need an expert to tell you that yeast is now known as one of the greatest rejuvenators and restoratives.

CITIZEN Yes, I've heard that.

EXPERT Well, there you've got it. In British beer you get the perfect combination of the finest food value possible. It is a body builder and restorative, an antiseptic against most common ailments, and full of nourishment in the most digestive form. Our country has thrived on it from time immemorial. So will you. Your doctor is right.

CITIZEN Why has beer become so popular of late?

EXPERT Medical science and the knowledge of food values has increased enormously. Our ancestors drank beer by instinct and tradition. Now dietetic research has proved that their instinct and the tradition were sound. While other drinks come and go, beer remains and is by far the most wholesome drink in the world.

And Now **YOU** Know Why **BEER IS BEST**

BREWED BY

THE CEYLON BREWERY

NUWARA ELIYA

self patronise the same every day almost. I feel run down if I don't have my ham and eggs or bacon and eggs regularly.

A Voice: And you are a Buddhist, arn't you?

Dr. Godepitiya: Where is it said that Buddhists should not eat Ham and Bacon. Did not the founder of Buddhism enjoy his *dana* of Pork and other cereals? Anyway, what I fear is this motion is intended to be a piece of class legislation. I don't want to attribute motives, Sir, Nevertheless, there appears to me some sinister motive underlying this motion. I shall therefore vote against it. (Applause from the Gallery and certain sections of the House)

The Speaker: What the mover meant to convey is that people were more expensive or extravagant at Christmas time than at other times.

Mr. Thata Maru Guna-wardene (Member for Boralu-goda): I am afraid there would be tremendous complications if the motion is passed.

Mr. Gin Siriwardena: (Member for Kochikadde): From the Christians?

Mr. Martin Busnavake (Member for Balapitiya): I am in entire agreement with the motion. The way Christmas is celebrated seems absurd. Our people are, I think, getting too westernised which an Eastern country should not permit to happen. The money that should be put to better use is being thrown away on Western food and drink. The money that is being wasted on toys could be better utilized by parents taking their children to the Dehiwala Zoo which provides a liberal education. I heartily support the motion because this Christmas festival has been boosted for all its worth by foreigners, liquor-dealers and food-importers who make money out of our people's weakness. It is the duty of Government to put a dead stop to it (Cheers from the M.E.P. ranks)

Mr. Titus Kottarala (M. P. for Dondagashena) I am opposed to the motion. The object aimed at by the mover can, I say, be achieved by less drastic means and without causing public discontent. Celebrating Christmas is a private matter of the citizen Nobody has a right to interfere with that

right. As for differing the payment of salaries, it is unjust to do that. If, however, we seek to retain the money now going out of the country, I refer to the money spent on Ham, Bacon and tin-provisions and foreign liquor, let us agree to become Swadesi-minded. Let us encourage Ceylon products in Food and Drink.

The national spirit for instance the profits from the manufacture and sale of which had helped to develop a large part of the country in the Coconut Belt of the Island and also to educate thousands of Ceylonese in Europe. With that view in mind, I should like to see everybody buying Ceylon and patronise Ceylon and thereby help to keep Ceylon money in Ceylon.

I move the following amendment:—

“That in view of the continued scarcity of money and consequent unemployment, due in a large measure to the peoples own carelessness and neglect, it is the desire of this House that with a view of promoting national thrift and economy and of keeping the money that is now going out of Ceylon

(Continued on page 37)

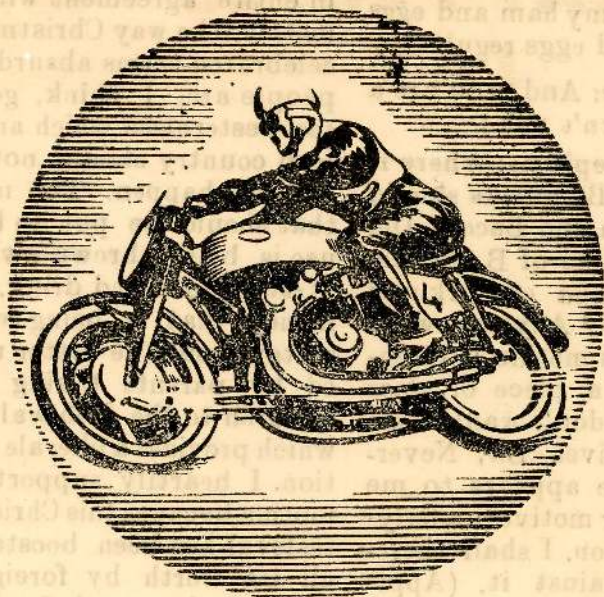
LORD NELSON HOTEL

EXCELLENT CUISINE

BAR AND BILLIARDS

CHATHAM STREET, COLOMBO

**follow
the
famous
firsts...
and
fill up
with...**



RACING DRIVERS ALL OVER THE WORLD HAVE ALWAYS RELIED ON CASTROL, THE MASTERPIECE IN OILS, FOR THEIR SUCCESSES. MILLIONS OF MOTORISTS AND MOTOR CYCLISTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD ALSO USE CASTROL WITH EQUALLY SATISFACTORY RESULTS.

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WHAT PEOPLE SAY

THAT the Gleaming Lights function at the Women's International Club on the 9th was a brilliant success.

THE Show was organised by Mrs. Frieda Corea and went with a bang from the start.

IT was very noticeable that the Sinhalese V. I. P.'s were not present.

IT was left to the Minority Communities to spend the money and make the Show a success.

THE function was in Aid of the Club's Dance Floor.

WHO was the Doctor's wife who frightened the Press away by being rude to them?

THE elephantine White Lady was as usual snooping around trying to patronize the Show.

BUT not spending any of her own money.

SHE poses as the leader of her community on all functions where there are V. I. P.'s

HER Specialities to do the Kussi Ammas stunt for them—with her Pickle and Patties.

SHE has kept her popular "black" husband away from all functions where she goes. And he is such a good man.

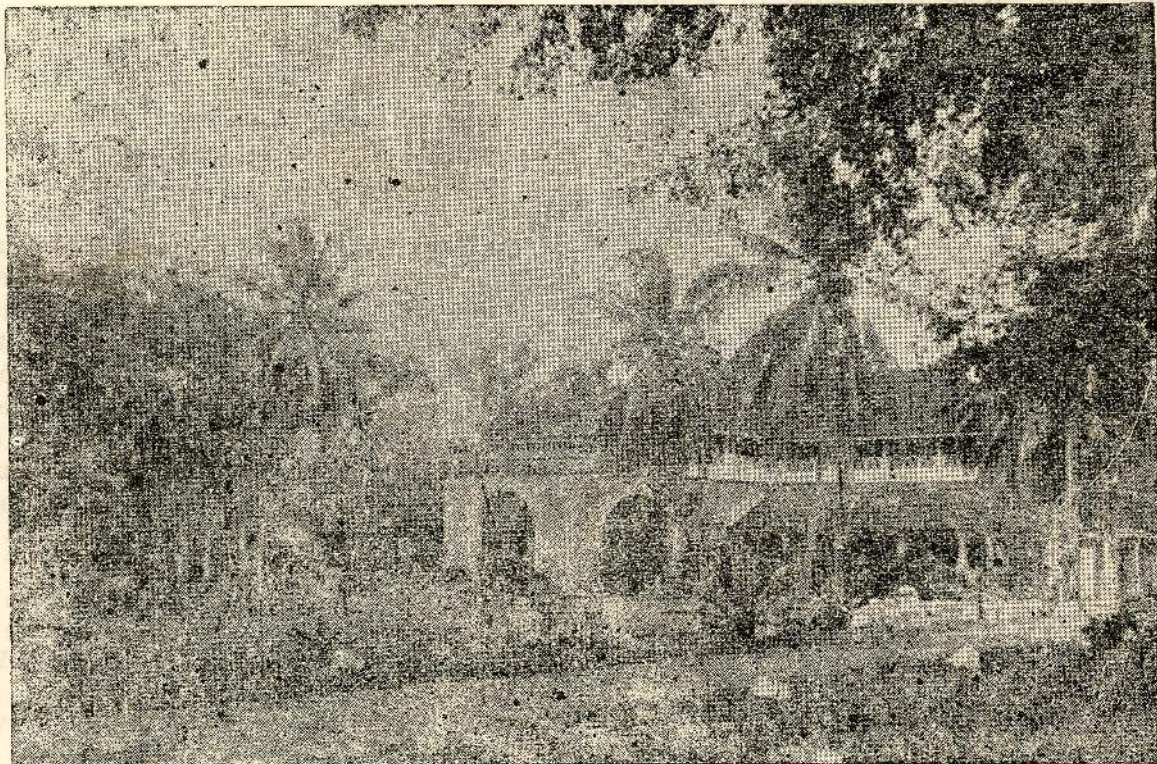
THE weather unfortunately spoiled the function out of doors.

THE New Bribery Act is terrfying the Proctors.

THE sooner it is put in force the better.

(Continued on next page)

A Home from Home in Sylvan Surroundings



THE ANURADHAPURA HOTEL
Excellent Rooms, Splendid Food and Every Comfort

GREAT things are happening, we are told, at the Dental Nurses Training School, Maharama.

SO bad that the C.I.D. has started making on the spot investigations.

IT IS reported that there has been a shortage of linen and a big shortage too.

HAS the Minister for Health or the Ministry been informed of this occurrence?

IN addition there has been thefts of Brasso, Vim, Mansion Polish, Cardinal Floor Polish and Soap

IT IS alleged that these thefts are due to the manipulation of a Contractor.

AND, what is more, it is reported that there has been tampering of Leave Registers and Records and also Misappropriation and the fudging of accounts not to speak of Victimisation in the correction of Examination Papers.

THE C.I.D. is reported to be doing its work half-heartedly because some influence, so it is alleged, has been brought to bear on the C.I.D.

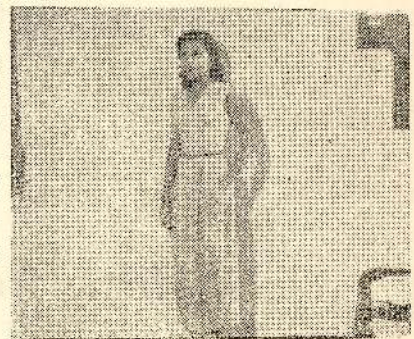
THE LATE

Miss Majorie Van Arkadie

IT IS with deep regret that I record in this column of the very untimely death of Miss. Majorie Van Arkadie, daughter of Mr. Leo D. Van Arkadie of Messrs. Harrisons & Crosfield Ltd (H. & O. Mills) Colombo 10, who died at a London Hospital on the 10th December 1957. The Late Miss Van Arkadie prior to her departure to England was Monitor at the Central Exchange and had counted several years service and, subsequently was transferred to Ratnapura (Auto Exchange) where she held the designation of Chief Supervisor. After a couple of years at the Auto Exchange Ratnapura, she was recalled to Colombo and back in the saddle. As Monitor she held this position with conspicuous ability and merit till she threw in her lot and decided to proceed to England on a very long and cherished ambition of hers.

Cool and collected, and with a placid temper, she carried the responsibilities of her onerous duties with great pride and precision. Margie as she was popularly known to her many circle of friends was an exception to her many colleagues for her simplicity and the golden virtue of 'Politeness' a trait that was inborn in her. Furthermore she was an active member of the Exchange and took an abiding interest in the welfare of her less fortunate subordinates and fought for their rights. She was the mainstay and live-wire of the 'Hello Girls' Publication to which she played a very important part as Editor. This publication had earned for her the commendations of the high officials of the Department.

Margie had a flare for short story writing and her sense of wit and humour were the brilliant traits of her literary attainments. She was a lover of good books and a keen picture goer. I remember Margie expressing to me



Late Miss. Majorie Van Arkadie

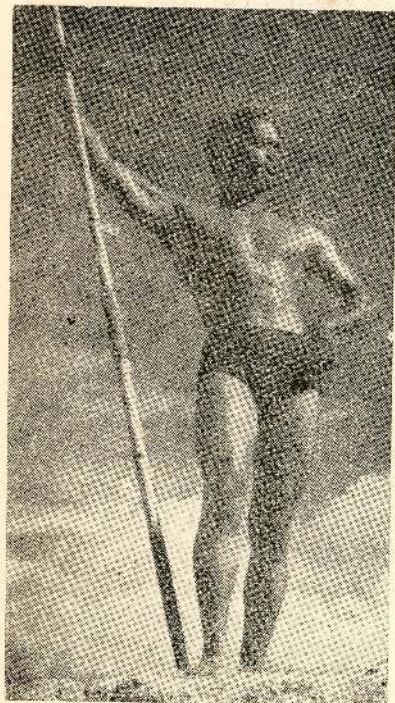
at my party in May this year in the words "Anton this will be my last party in Ceylon and in your pleasant company as I am leaving for England on the 15th June 1957" Of course I was much touched at the utterance and these few words she expressed had a deep meaning and if I may be right, an intuition which she had in her, which meant that she will never see me again. The sad news of her demise came to me as a rude shock. Margie was a dear and amiable friend and possessed rare and exceptionally good qualities of a lady. She was a shining example of modesty and sincerity. As a hostess to her parties she was a lavish entertainer and her hospitality had no bounds. Margie was a girl with a heart of gold. To bemoan her loss she leaves behind her father (Mr. L. D. Van Arkadie and many loved ones in Ceylon and her Uncle and Aunt (Mr. & Mrs. H. O. Van Arkadie of Rylands Road, London, and her cousins with whom she had the good blessings who were dear and near to her as those in Ceylon.

May her Soul rest in Peace.

Anton B. Gomes

The Nation Pays a Tribute

BY
J. E. REZEL



Mr. Don Thomas

their splendour within the orb of physical glory.

Save for an inadequacy of longitudinal development, the architecture of his anatomy is a fine work of nature. There is symmetrical distribution of flesh which has been developed into well defined and supple muscles, of strong texture. Neatly chiselled facial lineaments complete the portrait of the little man who is perched on a pedestal of muscular and balancing proficiency.

He will always be to us the symbol of physical fitness, good manners and the quiet disposition of the gentleman.

His clientele includes Lord Semkill, Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, Prime Ministers of Ceylon, Knights and foreign celebrities. He is a popular physiotherapist in some of our private hospitals who appears to be endowed with the healing touch.

EULOGY
A is a national tribute. It is the nation's acknowledgment of the contributions made to it by its citizens. If an inadequacy is discerned in this eulogy, it is the insufficiency of space to even condense the cardinal characteristics which distinguish the person enlogised from others who radiate

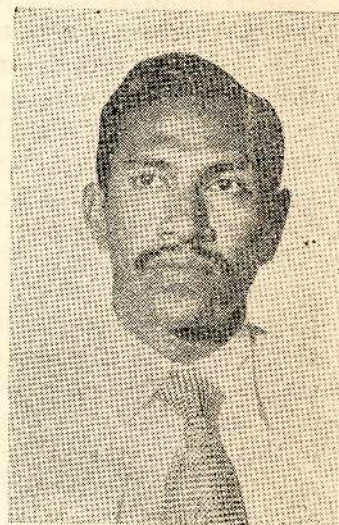
The Indispensible Soccerite

It is because Soccer has conquered the world that soccer players have become famous. It is a recreation, but good, disciplined players are rare and dear.

Our national soccer has provided us with a galaxy of clever players whose foot-work is delightful to watch.

One such player is M. P. B. Dissanayake, the newly elected Vice-Captain of the Government Services Soccer Association. He has earned an uncommon distinction in this field of sport.

He played for Hatton in the first Inter-District Tournament of the Ceylon Football Association. In 1954, he played for the Colombo Football League against All-Ceylon. In 1955, he played for the Government Services (Winners of the Hamer Cup) against the Mercantile Services. In the same year, he played for the Combined Colombo Playground against the Sind Muslim College and scored Ceylon's only goal against the tourists. In 1956, he captained the CFL Team (then on its island-wide tour) at Matara and Anuradhapura. The same year gave him a higher distinction. He played for the CFA XI and ALL-CEYLON against PAKISTAN. He also played for the Government Services in the first National Quadrangular Competition. He is the Hon. Secretary of All-In-One Sports Club and is Soccer trainer to Nalanda College and Young Olympians. He is popularly known as 'Dissa.' Young and modest, he has not been spoilt by these distinctions.



Mr. M. P. B. Dissanayake

Colombo's latest Restaurant Night/Club

Writes Mr. Donovan Andree thus:

Something warm and intimate vanished from the city's social life with the closure of the Silver Faun Night Club. Nostalgically many people have often asked me to start something equally intimate again. My principal difficulty all these years was the lack of a suitable site. Happily today this difficulty has been solved. For the past two months workmen have been hammering away at the shell of the Old Lawn Club premises in Victoria Park to fit it for its new role of a streamlined Restaurant/Night Club.

I am calling the Restaurant/Night Club 'The Orchid Room'. This name suggested itself to me at the restful sight of all the wonderful park greenery around the Old Lawn Club. 'The Orchid Room' is going to nestle snugly in this cradle of vegetative luxuriance away from the dust and clamour of our highways and by ways. In this sylvan setting I propose to re-create the spirit of the Silver Faun. The Club will be fully air-conditioned. To the traditional Night Club atmosphere will be added something new, something different.

True happiness, true relaxation and true pleasure is what I am trying to ensure by providing first class food and the choicest wines. The band will be a capable and willing group

And for cabaret I will have nothing but the best. Nothing is going to be too good or too expensive for the 'Orchid Room'. For the opening month we put on the boards Fred Mayhew and Olga Koch, the professional dance team that have swept everything before them in England and on the Continent. Equally billed for the same session are a sensational Danish couple, Inge Jensen and Jorn Petersen, who specialise in acrobatic dancing and recently won a World Championship.

That then is going to be 'The Orchid Room' a Night Club/Restaurant true and proper. Adjoining 'The Orchid Room' will be 'The Green House', so named for obvious reasons. This is going to be housed in the beautiful structure which was the American Pavilion during the Royal Food & Agricultural Exhibition. In 'The Green House' I am going to cater for a little more informality. This will primarily be a Dance Club with dancing on a few days in the week. The food and wines in 'The Green House' will, of course, be as excellent as in 'The Orchid Room'.

'The Orchid Room' and 'The Green House' will be open only to members and their guests.

'Mr. E. F. N. Gratiaen Q.C. has kindly consented to be the President of the Club.



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THE ICY HAND

WEIRD EXPERIENCE OF A CHRISTMAS EERIE

Especially Written for The SEARCHLIGHT CHRISTMAS NUMBER

BY OLD U.N

"HELLO Old 'Un,' said the Editor of 'THE SEARCHLIGHT,' when I happened to call on him at his office a few weeks before Christmas; 'I am d...glad, glad to see you, because I want you to write something for my Christmas Number.'

This was, indeed a most unconventional greeting, but, coming as it did from the best of good fellows, I could not but feel flattered.

'Write something?' said I in reply; 'that is somewhat of a tall order!'

I was generally called the 'Old Un' by my friends, because I suppose, I was the oldest of the 'Press Gang' and, if you will not think I am boastful, I was considered a "writer of sorts" in my day.

'Write anything,' retorted the Editor; 'or, please make it Christmassy. You know the so-called Christmas Numbers published by the different local papers are really 'annuals' and not Christmas Numbers at all! Why the word Christmas does not appear in any of the pages, except, of course, on the cover! Who wants to read about the Veddahs and the Anuradhapura ruins at Christmastide?'

'You are right there,' said I; 'but tell me, what sort of stuff will appeal to the public in your Christmas Number?'

'Oh, poke some fun at the M.P.'s or Ministers, for instance,' suggested the Editor.

'I suppose 'Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves' will be a good title,' I put in; 'but then it will not be in good form to say anything unkind about the Parliamentarians at Christmas time, and, besides, it may be considered libellous by the all seeing C.I.D.!'

"Well, then, write a Christmas story, and, if possible, introduce a ghost into it—that will be Christmassy!" said the Editor.

"True, I replied; 'Christmas is always associated with fairies, spirits, and ghosts, but may dear fellow, how the dickens do you expect me to turn out a ghost story on the spur of the moment?'

"You," said the Editor, flattering me; "you can serve up a good dish at a moment's notice!"

"Surely, you don't take me to be a cook!" I retorted, taking up his kindly-meant metaphor. 'But, come on,' said I; 'give me pen and paper, and I'll try to give you a ghost story.'

'Pen, ink and paper were produced, and I was given a cosy corner in the editorial sanctum. The paper given me was, however, too large for my style of writing, which I usually do on the backs of turned over envelopes.

"Can you give me a pair of scissors to cut these sheets into smaller size?" I asked one of the assistants. "I suppose you use scissors and paste in this office?" I added jocularly.

The assistant evidently felt annoyed, for he quickly retorted, "Surely, you don't think this is a tailoring establishment!"

I felt greatly humbled, and tearing the paper to the size I desired I began to write—and this is the result of my labours.

* * *

It was Christmas Eve, and having been invited to spend the festive season with my good friend, Mr. Paul Perera, who lived in an ancient but palatial residence in Kalubowila at Dehiwela, I was the honoured guest of Mr. and

Mrs Perera, they were richly endowed with the good things of this world, were newly married, and were leading a very happy life. They were stunch Christians and, needless to say, celebrated the festive season in the way it should be.

At dinner that night the conversation turned on ghosts, and Mrs. Perera, in the simple innocence of her heart, mentioned the fact that the room which had been assigned to me was said to be haunted. She, however, added the fact that although her father had believed in the story, she herself looked upon it as a myth.

"My dear Mrs. Perera," said I, 'the greatest ambition in my life is to see a real ghost. I am indeed, lucky to be given the haunted room during my stay here, and I can only hope that I will have the chance of seeing the uncanny one'

"We are very sorry," added Mrs. Perera, "to put you in the haunted room; but, really there is no help for it, as it is the only room which is fit for habitation in the ancient house."

"Never fear" said I gallantly; you are indeed, conferring a favour on me by giving me the room, for nothing would give me greater pleasure than to see an actual ghost."

The dinner was a great success, although there were only three of us at the repast, and after a pleasant time spent in postprandial music and singing in the drawing-room, we retired for the night, bidding each other a "Merry Christmas" on the morrow, and Mrs. Perera adding the hope that I would not be troubled by ghosts!

I was in just the mood to meet a ghost. I was in excellent spirits, a hearty Christmas dinner, wick drinks thrown in, and a *soiree musical* after it, contributing towards the end.

However, as matters turned out, it was one thing to wish to see a ghost and quite another to have the experience! Oh! I shall never forget the fright I had that memorable Christmas Eve!

To make sure that Mr. and Mrs. Perera, my worthy hosts, were not going to play a practical joke on me. I took the precaution to lock the door carefully, and put the key under my pillow. The window had iron-bars, which I carefully tested, and found that they were all intact. In addition to this, I took the precaution to shut the window, as it was a fairly cool night.

As pure as . . .

BEER

Many readers will be pulled up short by that unexpected comparison: as pure as . . . beer. Yet it is the simple fact that there is no article of food or drink produced with the same care and in the same purity as the beer of to-day.

How purity is ensured

By analysing samples before purchase the brewers see to it that both the barley, from which the malt is made, and the hops, are of the choicest quality; and that any brewing sugar used is sugar in its most health-giving form. The whole process of brewing is under the close supervision of the Excise authorities. At frequent intervals tests are taken by the brewer of the beer in the making, and when the brew is completed an exhaustive test of the final beer is applied. Samples of the beer as sold are taken continually by the inspectors of the local authority.

Are such elaborate and official precautions taken with any other article of food or with any other beverage?

Downright Wholesome

The result is that beer is brewed to-day of a soundness and a character that would have been impossible a hundred or even fifty years ago. For these elaborate safeguards have served not only to improve the materials, to secure their purity, and to ensure that nothing that is not pure is ever used; but also to improve immeasurably the whole technique of brewing.

Consider the excellence and the beneficence of beer's ingredients: malt, made from the finest barley, for digestion; hops for appetite; sugar for energy; yeast for vitality. Was there ever anything so downright wholesome as this mild, luxurious, and heartening beverage—beer?

BEER

IS

BEST

BREWED BY

THE

CEYLON BREWERY

NUWARA ELIYA

I was sure that I was now quite secure from any prank being tried on me, and no human agency but a real ghost could disturb my night's repose.

Getting into my night clothes, I lit a final cigarette, and after having once more looked all round the room and under the bed I switched off the light, and laid myself down on the comfortable bed, which stood at one end of the room.

Thoughts of ghosts and spirits kept revolving in my head, so that I lay awake for a considerable time. I felt the room a bit stuffy, as a result of my having shut the window, but I was determined not to open it.

Instead, I took off my pyjama coat and singlet, as I had begun to perspire, and soon after I fell asleep.

It must have been what is termed "the dead of night" when I was suddenly roused from my peaceful slumber. Horror of horrors! There was an icy hand placed on my bare chest!

The room was in utter darkness, and a cold sweat was pouring down my face! The feeling was most weird and eerie—that cold hand on my chest!

"Who is there?" I tried to cry out, but the words would not come from my parched lips. It was horrid! It was horrible! The feeling I had beggars description!

Inwardly I prayed to the unseen being begging it to be gone, although the words would not proceed from my lips, but that icy hand lay on my chest like grim death!

What was I to do? I was incapable of speech or action, and all I could do was to

pray that this horrid thing should pass away. But good Christian as I was, and though earnestly I prayed, that icy hand would not be removed?

The minutes passed by; they seemed hours to me? Surely, I must do something! I could not allow this icy hand to lie on my chest all night long!

With the passing of the minutes, I gained some amount of courage, and seizing that courage I raised my right hand and placed it on my chest.

Oh! holy horror, I felt that icy hand—it was there lying on my chest!

The perspiration poured more freely down my neck, and I began to realize what "the pangs of death" must be like!

Time passed, and with it my courage increased, and once more I felt the icy hand with my right hand!

Well, this state of affairs could not go on for ever! At last, taking my courage with both hands I began to feel the icy hand higher and higher, and finally there came a revelation!

The icy hand was my own left hand! Having slept with that hand under my body, it had got thoroughly benumbed, and fallen on my turning over, on my warm chest which as I have previously said, I had bared of pyjama coat and singlet!

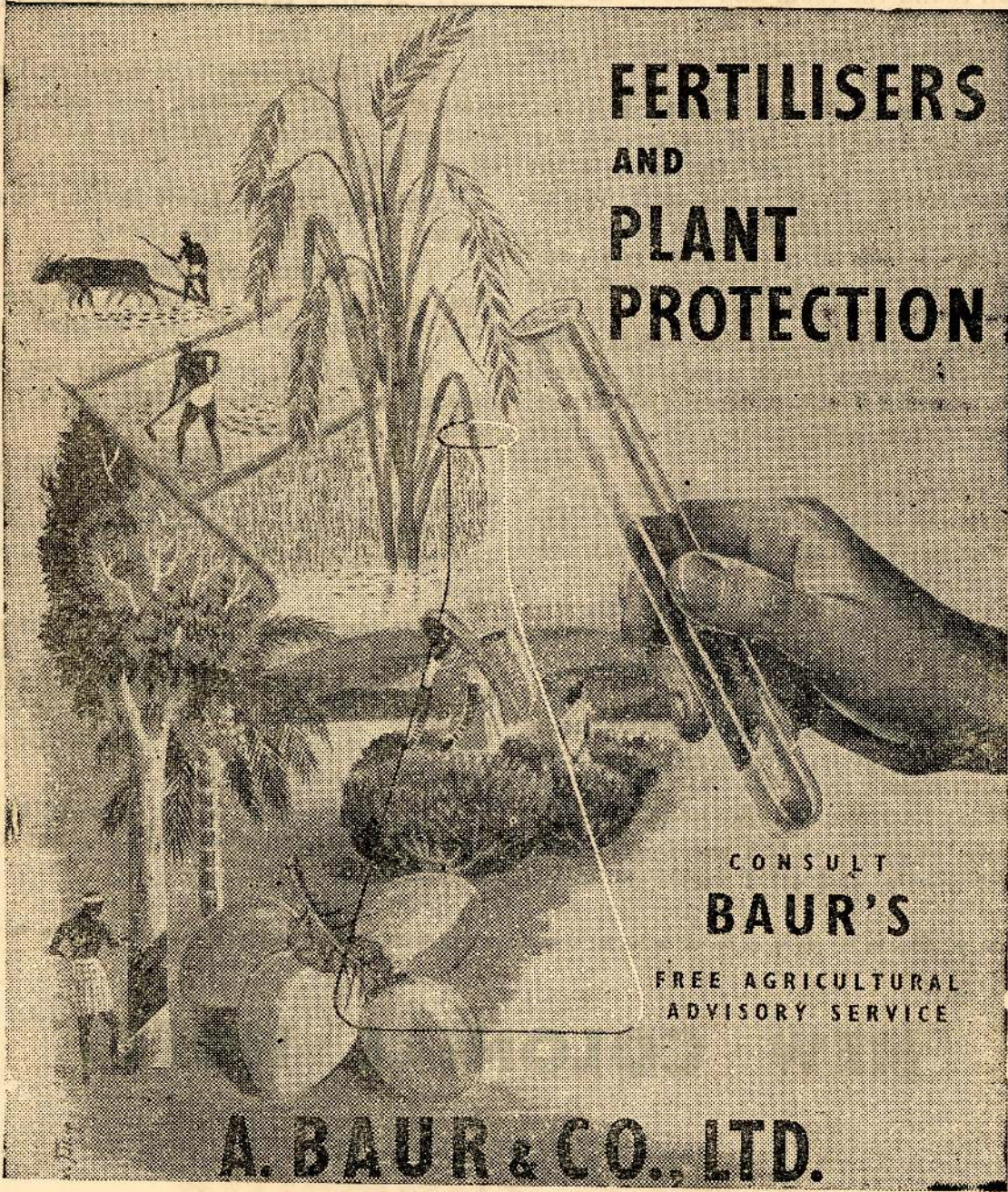
You can bet I did not tell Mr. and Mrs. Perera my experience of that night on the morrow!

NEW COLONIAL HOTEL

EXCELLENT CUISINE

BAR AND BILLIARDS

NORRIS ROAD, COLOMBO

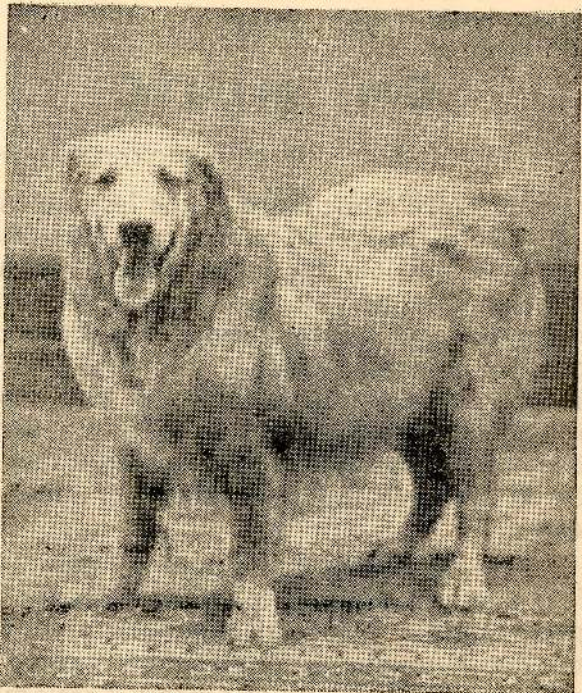


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TWINKLE, TWINKLE,
HUSKY STAR
 BY J. E. REZEL
 Author of THE RECUMBENT BUDDHA



Twinkle, twinkle, Husky Star,
 Mankind knows how far you are.
 To the peoples of the earth,
 A doggy gives marvellous mirth.
 Through the regions that you soar
 Recordings will be man's great lore
 Of how to navigate afar
 In closer range of every star.

Twinkle, twinkle, Husky Star
 Beyond the reach of eye, afar.
 Your lonesome surveys in the night
 Will bring to Man new shafts of light.
 Your mission is a noble one,
 Which cheers us when the day is done.
 You are Man's immortal guide,
 Embalmed with myrrh, cassia, pride.

Twinkle, twinkle Husky Star
 Deep in the cosmos, far, afar.
 The secrets of the cosmic ray
 Are known to Man through doggish prey.
 When men scale heights you bravely soar
 They'll love a Dog for ever more.

In your air-right, lonesome flight,
 Nearer to the stars at night,
 Do the meteors trouble you,
 Is the heaven a radiant hue?
 Do you see the angel's feet,

When your heart begins to beat?
 Do the throbbings of your heart,
 Give troubled Man an altered chart?
 In your lone, majestic flight
 You chaff the horrors of the night.

Twinkle, twinkle Husky Star,
 Man from you is very far
 From brave and silent deeds like this,
 For which I send a flying kiss.
 If you and I could ever meet,
 In any realm, however fleet.
 I cuddle you with warmth awhile
 All my anguish to beguile.

Visit Our Gift Saloon

AND

Make the Best of Your

X'MAS SHOPPING

AT

J. L. CARWALLIO

MAIN STREET, COLOMBO

BISHOP SHEEN WRITES . . .

ON MUSIC

THE more music there is, the less we listen to it. Radio and phonograph have made it possible for most people to have music in their ears all day long. It becomes a background of conversation, dishwashing, card playing, studying, reading, the breviary and banking. When music is on all day long, there is very little really good music. Every ear is bent unconsciously to music whether that ear be on the earth, under the earth, or above the earth.

The music that is listened to may be of four kinds: pedal, erotic, cordial or heady. The pedal music is that which excites principally the feet but embraces any kind of music from snapping of the fingers to a march. Erotic music is very often associated with words and is destined to stir the lower emotions and particularly, that of sex. Cordial music is music that appeals to the heart; and the heady music is mathematical and one which requires study.

Every person likes the kind of music which is already in his own heart. The inner tempo

seeks an outer tempo. Inner peace craves outer peace. Character and the plane of thought and feeling of a listener determine to a great extent the kind of music he likes. If the character is noble, the plane of emotion evoked by music will be very high. Music will give to everyone whatever he is capable of receiving; just as poetry and history and science will give to every mind what it is capable of absorbing. Shakespeare cannot speak to all minds; neither can Mozart or Bach. The mind that is habitually at home in meanness and spite will yield its emotions in that plane to a combination of music which, to a nobler spirit, will fill him with horror. Though it would not be an infallible standard of judgment, there nevertheless is some value in a test in which different kinds of music would be played before a prospective applicant for a job; his character, to some extent, could be judged by his choice.

Shakespeare in his "Merchant of Venice" said:

"Foredo but note a wild and wanton herd
Or race of youthful and unhandled colts,
Fetching mad bounds, bellowing and neighing loud
Which is the hot condition of their blood;
If they but hear perchance the trumpet sound,
Or any air of music touch their ears,
You shall perceive them make a mutual stand,
Their savage eyes turn to a modest gaze
By the sweet power of music."

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"SYED"

The same poet has also added that

"The man that hath no music in himself,
Nor is not moved with concord of sweet sounds,
Is fit for treasons, stratagems and spoils."

Music has not always enjoyed the popularity in the past that it has now. During the peak of Grecian civilization, Plato recommended it because it taught 'rhythm and harmony to the inmost soul.' He also observed that those who went in for gymnastics became more brutal than they should and those who went in for music became more soft than they should. Aristotle would have young men schooled so as to enjoy good music, but he would not go further. Perhaps it was from this idea that George Bernard Shaw derived his notion that "hell is full of amateur musicians."

Later on in the Fifth Century St Augustine's Treatise on Music was a standard work for the century, as well as the music of St Gregory and Ambrose. In the Middle Ages, music was one of the quadrivium.

In the Sixteenth century, music enjoyed somewhat the prestige that it does now. He who could not read music at sight was considered uneducated. In 1627 Master Henry Peachman wrote favourably in his "The Complete Gentleman," the Italian proverb: "Whom God loves not, that man loves not music."

In the Nineteenth Century music lost some of that intense popularity it enjoyed in former times. Jane Austin said: "I consider music a very innocent diversion and perfectly compatible with the profession of a clergyman." Mechanical reproduction of music has made it possible to have more good music than ever before in life, and also bad music. Hence the importance of educating in good taste not only in music, but in art, literature and poetry. As the wisest man who ever lived said: No man can live without pleasure; therefore a man deprived of the pleasures of the spirit goes over to the pleasures of the flesh.

The Recipe for a Happy Christmas

Take some goodwill, and this you need not measure,
You cannot put too much - then add some pleasure;
Beat up some presents, all you can in reason,
And with best wishes plenotously season,
Sweeten with love. As kindness is flavour
That always is exceedingly in favour
Add this. Mix up with mirth and harm'less folly.
And decorate with mistletoe and holly!

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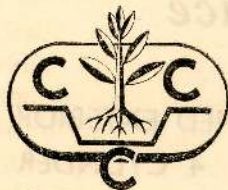
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THE NATIONAL SPIRIT

—in PARLIAMENT

(Continued from page 27)

that no foreign liquor of any kind be sold, retail or wholesale, between the 15th December 1957 and the 4th January, 1958, both days inclusive.

Mr. S. Siripala Tamitta (Member for Ruwanwella): The national spirit, my friend the member for Dodangashandiya, wants us to encourage is that cursed stuff that's causing all the crime and helps to fill our jails. If we cannot give the people something better, let us agree to abolish it altogether. I support the original motion, Sir.

Mr. Rambukwella (Member for Molligoda): There is quite a lot of misunderstanding, or, shall I say, misapprehension about this 'national spirit.' To begin with, we must not forget that the Government gets a handsome revenue from it. This money is utilized to finance the various services and if we interfere with its manufacture or sale, we stand to lose nearly seventy million rupees annually.

Besides it is time we removed the prejudice against Ceylon's national spirit. Have the members who condemn it ever tried it, I wonder? They must be fair. They must taste it themselves and then express an opinion. The stuff is now greatly improved and, indeed, much in demand than before. Even the European community is patronising it largely. It is served at all the hotels. That was not the case before.

Mr. Aheyo onasekera (Member for Matale): The prejudice against the national spirit, is due to religious sentiments than anything else, Sir. The owners of coconut lands leased for tapping are Sinhalese, both Buddhists and others. The distillers are themselves largely Buddhists. And almost everybody connected with the distillery industry are Buddhists. So why should there be any prejudice shown to the 'national spirit' of Ceylon I cannot understand. Those who don't want to indulge in it can well refrain from patronising the stuff. I welcome the suggestion Sir, that before the House votes on the motion, as well as the amendment, the Members should satisfy themselves whether or not the 'national spirit' is a good and wholesome beverage. I support the amendment. (Cheers from the Gallery)

Mr. Kudilingam (Member for Kayts): Speaking for my friends of the North, I feel I must say that we, unlike our Sinhalese countrymen, are a patriotic race of people. We in the arid North cannot exist without the Palmyrah and Coconut Palm. These two trees enter into our daily life. And what would Kayts be Sir, without its toddy which is food and drink to the people. And as for Jaffna, the tope is the rendezvous of the Hindu and the Christian alike. We have no prejudice against the produce of these two palms. Therefore we propose to vote

for the amendment. (Cheers from the Jaffna Members.) Anyway before I conclude, Sir, I should like to say, I approve the suggestion of the Minister for Local Administration. Let us get seriously together and taste this 'National Spirit' of Ceylon before we record our votes for the motion or for the amendment. That is quite a fair suggestion.

Mr. Shelly Donnington (Appointed Member): The suggestion that the House should taste the National Spirit and informally discuss its merits or demerits, is a capital suggestion. But Sir, before we do so, the House, I am sure, would like to hear the views of the advocates of Total Prohibition owing to whose foolhardiness the National Spirit has suffered considerably. (Hear, Hear, from all parts of the House.)

Here there was a consultation among the Prohibition-wallahs and a few of them were seen nodding their heads. This was an indication that they refused to be drawn to participate in the test.

The Speaker: What has the Leader of the House or for that matter the Prime Minister to say?

The P. M.: Speaking for the Government, Sir, I have no objection but, I ask, would not this House be creating a precedent? Anyway, I leave it to the House to decide.

Voices: We have no objection to the Minister's suggestion being carried out.

The Speaker: The House has no objection to the Minister's proposal that Members should try the 'National Spirit' that is being sold in all taverns and liquor-shops.

A Parliamentary Re-shuffle Demanded

BY 28 M.E.P. M.P.'S - WHAT THE DEMAND INDICATES

(Specially written for THE SEARCHLIGHT CHRISTMAS NUMBER)

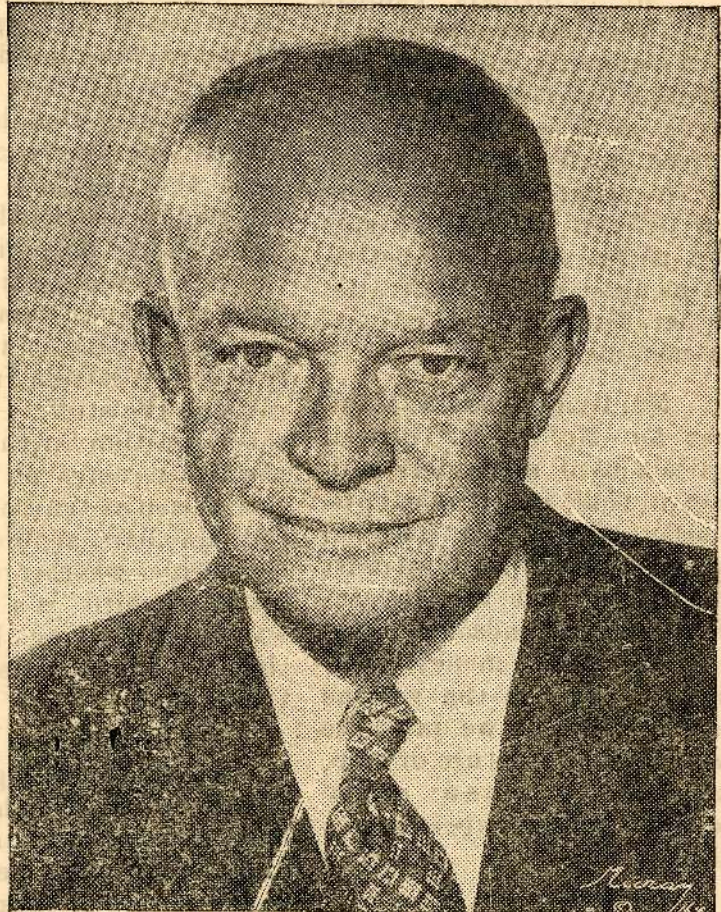
[By Scrutator]

ANY MAN with even half an eye can see there are breakers ahead for the Bandaranaike Government. The Memorandum submitted to the Prime Minister, signed by 28 Members of Parliament including the Acting Minister for Trade and four Junior Ministers, requesting a Parliamentary Re-shuffle "leaving out those Ministers who have lost the peoples' confidence" has more in it to reveal than meets the eye. It is a document that tells the tale and points a moral. In short the Memorandum can only be interpreted as 28 staunch and true members of the Parliamentary Group, have lost faith in the Bandaranaike Cabinet, or, in other words, they have no confidence in the present government. That much is clear as crystal.

Furthermore, the Memorandum conveys in no ambiguous language, the joint and agreed views of an influential section of the governing party, that they are individually and, collectively disappointed and hence compelled to **severely criticise the Government for inaction and indifference in bringing about social, political and economic reforms and that as a result of this inactivity the country is in chaos today.**

Now that is as plain as a pike-staff and leaves no room for any doubt that the matters involved disturb their political

equanimity as members of the M.E.P. Parliamentary Group. The Memorandum further helps to throw a lurid light on the oft-repeated declaration of individual M.E.P. M.P.'s and even of those M.P.'s belonging to the Opposition group, that the M.E.P. Government had failed to deliver the goods!



President Eisenhower has made 'excellent progress in the 48 hours since he suffered a sudden blood vessel blockage in the brain.

Mr. Hagerty said Mr. Eisenhower's doctors had decided not to use the word 'stroke' because it was not a medical word and was associated more in the public mind with a stroke which would mean haemorrhage of the brain. Neither of these cases had happened.

Political experts here dismissed as 'remote' the possibility that the 67-year-old President would retire after this illness.

Then there are the self-laudatory asseravations of the M.E.P. Ministers principally the Prime Minister himself, on diverse occasions, and from various platforms that the M.E.P. Government had successfully carried out its undertakings and fulfilled the pledge it gave the country prior to and after the General Election and thus had justified themselves in their election to power. In plain language this claim, so boldly and blatantly indulged in, when critically examined amounts to failure. This is precisely the view of the country today, a failure the UNP, which the Prime Minister is never tired of referring to as a 'Dead Party,' has been quite correctly pointing out. Let us get down to what turns out to be obvious facts.

The "Country today is in a State of Chaos." Is this so or not? If on the face of the M.E.P. government's hollow pretensions, and its bogus claim of having accomplished this, that and the other thing, there was even a semblance of contentment among the people, be they of the masses or the classes, what means the universal feeling and the expression of dissatisfaction and disappointment that the Government had failed to solve quite a number of the country's problems both social and economic? What means the epidemic of strikes and general discontent throughout the country? Is it not a fact that the coming of the M.E.P. into power, was heralded by strikes? For as we all know there has been a succession of

strikes everyday since the government assumed power and even as the Ministers and Members of the M.E.P. were taking their oath of allegiance when the Galle Face Battery Fired the customary salute that a new Government was by law established, a strike was on. And these strikes still continue to menace the peace, tranquility and happiness of the people, or as the Memorandum of the Parliamentary Group puts it so plainly "the result of government's failure to solve the country's economic problems there is unprecedented chaos. Strikes we have had before but not strikes on such an unparalleled scale as under the M.E.P. government.

STRIKES

THE strike situation today is alarming. A morning newspaper which publishes a score card mentions 6 strikes now going on merrily and 32 threats up to 3.12.57 with deadlines specified between 8th and 20th December 1957. The principal demand is an immediate increase of wages and salaries plus an increase of basic salaries. The increase of the latter will involve arrears which will amount to a few millions of rupees.

It is well known that these strikers are engineered by ambitious politicians in and out of the Government primarily for the purpose of seizing power. Those who are in the Government put forward their hirelings as leaders and controllers whilst those of the Opposition and the outsiders are not worried by such qualms. Apart from the political aspect, there is the business angle of these strikes. A person in command of a labour union of 1000 workers collects a minimum of Rs. 500/- per month from its members. Leaving off 50% for working and incidental expenses, the balance 50% is clear profit to the organiser.

Already the retailers of essential food stuffs have started profiteering after the new

that ships are being diverted to Galle after waiting for days and weeks outside the Colombo Harbour. When goods are landed at Galle (provided Galle Harbour workers do not strike) and brought to Colombo (provided the Railway guards and station masters do not strike both wholesalers and retailers are bound to raise their prices to meet the additional cost of transport and there will be another demand for increase of salaries and wages before Christmas.

In the midst of all these troubles, the Prime Minister is away in India, leaving the Leader of the House to hold the baby, to devise ways and means in collaboration with the Prime Minister of India and the representative of the Prime Minister of Pakistan to BUILD A BRAVE NEW WORLD. What utter rot and complacency! as if the rest of the OLD WORLD care a hoot for the proposed structure. It is noteworthy that the Prime Minister of Pakistan kept away from this conference to prepare blueprints, owing to troubles in his home country. The Prime Minister of Ceylon might well have followed the example of Pakistan and stayed at home to see what could be done about the spate of strikes that is paralysing business and Public Works. Perhaps Mr. Bandaranaike is a believer in the old adage that 'he who fights and runs away.'

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THE NATIONAL SPIRIT IN PARLIAMENT

(Continued from page 37)

Accordingly, I adjourn the debate for one hour to enable the members to discuss, informally, the respective qualities or merits of the Ceylon National Spirit. After the informal discussion, and the trial or tasting, the House will re-assemble to decide the question.

The House adjourned. And, within almost 15 minutes, an array of waiters brought in the National Spirit in trays; umpteen bottles of them of the Ordinary, Special or Specially Seasoned Stuff, Glasses were handed round and a few waiters started serving the National Spirit.

Mr. Donnington: What about some soda to dilute the stuff, waiter?

Mr. Kottarala: Try it neat, Donnington. Try it neat, as we all do.

Mr. Rambukwella: Yes, you will enjoy it, Donnington, drinking it plain, I am sure.

Here the Northern Members having gulped their first drink began clamouring for some short eats. In response, biscuits and cheese were served but which was refused. They wanted "Vadas."

The P. M.: 'Vada and Ceylon' go down well with our friends from the North. (There were peals of laughter at this remark.)

Mr. Lingam: (Pouring another drink for himself, was heard to say): Oh, yes our Prime Minister is right. He knows now, the potentialities of the 'Vada'. We like oily stuff but not fishy stuff. (General laughter and table tapping)

Mr. Mahanayake: Somewhat of a rapier thrust, that, I should think.

The National Spirit was seen to be in much demand. Even the Prohibitionist members could not resist the temptation of taking a couple of good ones on the quiet and between the scenes to the accompaniment of biscuits and cheese. They refused to look at 'Vadas'

Mr. Mahanayake: Well, Schumacher, do tell us, candidly; which would you prefer. Van Telman's Gin or the National Spirit? (Laughter)

Mr. Schumacher: Local Option, always. he replied to the great merriment of the Kottaralaites

Mr. Kottarala: I thought so. Only our Dutch Burgher friends like Holland and indifferent Scotch.

At this stage there was much animation in the Chamber. There were talks and cross-talks among the younger bloods of the M.E.P. when shouts were heard of "Waiter, some more, if you please, Some Ginger Beer, too.)

The P.M.: (To the Leader of the House): I say, I see some champion pullers here. I do hope their National Spirit won't take them to absurd lengths.

(This remark was overheard by others. In ten minutes the atmosphere was galvanised



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with shouts: 'What do you mean, sir, What do you mean? "while the demand! Withdraw, Withdraw! rent the air

The P.M., felt he was in for trouble so, he immediately started to soft-paddle. "Didn't mean anything bad my dear good fellows. I only meant that I should be sorry if anything untoward happens. Anyway, 'I readily apologise.'

The Speaker: Are you gentlemen going to take long? We must get back to business and resume the debate.

A Member Yes, we are ready, sir. Meanwhile another one won't do us any harm. One for the road, or rather for the debate.

At this stage the Minister for Home Affairs in whose charge the Excise Department is, walked in along with the Excise Commissioner. They came in to see whether the going was good.

Mr. Rambukwella: Have a drink, Minister. And you too, Mr. Excise Commissioner. Let's drink to your health.

(The last drink was served and Members held up their glasses and said: To your health, Minister, and also to that of the Excise Commissioner's" in which the Speaker and the P. M. joined in great glee. A minute or two later, the Bell rang and the Members trailed into their seats. The Council resumed the Debate.

The Speaker: The Clerk of the Council will now read out the Amendment proposed to the Motion before the House. This was duly read out and a vote was taken. This resulted in 65 voting against and 21 for. Next the substantive motion was put to the House. The result was an overwhelming victory for Mr. Kottarala's motion. On a division being called 69 voted for it and 17 against. Mr. Kronenberg Member, for Colombo Central) did not vote.

The Speaker: The Motion is carried. At this moment the gallery went delirious with joy. The House, then, adjourned for the 16th January.

(As the members began walking away—several started singing, "The More we are together the merrier we'll be," and the Christian Members, led by the Member for Moratuwa, started singing, 'SILENT NIGHT'

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MR. W. PIN FERNANDO

The Dress-Reformers

I wish to make a simple plea
 Against the inconsistency
 Of those who hastily divest
 Them of the garments of the West:
 For is it true that now and then
 You stoop to use a fountain pen?
 How neat appears the lawyer's brief
 Deep-scratched upon the ola leaf!
 When sudden fails the light of day,
 Please light your lamp the Veddah way,
 And rub a fire-stick in the dark
 Until you get a little spark.
 Don't think to use a motor car,
 A hackery is fitter, far.
 If you must travel in the rain,
 You should not use a railway-train,
 For longer trips a bullock bandy,
 Though somewhat slow, is very handy,
 When Council meets at half-past two,
 I'll tell you what you ought to do,
 Just time your journey by the sun,
 And if you're there by half-past one,
 You'll only have an hour to wait.
 That's better far than being late.
 When at Queen's House you're asked to dine,
 Refuse to taste the foreign wine,
 And smiling say to everybody:
 "The only drink for me is toddy!"
 Thus ends my simple little plea
 Against such inconsistency,
 For this is very plain to see—
 You do it to attract the eyes
 You'd not be noticed otherwise!

S. WARAJ

The Perfect Husband

If a Husband you would find
 An' want one of the perfect kind,
 Who'd never stray out to the club
 And never grumble at the grub
 Nor poke his toes through all his socks
 Who'd never fail to bring you choos,
 Who'd think you charming-sweeter far
 Than all those other females are
 Who'd never dream to telephone
 "Detained at Office—go alone."
 When dear Auntie Anne is dinning you—
 An' things like that would never do,
 If you should find this perfect man

As some folk seem to think you can,
 With oh! what chains of love you'd
 bind him
 But-- You'll have to go to heaven to find him.

The Perfect Wife

The perfect wife I'd have you know
 Is she who learns just when to go
 An' when to come, an' when to speak
 An' when be silent for a week
 An' how to feed me well, an' when
 She mustn't mention food again,
 She never tidies things away,
 But lets my pipes an' papers stray
 An' never says— "Do this—do that—"
 Where have you been—put out the Cat—"
 And never mind my old jacket spurns
 Exchanging it for mouldy ferns
 And what is more she'll never see
 That any other chap could be
 One little bit as nice as me.

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A Malevolent Autocracy or Dictatorship

SEEKS TO Crush a Democracy

BY J. A. DE ANDRADO

VERY few of us can forget the decline and decadence suffered by all for years under a succession of European Rulers. With an iron determination and a firm will our grand, selfless statesmen and politicians of the past fifty years launched and sustained a heroic struggle which we all acclaimed as a national right and inheritance. Words could not express to any degree of appreciation, the joyous throbs pulsating within us with more than usual vigour at this momentous proclamation.

We acclaimed this independence as a treasured symbol of security and of prosperity to our country. With this same independence



Sir Oliver Goonetilleke Governor General of Ceylon



Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
of England and Queen of Ceylon

we nourished sanguine hopes of the evolution of a united Ceylonese nation free from every trace of racial bitterness, communal antagonism and religious bias

This ideal of a New Lanka, bereft of an alien domination, now appears to be a mere flight of fancy.

True enough the foreign yoke has been lifted and the country plunged into a dismal abyss. In place of this perfidious controlling machinery, it was natural to expect a more refreshing, invigorating, peaceful atmosphere, free from fear, discord and disharmony, in which one was free to live a life most useful to oneself and equally beneficial to ones neighbour. But our expectations and our hopes are shattered. Our entire serene outlook is blurred by the dark clouds of despair that have overtaken us.

We are, no doubt, citizens of an independent country. But are we a free, happy people? Considered opinion of reputed statesmen and eminent scholars repeatedly point out that the many forms of legislation engineered by our politicians aim at giving a new meaning to Democracy quite unknown to many of us. To be more precise, these latest enactments indicate a sustained effort, to crush Democracy by a malevolent Autocracy or a despicable Dictatorship. If these intrusions on our freedom are mere puerile attempts by petty politicians striving to earn for themselves a little popularity, there is no cause for alarm, but when utterances of a disturbing nature are made by persons saddled with responsibility, we are forced to take a realistic view of what

is happening around us. The present trend of affairs makes us almost shudder at the prospect of our country being shackled in the trammels of an absolute dictatorship.

Not long ago our Prime Minister prayed that our country may never have a Communist government. That was a heartening prayer. Last week-end, speaking at the Lanka Soviet Friendship League he announced that most of what was said about Soviet Russia was not true. He went one better, when he asserted that the Soviet Union only desired friendship and peace with other countries, and at no time had wished to force its form of government down the throats of other governments. Such assertions need no comment. Their purpose is too clear for further elucidation.

In its simplest form Democracy implies Government by the people directly or through representatives. Its purpose is to ensure individual liberty and protect, at all times, politically unprivileged classes. Its ultimate aim is to eliminate poverty and farther the happiness of the human race. A democratic State attempts to fulfil all these functions by utilising

the services and Good-Will of the people and not by stamping or throttling initiative so inherent in all human beings.

A true Democracy is a system of government wherein one's vote is as good as a millionaire's; wherein one enjoys the freedom of the press, freedom of assemblage, freedom to work, freedom to educate and freedom to worship as one sees fit, and above all, the freedom to demand and obtain a living wage for the work one does, namely a sufficient amount not only to exist but also to live in tolerable comfort as befits a human being.

If, on the other hand, the State subjects one to a system of serfdom wherein the State controls one's education, one's way of living, one's system of worship, wherein the State assigns a place to one's job, assigns one's salary and assigns one's mode of advancement, then we have a system of Government quite opposed to the ideals of Democracy. Common-sense and a clear thinking will suffice to show which form of Government a person of average intelligence is likely to choose. At this point it is reasonable to reflect as to how the

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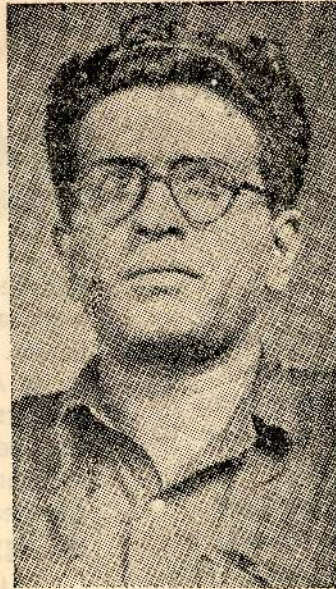
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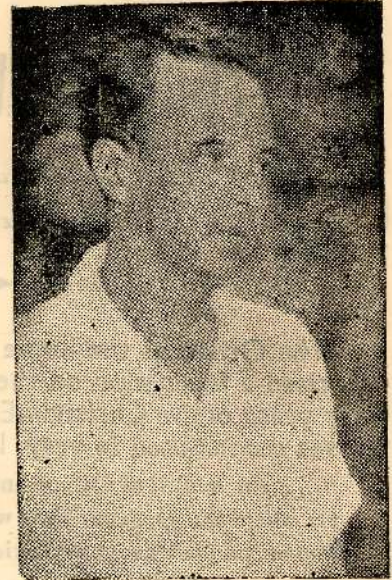
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Dr. N. M. Perera
M.P. for Ruanwella.



Dr. Colvin R. de Silva
Member for Wellawatte-Galkissa



Mr. Pelter Keuneman
1st Member for Colombo Central

policy of our present Government is taking shape? Are the citizens of today enjoying the freedoms of Democracy or tasting the cruel controls of Communism?

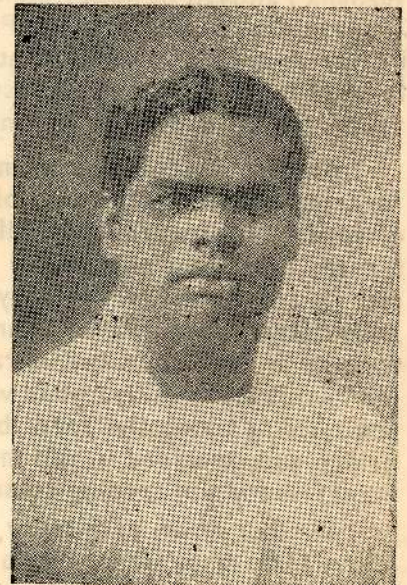
Free Ceylon first came under the influence of U.N.P. government. This government did make a determined effort to nurture Democracy and plan a sound economic development with the aid of foreign experts. However, as the U.N.P. stood for the preservation of vested interests, its programme and policy were not acceptable to the people. As a result that Government crashed.

The M.E.P. Government, popularly called "The peoples Government" opened its sessions promising the people the essence of Democracy. How short lived these promises were can easily be gauged by the tragic situation we are placed in today. To be absolutely candid, can we consciously boast of one democratic privilege we are supposed to enjoy unhindered and unhampered? I am afraid not.

By gradual, yet sure stages, our Democracy is being systematically liquidated. What form of Democracy could a country enjoy where land ownership is fast and positively becoming a monopoly of the State, where the cultivator is losing his right to own his plot of land, where the parent is to be denied his privilege to educate his child in a way fitting and pleasing to him, where the judiciary, an institution which holds a status

lesser only to Divinity is to be manacled by State interference, and where individual rights are considered unthi kable?

As sponsors of Democratic Governments the M. E. P. like the U.N. P. Government has proved a sorry failure. Unless immediate steps are taken to stem the steady flow of foreign Communist, atheistic influence, this land of ours would soon be in a sad mess.



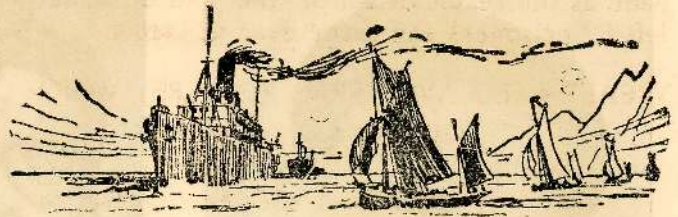
Mr. C. Suntheralingam
M.P. for Vavuniya

We prided in a Sinhala Culture that was second to none in the world. We prided in the religion of the majority, Buddhism as the only weapon sufficiently effective to wipe out all social ills. If we have a culture and a religion that can make others sink into insignificance, why should our M.E.P. Government tolerate, support and encourage foreign cultural ambassadors who come to this land.



Pearls of Sweet Ceylon

*Beyond the bar at fair manner
The diver seeks for pearls*



The Orient as the home of pearls had long exercised a fascination on the West from the early years of the Christian Era. These gems of the sea contributed in very large measure to

“.....the wealth of Ormus and of Ind
Or where the gorgeous East with richest hand
Showers on her kings barbaric pearl and gold.”

The pearl industry is said to have originated in the Gulf of Mannar but its beginnings are lost in the mists of antiquity. The pearls of Mannar lent to ancient Lanka a mystic and legendary setting. One of the earliest accounts of the pearl fisheries of Lanka refers to the reign of Alliyarasani, daughter of King Chitravaghana Pandyan of South India and spouse of Arjuna, one of the Pancha Pandava brothers immortalised in the Mahabaratha Epic. This reference takes the pearl industry back to the years between 1400 B. C. and 1000 B. C.

An old Tamil work known as the Kalveddu, records that the inhabitants of Karaitivu, Kudiramalai, Chilavaturai and Chilaw in Lanka were for the most part engaged in the pearl fisheries on account of which they paid tribute to Alliyarasani. Even now popular tradition points to some ancient ruins in Kudiramalai as the Ceylon Residence of Alliyarasani, who is said to have come riding along the sand banks of Adam's Bridge and remained in this mansion during the Pearl Fishery and trading season

Further down in history, it is chronicled in the Mahavansa that Vijaya the Aryan conqueror, who landed in Lanka about 486 B.C., included precious pearls in the presents to the Pandyan King of South India when he solicited the hand of his daughter. It is also stated that Devanampiya Tissa in B C 305 included 8 kinds of pearls in an embassy he sent to the Emperor Asoka in India.

“PEARLS OF INESTIMABLE VALUE”

The fame of the pearls gradually travelled far and wide. Pliny, the Roman historian of the

middle of the first century A.D., spoke of the high value attached by Romans to the pearls of Lanka. “Periplus of the Erythian Sea,” written by an Alexandrian Greek towards the end of the first century A. D., mentions Mannar as the scene of the pearl industry in the East. At the banquet given by Cleopatra to Anthony, the pearls of inestimable value worn by the the Egyptian Queen drew all eyes

“I'll set thee in a shower of gold and hail
Rich pearls upon thee”.

As long as the Pandyan kingdom, described in such glowing terms by Marco Polo in the thirteenth century, retained its supremacy over the Gulf of Mannar and Palk Strait, the pearl industry afforded a prosperous trade to the people who were for centuries engaged in this pursuit off the shores of Ceylon and India. The magnitude and prosperity of the pearl industry of Mannar during the Pandyan regime may be gauged from an observation made by Friar Jordanus who visited India in 1330, that as many as 8,000 boats were employed in the pearl fisheries off Tinnevely and Lanka.

BY J. P. A. DE MEL
Agent Shell Co. of Ceylon

The first decade of the sixteenth century saw the wane of the once illustrious history of the Pandyan kingdom. The Nayak ruler of Vanga in India asserted territorial rights over the Gulf of Mannar whilst from the Ceylon side the Tamil ruler of Jaffna and the Sinhalese Emperor of Kotte claimed a tribute from the pearl banks within their territorial waters. The Chera King of Comorin was another rival in this scramble for jurisdiction over the water of Mannar and Palk Strait. There is also a record of a conflict on this issue between Kadi Rayana, a Muslim Chief of Kalyapatnam, in India and the forces of King Dharma Parakrama

(Continued on page 47)

Bahu as the result of which the Indian Chief left 89 prisoners and many dead in Lanka.

WEALTH TO WESTERN POWERS WHO HELD CEYLON

With the arrival of the Portuguese in South India and Ceylon, the pearl fisheries passed into their hands in 1524 after years of struggle involving naval engagements and land encounters, and this industry contributed enormous wealth to their state coffers. Ribeyro pays this tribute to the pearls of Lanka: "The pearls which are procured from the coasts of the Island, and more especially from Aripo, are of the highest value."

Full many a gem of purest ray serene

The dark unfathomed caves of ocean bear."

The Dutch wielded sovereignty over the Pearl Banks from 1658 after their overthrow of Portuguese supremacy in the East. They gradually divested the local rulers or chiefs, with few exceptions of their traditional or hereditary privileges in the pearl fisheries.

The British wrested the pearl banks from the hands of the Dutch in 1796. As the new lords of the pearl fishery extended their domain swiftly over the lands of the Indian Rajahs and Chiefs in South India and over the maritime provinces of Lanka, they conducted the pearl fisheries on the basis of their sovereign rights. The privileges and dues allowed by their predecessors to local potentates or chiefs, with but one exception, were all discontinued.

With the dawn of Independence for Ceylon, Tamblegam Bay on the North-East Coast of Ceylon afforded a window-pane oyster pearl fishery. The season, however, was all too brief and the curt order of the Minister of Fisheries and Industries shortly snapped out: "The Tamblegam Pearl Fishery is closed". May the deity that guards Sri Lanka's shores deign to make the pearl banks of Lanka breed in abundance their celebrated pearls of sheen and pristine beauty.

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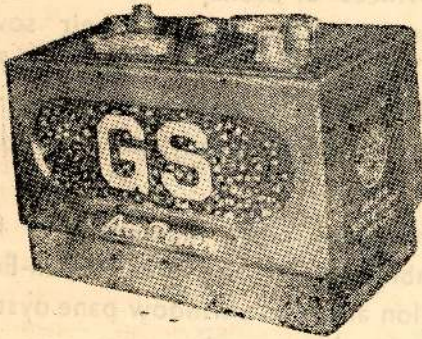
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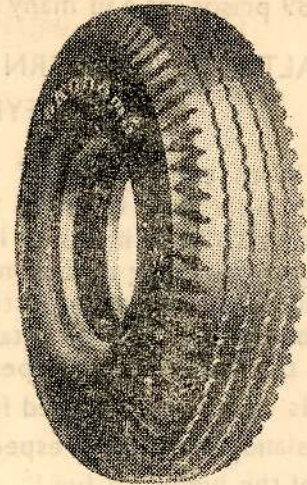
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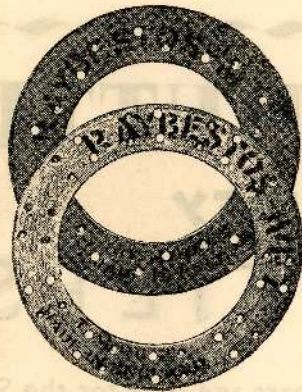
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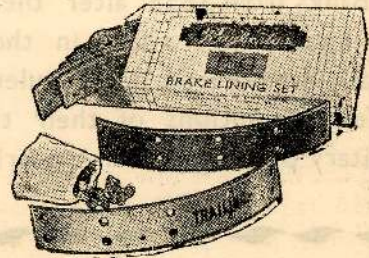
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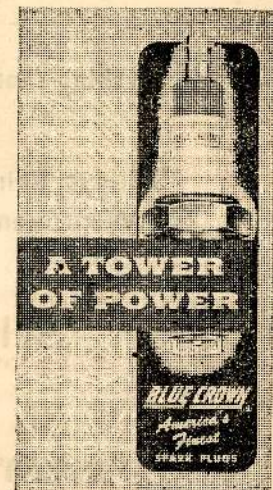
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Sir Reginald Stubbs, when he was Governor, often had occasion to point out that Ceylon was being built without a real architectural plan. Referring to the architecture of the numerous buildings that were coming up, he was of the opinion that as architecture went they were designed with a mixture of the ancient and the me-



*Sir Reginald Stubbs
ex-Governor of Ceylon*

dieval, and, to his mind, they were neither expressive nor impressive. This, the late Governor said, was not the fault of the architect so much as those who entrusted them with such work and whose advice they were not always prepared to accept as greater emphasis was placed on cost and space and less on beauty and much less on design. When that happened the result was a haphazard construction which was neither ornamental nor inspiring.

Ceylon who had to keep pace with the modern times could hardly permit the numerous buildings that were coming up to suffer from the same defects said Governor Stubbs. The formation of the Ceylon Institute of Architects is, therefore, timely and it is sincerely to be hoped that with the wealth of architectural talent this country possesses we shall soon begin to witness great improvements.

In making this first Presidential address of the Ceylon Institute of Architects said Mr. O. Weerasinghe, the President, I am conscious that you represent the architectural profession of this country and I have therefore to crave your indulgence if I do not measure up to the standards that you may have set for presidential addresses of our Institute.

"You consist of architects both in the Government Service and in Private Practice. Some of you have had long and distinguished



Mr. H. E. Gonsal, B.Arch. (Livl),
F.R.I.B.A., F.I.I.A., F.I.Arb.,
A.R.A.I.A., M.R.S.H.

The 'live-wire' of the new Institute

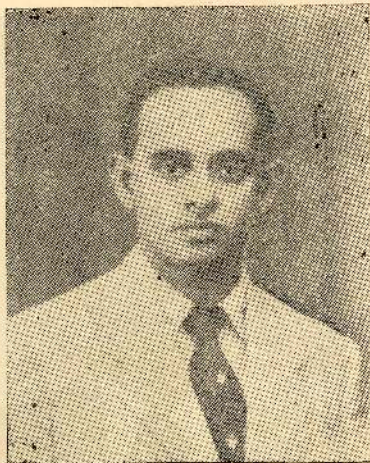
careers in the service of the State and some have established extensive private practice over a long period of years. You have collectively been responsible for the architectural progress of Ceylon over the last quarter of a century. It is therefore very significant that at a time when we are

vitaly concerned with the economic and social progress of this country you should have thought it fit and proper to join forces in the common cause of advancing architecture and building development in Ceylon.

I propose this evening to discuss some of the objects with which the Ceylon Institute of Architects has been formed and indicate certain points which I consider should receive the earnest attention of the Institute during the coming year. Before proceeding to do so, however, I think it would be appropriate for me to review very briefly the events that led up to the inauguration of the Ceylon Institute of Architects.

The formation of an Institute of Architects was first mooted over 20 years ago. I am happy to see here this evening some of the pioneers of the movement. During the last 20 years the professional architects of Ceylon have met from time to time to discuss how they could unite and form a body for the purpose of advancing architecture and protecting and maintaining the status and interests of the architectural profession in this country. Although there had been unanimity on the need for forming an Institute of Architects it had not been possible to weld together the different professional interests and direct them to the common goals that were desired.

These early efforts had not been wasted. With the attainment of National Independence in 1948 the movement gained momentum and finally in 1956 a Steering Committee was appointed to draft a constitution for the proposed Ceylon Institute of Architects. After much arduous work a draft constitution was



Mr. Neville Gunaratne

A.R.I.B.A., A.R.A.I.A., A.M.T.P.I.

prepared and adopted at an inaugural meeting of qualified architects which was held in Colombo on the eleventh September this year.



Mr. H. J. Billimoria
A.R.I.B.A., F.I.I.A.

It seems fit and proper on the occasion of this our first annual general meeting that I should mention a few names connected with the movement to establish a Ceylon Institute of Architects. At the spearhead of the movement was my old friend Mr. Herbert E. Gonsal, whose untiring efforts have at long last borne fruit. I am sure

he must be as happy as we are today to see the long cherished dream of the Ceylon Institute of Architects become a reality.

I wish also to record my deep appreciation of the work done in connection with the drafting of the constitution by Mr Bernard Altham and Mr. Neville Gunaratne. Both these gentlemen and Mr. Gonsal have spent a great deal of time after office hours preparing a draft constitution for our Institute. We are very grateful to them for all this honorary work.

I will now proceed to the main theme of my address. As you know we have formed our Institute with the following objects in view:-

Firstly, to advance the study of architecture and kindred subjects of the art and sciences connected therewith.

Secondly, to improve the professional services to the public and to consider all questions affecting the practice of architecture in all its applications.

Thirdly, to organise and control the policy of architectural education and conduct all qualifying examinations and to take the necessary steps to establish the statutory registration of architects, and

Fourthly, to support, protect and maintain the status and interest of the architectural profession.

I think there will be no disagreement about the need to advance the study of architecture and kindred subjects in Ceylon. There has been an enormous increase in building activity in recent years both in the public and private sectors and our towns and cities are expanding rapidly. The time has come when we must seriously ask ourselves the question whether this new building development is satisfactory from an architectural point of view. Undoubtedly there are several examples of good building, but you will agree that most of this new development falls short of the standards that are desired for buildings in a progressive country.

The remedy lies in advancing the study of architecture so that those who are entrusted with the task of designing and constructing new buildings will have had a good training in the art and science of architecture. We can no longer remain complacent about this matter. Now that we have formed ourselves into a body representing the architectural profession of this country, it should be one of our first tasks to urge the authorities concerned to establish a School of Architecture in Ceylon.

It is gratifying to note that there is a strong body of opinion supporting the view that architectural training in this country should not be at a lower level than the University. I am in full agreement with this view and I strongly commend for earnest consideration by our Institute the proposal that a faculty of architecture be established in the University of Ceylon.

Our first task will be to convince the authorities concerned that employment facilities will be available to the architects graduating from the University. I do not think it will be difficult to show that both the Government Service and private practice can absorb many more architects than there are at present. The annual building programme in the Public Works Department alone, I am reliably informed, is well over 100 million rupees. Investment in buildings will increase as the country progresses with its economic and social development programmes and there is bound to be a continuing demand for trained architects.

Another of our objectives is to improve the professional services to the public. Let us



Mr. J. C. Nilgiriya
F.R.I.B.A., F.I.I.A., A.I.A.A.

examine the services that an architect is expected to provide. The Royal Institute of British Architects has laid down that architectural services shall normally include the following:-

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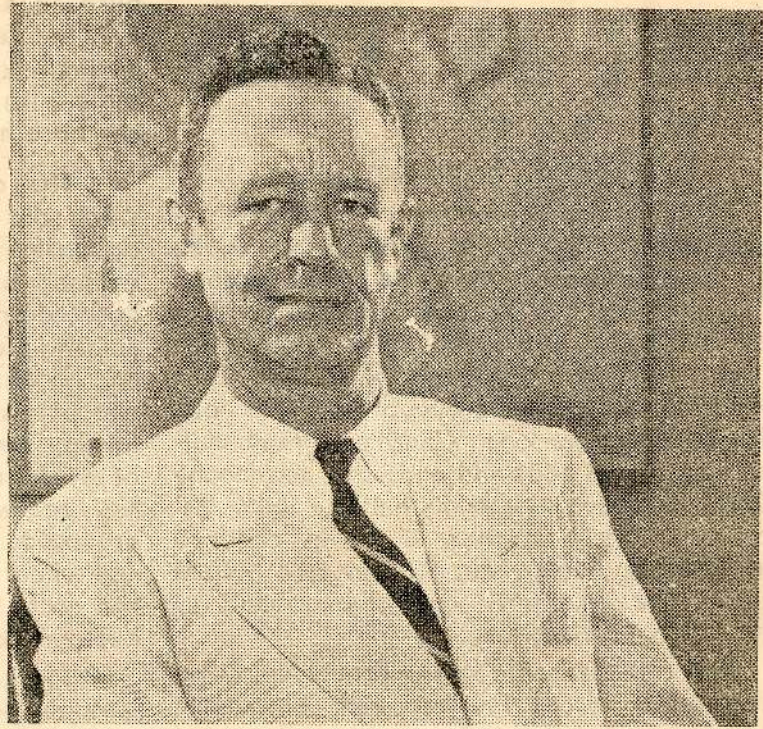
The Architect's Code of Ethics

I think it would be well for us to examine these services carefully and see how they would best be applied locally and how they could be made known to the public. In this connection I wish to bring to the notice of the Institute the importance of giving design its proper place in the services that we are called upon to render, there is unfortunately a tendency today for the scope of our services to be limited

by the nature of our market. It is true to some extent that the man who pays our fees can call the tune, but our influence should run beyond this. In our designing we bring together many crafts, skills and arts and through these we can and should influence the character of the design and construction of buildings. If we do not have such influence there would be no architectural progress.

I feel that these services should be considerably improved so as to dispel the opinion which is unfortunately still prevalent in this country, that the architect is equipped only to design buildings

While on this subject of professional services, I would wish to say a few words about the proper relationship between architect, client and contractor. In this country there is yet a considerable amount of ignorance about the position of the architect in the scheme of



Mr. Philip Crowe, till recently the U.S.A. Ambassador in Ceylon, who left us last December to take up a new assignment in Europe, according to the latest information, has been appointed Personal Assistant to Mr. Henry Dulles, U.S.A. Secretary of State.

building. The position of the architect is one of trust and confidence, and it is fundamental that he should act in absolute and entire faith throughout; he must have no pecuniary interest other than that arising out of his agreement with the owner and he is chosen because he is assumed to possess skill and ability; as a master of the arts he is to violate no canon, he should refuse to be associated with work of unsound character. As the architect is, in the first instance, the interpreter of the conditions of contract and the judge of its performance, he should side neither with the owner nor with the contractor, but should use his powers under the contract to enforce its faithful performance by both. I would ask every member of our Institute to ensure the strictest compliance with this code of practice."

JUST IN TIME

BY

MARCUS FOENANDER

SEATED in a bus bound for Wattala was the de Krins family. Mama de Krins with a nett weight of 3½ cwt. sported a velvet dress that had the colour of stale wine. Papa de Krins wearing a black suit which had seen many summers carried a pint of arrack in one of his capacious pockets. Children, grand-children and all the odds and ends that accompany children occupied practically half the bus. Bianca, the eldest, a mother of seven children was expecting her eighth. To describe her as the last rose of summer would be an insult to her prize fighter-husband

Into this bus came young Freewheel Silva, immaculately attired. He was well known in Sea Street and Vauxhall Street. He had mixed feelings for the passengers. Papa de Krins wasted no time and sent down a googly from the driving seat end — "How mister. Going for a sea bath and toddy?" Mama de Krins, and her daughters Carmenita, Bianca and Esmeralda followed and young Silva had no alternative but to make himself agreeable. Other passengers came in, and in a 40 passenger bus fifty had jam-packed themselves. The driver and conductor still at their tea and chew had to be sure of 60 passengers. In fact, their jobs depended on the amount they earned for the owner.

"Nice couple will make, no, our Esmeralda and the young man?" remarked wife to

husband, and her manoeuvring was so skiful that in a few minutes Esmeralda found herself sitting next to Silva. Esmeralda was a young thing with admirable hips and lips although her nose had taken a decision to spite her face.

The conductor came in at last. Tickets were sold and bought, and young Silva paid for the entire de Krins family taking good care to exempt himself. Papa de Krins made a half-hearted protest. The bus was so full that Esmeralda was forced to apportion half herself to Silva and he was delighted beyond all measure. This was like winning the first prize of the Hospital Sweep thought he. Papa de Krins put a couple of quick ones and passed the pint to his better half, and what came to Silva was half a dram. Esmeralda made hay while the sun was shining and when the bus reached Victoria Bridge she had made Silva consent to come home and have breakfast.

And it happened that the day was no without importance. It was the XXV Anniversary of Mr and Mrs de Krins, the christening of their seventh grand child, and the exchange of rings between Carmenita and Sonna Rainhart. Silva had taken a salary advance the previous day and to part with Rs. 15 for presents was a trifle.

When the bus stopped near the tavern the party alighted. Silva was the first to purchase a bottle of arrack, followed by Papa de Krins, his son in-law and son in law to be. With four bottles of arrack pork and sausage there was assured a good time, and the party trooped home. An hour later the contents of three bottles were consumed. The old couple had given the run of the front room

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opening into the hall to Esmeralda and Silva. Esmeralda had made such good progress that there was not the slightest doubt of another joyful bit of news being announced at the breakfast table.

But they reckoned without their host. Silva was, as a matter of fact, on his way to visit his elder brother Philip, a well to do fibre mill owner and respected resident of Wattala. When Freewheel failed to turn up Philip was naturally concerned. He got into his car and came to the junction where he learnt that his brother had arrived and was seen in the company of the Krins family. Without waiting for further news Philip drove like a demon to the de Krins home. He was just in time. When he saw his brother Freewheel about to take Esmeralda in his arms he exploded like a locally manufactured cracker. He caught Freewheel by the scruff of his neck and in spite of the youngster being without tie, coat and shoes bundled him into the car and drove off leaving Esmeralda to rush to the bosom of her family and cry her eyes and heart out.

The shock sobered Papa de Krins. He opened the fourth bottle and gulped down a quarter of its contents to summon sufficient courage to turn his disappointment on his wife and blame her for all that had taken place "Serve you right. Never trust a Cingalee fellow. How to have absorption as Dahanayake is saying when this things happen. Now must send for Willie and give our blessing and consent."

Poor Willie Pushanstart, who stayed a few hundred yards away was filling in an application form to be sent to the Australia High Commissioner. Two months back-Willie was cold-shouldered by Esmeralda when Bala Nagaratne came round in a brightly coloured sports car. Unaware of the Silva episode and thinking that Bala had done the dirty he rushed along when Papa de Krins sent for him, Esmeralda met him half way and threw herself into his inviting arms and begged to be forgiven, a thing she need not have done as Willie's love for her was Himalayan. Arm in arm, to the accompaniment of ribald shouts and laughter, they entered through the de Krins gate borne by the drunken crowd. There was rejoicing in the de Krins home and to Esmeralda it was all this and heaven too.

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ALIENATION OF COMMUNIST YOUTH

Why the Soviet Rulers are Worried

HUGH SETON-WATSON, Professor of Russian History in the University of London, suggests, in this analysis of the situation in the Soviet empire, that loyalty to the regime of the same forces that made the Hungarian revolution, is beginning to be undermined in Russia itself

IT HAS probably always been true that wherever revolutionary feeling is widespread it is strongest among the younger generation, and especially in its most educated section—university and high-school students. Certainly this has been true in the twentieth century in Eastern Europe and in Russia.

It is easier to understand this problem if we begin by looking at Russia before the Revolution. In the middle of the nineteenth century a small but growing minority of Russians had acquired a contemporary European education. They belonged to the Western culture of 1850. But the Russian people, the many millions of peasants and the hundreds of thousands of unskilled workers in the mines and in the new factories lived and thought very much as their ancestors had done for centuries past. They belonged to a Russian medieval world of their own. The educated minority or as the Russians called them, the intelligentsia were cut off from their own people. At the same time they were cut off from the state machine.

The bureaucrats, who ruled Russia on behalf of the Tsar were suspicious of modern education, and had no use for the ideas which it seemed to put into young heads. The intelligentsia then had no place in the apparatus of government. They had no influence on policy, no experience of power, no knowledge of how government really works. Thirdly, they were cut off from their parents. Of course, in all societies and at all times there are conflicts between generations. But in Russia it went deeper than this. The classical account of course is the famous novel by Turgenev—*Fathers and Sons*.

CONTINUING OBSESSION WITH REVOLUTION

Cut off from the Russian people, from the established political system, and from their own families, the young intellectuals of Russia were even more attracted by radical or revolutionary political ideas. This fascination, I might almost say this obsession, with revolution continued for the next sixty years, right up to 1917. But Russia is not the only country in

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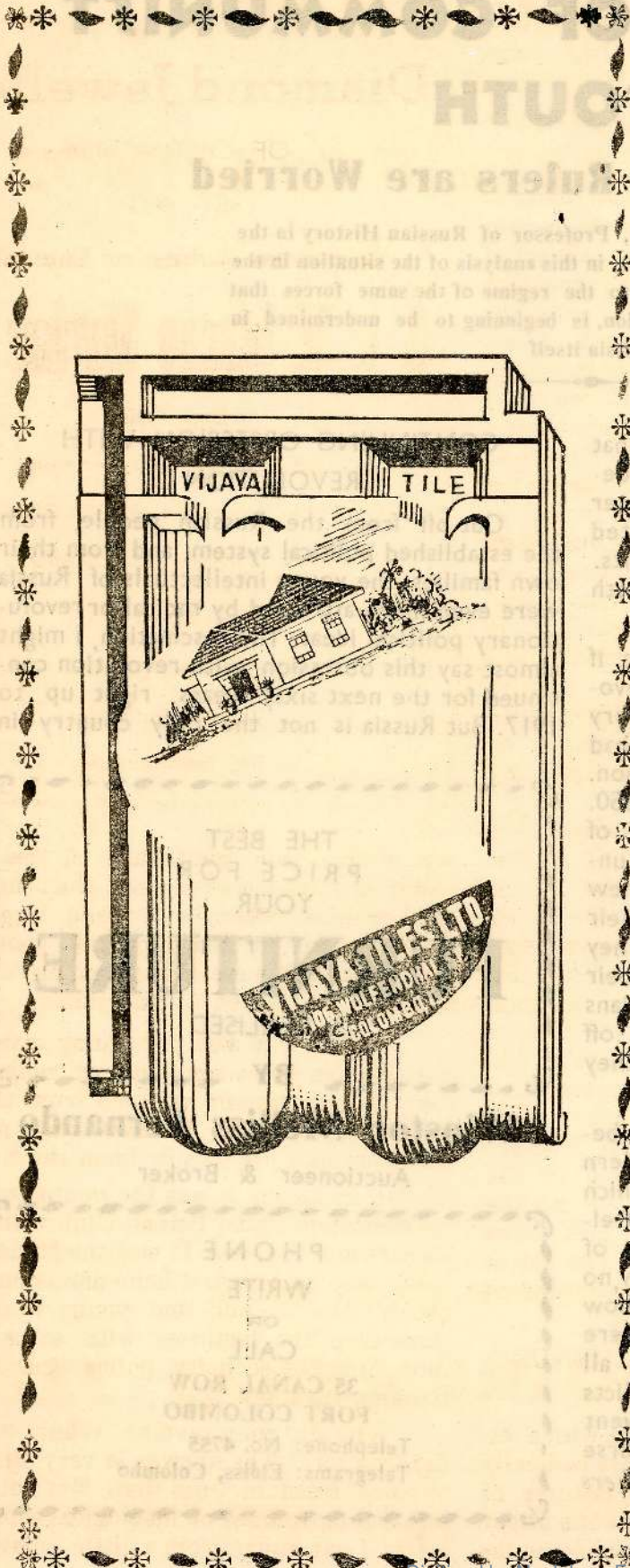
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which the intellectual youth was in this predicament. Something of the kind could be found in the same period in Spain, or Hungary, or Poland, or the Balkan States, or China. More recently it has appeared in India, Persia, and the Arab world.

Now Lenin and his Bolshevik colleagues, who seized power in Russia in November, 1917, were well aware of this problem. Many of them were themselves members of the disaffected revolutionary intelligentsia. They knew that it is dangerous for the educated class to remain alienated from society, that this creates a poison which threatens the whole body politic. They were determined to end the isolation. For a time they had to use the services of the intelligentsia that had been brought up under the old regime. But from the moment they seized power they set to work to create a new one, which should be closely linked with the masses, actively drawn into the process of government, and at one with its parents in a new Socialist outlook. The answer was to educate children of workers and peasants, and to make it difficult for children of the former upper and middle classes to get a higher education. The number of schools and of university students increased enormously.

Twenty years after the Revolution, Stalin's apt away in the Great Purge most members of the old intelligentsia who still held important posts in the state administration or in economic management. Their places were taken by the new generation, educated in the 1920's and early 1930's, many of whom rose to great power at a very early age.

When Communists were put in power by their Soviet masters in Eastern Europe after 1945 they followed the earlier Russian example. They, too, set to work to produce a new intelligentsia. Children of workers and peasants were given greater opportunities than ever before of rising to universities and technical colleges. Children of the former educated classes suffered discrimination. This was a much more serious cultural loss than in the case of Russia after 1917, because countries like Czechoslovakia and Poland and Hungary before the second world war had a fairly extensive education system, and millions of

well-educated people, and it was their children who were now being deliberately kept out of the universities.

THE RESURGENCE OF RUSSIAN YOUTH

But, of course, the purpose was political rather than educational. All children, whatever their social background, were subjected to Communist indoctrination from elementary school upwards, and were pressed into the Communist Party's youth movement. Those who reached the higher levels had heavy doses of what is curiously called the science of Marxism-Leninism. In 1956, after about ten years of frantic effort, if the East European Communist bosses judged results by mere numerical statistics of pupils from worker or peasant homes who had passed through their schools and listened to their ideological sermons, they could feel pleased with themselves. Not so today. It was precisely these indoctrinated sons of workers who in Poland brought Gomulka to power and are pushing him into drastic reforms of the whole system, and who in Hungary led the whole nation in a desperate war against the Soviet imperialists.

In Poland criticism began to appear in the press as early as the end of 1955. At the same time came the first protests of the Hungarian Writers' Association, which earned it a sharp rebuke from the Communist leaders. The milder policy announced at the Soviet Communist Party's Twentieth Congress in February, 1956, and Khrushchev's famous speech denouncing Stalin, gave a further impetus to liberalisation. So did the convenient death in Moscow of the Polish party boss Bierut, the pressure which Marshal Tito exerted in Moscow in favour of reform in the satellites, and the removal in July of the Hungarian party boss, Rakosi. But these events only made things easier for forces which were already active, and were indeed themselves a result of these forces.

POLISH REVOLUTION INFLUENCED YOUTH

Among the Polish newspapers which attacked even more bitterly and more radically the social injustices and economic failures of the regime the most outspoken was the paper of the youth, *Po Prostu*. And the photographs

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which have been published of the Poznan rising in June make it clear that the workers who revolted were very young, largely boys in their teens. In Hungary the writers who first protested were older men. But they were strongly influenced by the youth.

In Poland it was the young intellectuals who led the press campaign of radical criticism, and the young workers from the Zeran motor car works in Warsaw who protected Gomulka and his friends from the Stalinists.

In Hungary it was the young who filled the meetings of the Petoeffi Club which forced Rakosi out of power. It was the Budapest students who led the first demonstrations of October 23 and 24, and the young workers who came from the factories with arms to help them fight the security police and then the Russian invaders.

Why did they revolt? What were they fighting for? The answer is very simple and obvious: freedom. Just that. Not complicated social programmes or ideological subtleties. As far as I can judge from a little contact with

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Hungarians who have escaped and from following from a distance some of what has been published in Hungary, they are Socialists, and think as Socialists about the rights of working class. But they also know and have known, that what was offered on them by the Hungarian Communist bosses had nothing to do with Socialism. They knew and know perfectly well that it was a regime of cruelty, robbery, and lies, and that Hungary was a colony of a foreign power—Russia. They know that the Marxist Leninist lectures and speeches were nothing but a screen of long words to cover up exploitation, injustice, and colonialism. They remained Socialists, but their first demand was freedom.

POLITICAL OPPOSITION IN MOSCOW UNIVERSITY

Now I do not believe that the youth of Poland and Hungary are unique. For various reasons, Czechoslovakia and Eastern Germany and Rumania did not revolt. But in all three countries the students have been restive.

But perhaps the most interesting question of all is the effect on the youth of Russia itself. There have been scraps of evidence for some time of discontent among Soviet students, but recently there are much more circumstantial reports of political opposition in Moscow University, of refusal to listen to speakers putting the official view of events in Hungary. In Moscow factories, too it seems that there have been discussions about Hungary. In Hungary itself there is plenty of evidence of low morale among Soviet working class soldiers who had to shoot down workers in Budapest.

Students, workers, and Army: these are the three forces that made the Hungarian revolution. They are the three forces whose loyalty to the regime is beginning to be undermined in Russia.

SOVIET RULERS ARE WORRIED

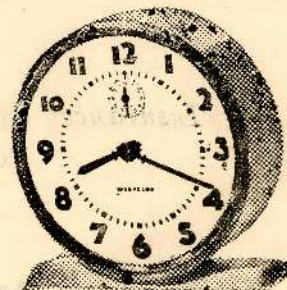
One point more: In the Soviet Union there is a great contrast between the opportunities open to the young today and those which the previous generation had. I mentioned earlier that the great purge of the late 1930's brought

young people to positions of great power. They are not so young now. Take the delegates to the last three Congresses of the Communist Party. These delegates may be roughly described as the 1,500 most important people in the party, which in the Soviet Union means the 1,500 most influential people in political life. At the Eighteenth Congress in 1939, just after the great purge which had swept away the old revolutionary *elite* and the old intelligentsia, fifty per cent of the delegates were under thirty-five. At the Nineteenth Congress in 1952 they were six per cent. Add this contrast in opportunities to the other causes of friction between the generations and of discontent with the regime. Then imagine the impact of the Hungarian revolution. Young Russians are not stupid, they do not lack courage, and they are much less uninformed about the world than we have supposed. A government that has alienated its youth is laying up trouble for itself. I think the Soviet rulers are right to be worried.

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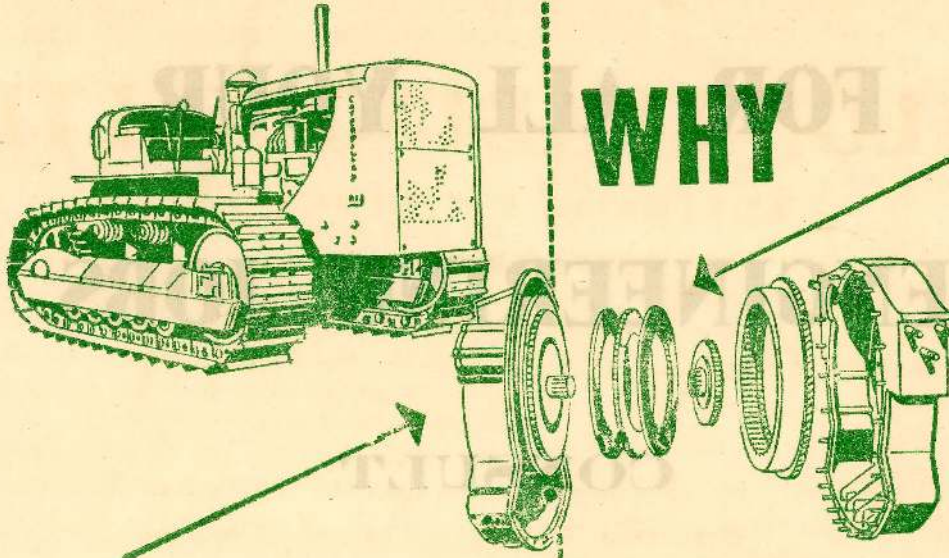
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—THE SPEAKER

The Scoundrel, the Rat, and the Top Hat

Mr. Suntharalingam (Vavuniya) said that there was one particular sentence in the Prime Minister's statement on the Bandaranaike—Chelvanayakam pact which should be underlined, read and digested. The statement was that the Prime Minister was prepared to have discussions with the Federal Party as long as it did not involve two vital principles — the setting up of a Federal Party and the infringement of Sinhalese as the only official language of the country.

He wished to know from the Federal Party whether that statement was correct

and if so whether they agreed to these conditions.

Reading further extracts of the Premier's statement Mr. Suntharalingam wished to know when the so called Bills to give effect to the assurances of the Prime Minister guaranteeing the fundamental rights of the minorities would be tabled in the House.

Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike: Very soon

Mr. Suntharalingam said that he was not concerned about the Prime Minister's top hat but only with the future of the country. "I want to know who lost the liberty of the Tamils."

Mr. A. Amirthalingam (Vaddukodai): You.

Mr. Suntharalingam: How and when?"

Mr. Amirthalingam: In 1947 by accepting a portfolio in the Senanayake Cabinet.

Mr. Suntharalingam: I plead guilty to that. By trusting Sinhalese leaders like the

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present Prime Minister I made an error of judgment.

Mr. Bandaranaike: No, no, you trusted others.

Mr. Suntharalingam: Where were you then?

Mr. Bandaranaike: I was just a cypher.

Mr. Suntharalingam: If you call the Leader of the House a cypher. I don't believe I made a mistake by trusting Mr. D. S. Senanayake. To the last day he did not say anything against the Tamils. Can the Prime Minister point out any passage in any of his speeches where he discriminated against the Tamils.

A LOW AND DESPICABLE MAN

Mr. Bandaranaike: Why not many times. Mr. D. S. Senanayake has slated you in no unmistakable terms.

Mr. Suntharalingam: From 1951 you have used every possible method to become the Prime Minister.

Mr. Bandaranaike: I used only the democratic method and in 1956 I was elected Prime Minister through the democratic vote.

Mr. Suntharalingam: I mean in 1951 when you resigned from the Government and came to the Opposition and asked our help to be Prime Minister.

"DAMN LOW SCOUNDREL"

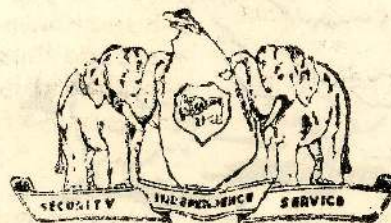
Mr. Bandaranaike: There is a limit to lunacy.

Mr. Suntharalingam: Yes you left the Government like a rat in 1951.

Mr. Bandaranaike: You damn low scoundrel. If you say that outside this House I will rub your dirty face in the dust. There is a limit to abuse of this nature, even from a low and despicable man of your nature who is not accepted by his own community. You have disgraced your community and now you make the most despicable charge against the Sinhalese and members of this House.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Prime Minister will get an opportunity of replying to the Member for Vavuniya. You must withdraw those words.

Mr. Bandaranaike: I will withdraw them if the Member for Vavuniya will withdraw the charges and words he used which I did not rise to object.



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Mr. Speaker: Both sides are to be blamed for bringing this debate to this low standard. The Member for Vavuniya can now continue with his speech.

Mr. Suntharalingam: As long as the words remain unwithdrawn, I will continue to make my charges. I reiterate that in 1951 the present Prime Minister left the Senanayake Cabinet like a rat, and tried every possible method to get the Prime Minister's top hat. Let our friends make no mistake. I know a good deal more than them.

BLOODY CUT THROAT AGREEMENT

Mr. Suntharalingam continuing said that he made a big mistake by trusting the Sinhalese but not the late Mr. D. S. Senanayake. He was true to his last word and till the end did not make any discrimination against the Tamils. He, however, could not say that of the present Prime Minister who had divided the country. Yet he claimed to have restored peace in the country by the "bloody cut-throat" agreement.

Mr. Speaker: Please withdraw those words.

Mr. Suntharalingam: Yes sir I will withdraw it. But I must repeat that the agreement was a betrayal of the Tamils.

Mr. Suntharalingam said that the latest information he had received with regard to the communalism practised by the present Government was that the Minister of Food had issued instructions that the next issue of rice ration books should be printed in Sinhalese only.

Mr. Philip Gunawardene: That is not correct. The books will be printed in Tamil also.

Mr. Suntharalingam speaking further said that according to the Prime Minister's statement all Tamil children would have to offer Sinhalese as a second language after some time.

Mr. Bandaranaike: Only if they wish to.

Mr. Suntharalingam: Why haven't you included those words in your statement?

Mr. W. Dahanayake: English is the compulsory second language from standard 3 upwards according to the law of the land.

Mr. Suntharalingam: I do not deny that. That was the law laid down by the last Government. Continuing he said that till the very end he would do everything possible to see that the Sinhala Only policy would cease and the diabolical agreement was not given effect to.

Claiming that 22 out of the 30 articles of fundamental human rights of the Universe had been violated by the present Government Mr. Suntharalingam went on to give instances in support of his contention.

'I do not claim to be a leader of the Tamils, but I think that there are a number of people in this country who respect my view. To them I say that February 4 1958 is a dark day and if you live in Ceylon after that day it is at your own risk. From that day every self-respecting Tamil should be ready to stand up and fight and be ready to lose their lives for Mother Lanka.'

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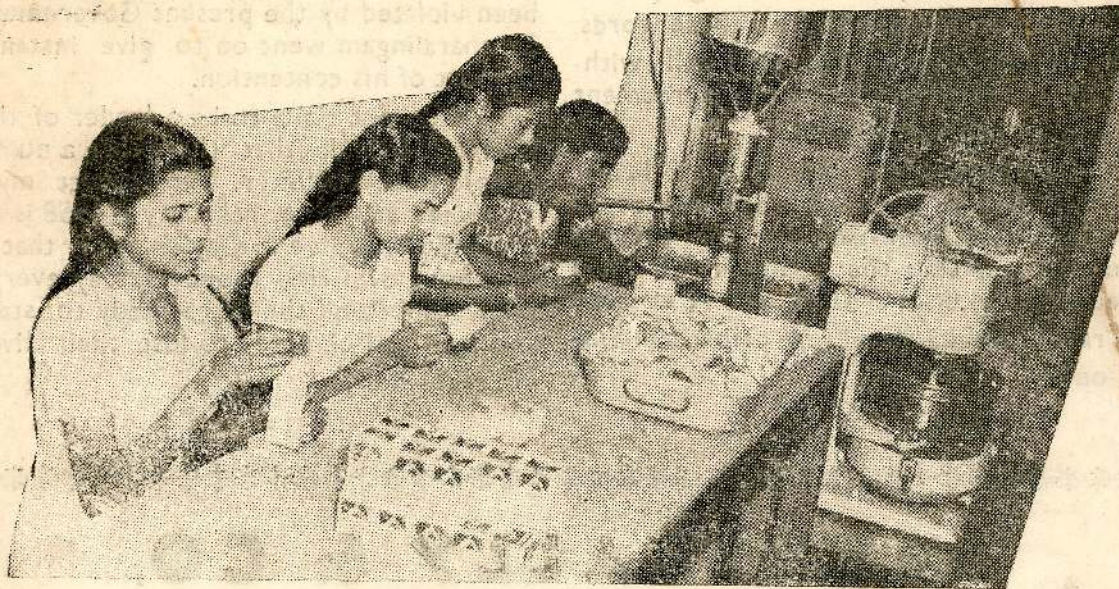
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