

The SEARCHLIGHT



36th YEAR OF ESTABLISHMENT

VOL 86 NO. 6

COLOMBO

15th April, 1967

Give Food Production Top Priority

BY MARMADUKE

THE P. M. says, and quite rightly too, that what worries him and his Government is the Increasing Population of Ceylon, increasing by the addition of 250,000 souls annually. This is a prospect that must necessarily cause alarm and anxiety. That is because Government finds it would be quite a difficult matter to feed the increasing population. And isn't that an obvious fact? Ceylon at present lives on what has been described as

"a ship to mouth existence." She does not produce the food that is needed and must have if she is to avoid being dependent on foreign rice. In these circumstances, Government is compelled to import rice from abroad. That means sending out nearly 500 million rupees annually from the country. Whether Ceylon can or cannot afford to do that without sapping per national financial strength is another matter.

(Continued on page 14)

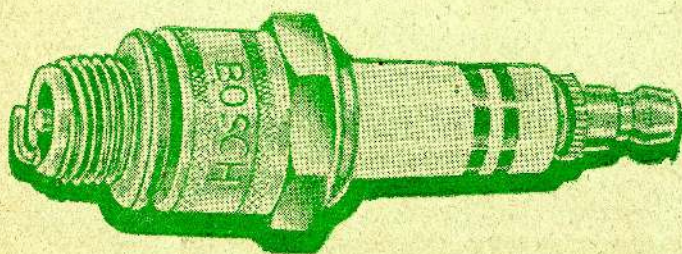


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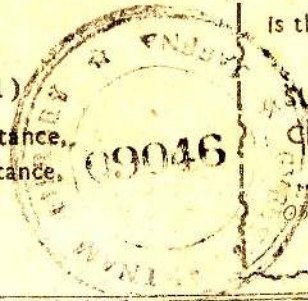
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Vol. 36 No. 6

COLOMBO

April 15th 1957

“Jack Pot” and Teenagers

A MENACE THAT MUST BE FORTHWITH DESTROYED

HOW long is the People's Government going to keep looking on and letting the youth of the country become gambling addicts-if they are not already that? Whoever invented and introduced the devilish contrivance known as the Jack Pot into Ceylon for encouraging the gambling craze both among adults and teenagers, deserves to be placed against a wall and given an ounce or two of solid lead!

The Jack-Pot is gripping the people of this country and the evil is spreading like a wild fire. The latest victims of the Jack-Pot are school going children. They are taking to it like ducks to water! For such is the hypnotic influence and the chimerical hopes held out by this engine of deception to those who are enticed by its snares.

So inviting is the Jack-Pot to the uninitiated school boys especially, that they invest their school fees and such money as are given them to buy school-books in the one hope of getting a 'big pull' and in the end going a cropper. The evil has taken such a hold of the student-mind that the boys even cut school to have a 'shy' or 'try' in this novel gambling device. The nuisance has grown out of all proportion. It has developed to be a danger to all and sundry. Every second or third rate restaurant or eating house in the metropolis is the rendezvous of "Jack-Potters" where this machine is installed. It continues to draw the glibble teenagers to indulge in the game with zest and with high expectations.

Sometime back, when the evil appeared on Ceylon's soil, the Police acting on the provi-

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sions of the law, conceded them under the Gambling or Lotteries Ordinance, felt compelled to raid all places where Jack-Pot gambling was carried on with impunity as they discovered that the public was being rooked and eventually sent away sadder but wiser men. Action by the Police soon produced a scare among the Jack-Pot conductors since the law disallowed such games of chance to be carried on. Immediately this happened, the addicts were forced to keep away and Jack-Pot owners feared their occupation was gone. Nevertheless these bandits—and they are that in whichever way one looks at their game—discovered a way to circumvent the trouble that was brewing. With their income, estimated at over Rs.400/- a day from this source only, dwindling they resolved to get over it. Influence, and unholy influence we are told, was brought to bear on those who had permitted the evil to grow and later sought to disallow it altogether. And the conductors succeeded in their attempt. Then ugly rumours were afloat that certain quarters had been approached and 'palm-oiled' to withhold any ban or restriction being placed on the importation or use of the Jack-Pot anywhere and under any circumstance. Thus placed those who had invested in these machines as well as the importers, asked Government for time to re-habilitate themselves against the loss that would result on their investment on these machines. The plea succeeded and out went the order, by whom and for what precise reason we cannot divine, that the contemplated ban of the importation and

use of Jack-Pot had been stayed for a time! Now how does the reader like that? Does not this reveal that something had gone wrong somewhere?

One even heard that heavy contributions to the UNP funds had done the trick. And lo and behold! Jack-Pot gambling was again allowed to go on as before. So much so those in the know tell us that there are now about 2000 Jack-Pots—quite double the number of pre-MEP days in operation today in the city and in the outstations. How were these machines allowed to be imported? Who imported them when a total embargo was under consideration? What explanation has Government to offer?

It is believed that these machines are being smuggled or got through the Customs as 'Ready Reckoner' for business purposes. Anyway it is all a mystery why these are allowed to be imported and used to swindle the public. It is the bounded duty of the MEP Government, the so-called People's Government, unless it tacitly consents to follow the UNP way by allowing the scandal to go unchecked, to stop the importation and use of these Jack-Pots forthwith. The interests of the country, especially of the youth, demands that Government should put its foot down firmly and make it a criminal offence to instal a Jack Pot in any restaurant or eating house or anywhere else in Ceylon. Let us wait and see what the reaction of Government is to this article. We shall have more to say in a subsequent issue.



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After eight years, India still defies Security Council appeals for a plebiscite in the disputed territory

NEHRU, THE UN AND KASHMIR

Passage of a resolution to send the president of the UN Security Council on a mission to India and Pakistan has again highlighted the dispute over Kashmir. Josef Korbel is former chairman of the UN Commission for India and Pakistan and author of "Danger in Kashmir." He is professor of International Relations at the University of Denver.

THE Kashmir conflict is back before the United Nations Security Council. The issue is familiar, the arguments old. But the current debate has added a new dimension to the dispute. It has not only thrown new light on India's policy as a UN member, but has raised the fundamental question of whether or not an agreement sponsored by the United Nations imposes obligations on its signatories.

Eight years ago India and Pakistan accepted two UN resolutions dealing with a ceasefire in Kashmir, conditions for a truce and a plebiscite to decide which of the two countries Kashmir should accede to. The second and third parts of this agreement were never implemented. After four years of trial and frustration, the Security Council suspended deliberations in the hope that India and Pakistan would solve the problem through bilateral negotiations. Shortly after, in the summer of 1953, the two Prime Ministers issued a joint communique promising to conduct a UN supervised plebiscite.

This pledge, however, was followed by renewed stalemate. Then, last November, the Constituent Assembly of the Indian controlled part of Kashmir put the final seal on formal acces-

sion to India. This move led Pakistan to raise the issue again in the Security Council.

The Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Malik Firoz Khan Noon, accused India of violating an international agreement. He asked the Security Council to call on the contending parties to withdraw all troops from Kashmir, reduce or disband all troops from Kashmir, reduce or disband all local forces, and fix an early date for appointment of a UN Plebiscite Administrator. He also proposed



NEHRU: POSITION MORTGAGED?

that a UN force be sent to the area at once.

Indian Prime Minister Nehru promptly replied that his country would not tolerate the stationing of foreign troops on "its soil" and repudiated the whole idea of a plebiscite. Pakistan, he contended, by accepting military assistance from the United States, has altered the entire situation, so that the earlier agreement was no longer valid.

This new Indian stand raises issues which far transcend the problem of Kashmir. For if a nation which has accepted a UN commitment can blithely assert that "circumstances have changed" and the commitment is no longer binding, then the

effectiveness of the UN has been dealt a staggering blow.

V. K. Krishna Menon delivered a speech of record length before the Security Council, extending over three sessions, in an effort to defend India's position. Kashmir's accession to India, he declared, was perfectly valid and final. The people of Kashmir had been promised an opportunity to express their desires, and they had done so in the elections of October 1951. That ended India's obligations in the matter. True, by accepting a UN resolution and issuing a joint communique with Pakistan she had agreed to a plebiscite, but it was not expressed in a binding treaty. In any case, changed conditions since then had made the agreement obsolete, and the merger of Kashmir with India could not be revoked because the Indian Constitution does not recognize the right of secession. Finally, Pakistan was an aggressor in Kashmir and had failed to comply with UN resolutions, which she had accepted, directing her to withdraw her forces from Kashmir.

This complex legal brief would be of no concern to the outside world if it involved merely an internal affair between India and Kashmir. Such is not the case however. The Security Council has recommended, and India has agreed, that a free, impartial plebiscite should decide the fate of Kashmir. The UN Commission for

India and Pakistan has adopted a similar resolution, which India also accepted.

When India now declares that this does not constitute a commitment on her part she is taking a grave step. Should the principle become commonly accepted that only an agreement which has undergone legislative ratification is to be respected by UN members, the value of the world organization's resolutions would be reduced to almost nothing. These resolutions represent, at the very least, a moral obligation. In view of her many past statements, India is the last country that should stand on strict legality when it does not conform to principles of morality.

As for Krishna Menon's argument that conditions in Kashmir have changed in the

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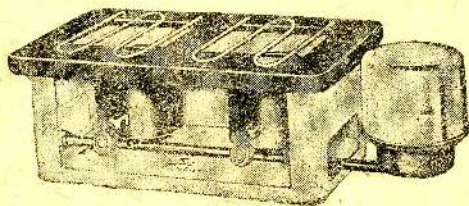


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Economics of the Future



MOST countries throughout the world have for the last ten years been living through a period of rapid economic growth. This is a great change from the state of affairs in the 1930's which gave some justification to those people, in different countries, who began to believe that the world's era of economic growth was over, and that economic stagnation would be the rule of the future.

Although considerable poverty and unemployment still exist, public opinion in most countries has now come to take economic growth for granted. Indeed the ordinary citizen is entitled to expect that those who control the economic policy of his country, with all the wealth and technical resources which they have at their disposal, will be able to maintain economic growth, and he is fully justified in criticising them if they do not.

The rate of which productivity can be improved is however limited. If we measure productivity by the quantity of goods and services produced, per man hour of labor performed, we find, for instance, in the U.S.A. that this has been growing ever since the 19th century, at a steady rate of about $2\frac{1}{4}$ % per year. Most other industrial countries show similar figures. It is rare for the figure for rate of growth to go as high as 3 per cent. per year, and above that only occur under exceptional circumstances. In Soviet Russia productivity is growing but at lesser rate than in many of the western industrial countries. Japan has now had a high economic growth rate for more than half a century. India, after a long period of comparative stagnation, is now also developing a high growth rate. Prospects of economic growth are as inviting for Asian countries as for European.

It was, however, a leading American statistician, Professor Kuznetz, who pointed out that the world's economic growth had been very uneven. In the middle of the 19th century, the world was much poorer than it is now, but the discrepancies between the poor and the wealthy countries were probably less than they are now.

These discrepancies will eventually be removed, but inevitably they will persist for a long time. The process of poorer communities catching up with richer is one of which we can watch an example, for instance, in the southern states in the U.S.A., where the rate of growth of real income per head is now much higher than in the northern states, and the economic differences between are therefore quickly disappearing.

INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY

It remains, however, to state the elementary but sometimes forgotten truth that it is only through increasing productivity that the world in general, and the poorer nations in particular, can be enriched. People sometimes speak of one country enriching itself at the expense of others. While a number of such cases of economic injustice have occurred, the amount of wealth obtained by one country from exploitation of investments in another, or from any particular advantages which it has obtained for itself in the of supply of raw materials, of

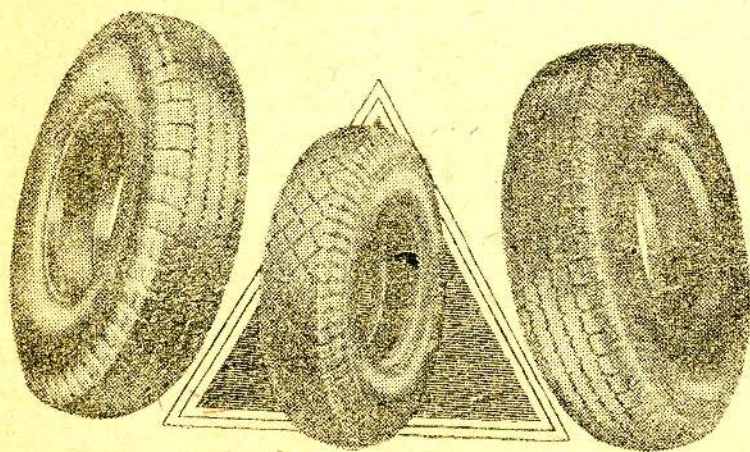
market or of capital is always found on examination to be trivial compared with the wealth obtained from its own productivity. The complete removal from the world of all such injustices between countries as still remain would now make very little difference to the comparative wealth of countries, and great increases in productivity would still be called for.

One of the principal obstacles to the growth of productivity has been the false concept of economics disseminated by Marxians, who teach that when everything is private ownership of the means of production, labor cannot secure any advantage from increasing productivity and that labor's share in the product must

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always be falling. This theory is so flatly contradicted by all the facts that those who propagate it must either be very ignorant men, or unfortunately, in a few cases, well-informed men who are deliberately setting out to pervert the truth. In the industrial countries of North America and Western Europe the share of labor in the national product has been increasing, and labor receives between 70 and 80 per cent.

ACCELERATION NECESSARY

Some people, however, may still be impatient at the comparatively slow rate at which productivity can advance even in the developed countries. They may ask whether we should not expect a great acceleration in the future, in view of the use of automatically controlled machinery, and of the greater rate of scientific and technical discovery.

What really matters for this purpose, however is not the rate at which scientific and technical discoveries are made, but the rate at which men can use them. This, in turn, depends upon the rate at which we can build up the necessary economic organization and train men to perform new tasks. There are limits to the rate at which we can do these things, dependent upon our human material, however fast the scientists and technicians provide us with new knowledge. Education will probably prove to be, in the long run, the most important of all factors in economic progress.

To sum up, therefore, I think that some increase in the rate of economic growth may be possible in a number of countries, but that it cannot be spectacular; and that the poorer countries, one by one, will do what India is doing now, and increase their productivity at a pace which will eventually enable them to catch up with the wealthier countries. But that process will take a long time.

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These deadly Directives of the Minister of Education

MOST of our recent newspaper headlines contain veiled, but cruel shocks for many of us. Of these the most penetrating have been the three directives issuing from our popular Minister of Education. In summary form they read as follows:-

- (1) That Government should take over schools that show signs of inefficiency or non-compliance with departmental regulations.
- (2) That students should not be penalised for non-payment of Facilities Fees.
- (3) That the Education Code be amended to make all teachers in Assisted Schools Government Employees.

On closer examination we find that these directives are not mere threats, but serious and deliberate attempts to send the assisted schools out of existence.

Many of us would always welcome government assistance in any sphere of

activity, provided such assistance is generally to our benefit or for the common good. But when such assistance is going to defeat our purpose in life or paralyse the good of society, we are forced to view the same with grave concern and disgust.

It is common knowledge that our Assisted Schools have produced illuminating results which many of us cherish to this day. The education imparted in these schools had always made the grade and had stood the tests of time. Such achievements were largely due to that rare type of teacher, zealous and devoted, whose services cannot be bought for money. They had dedicated their lives for the cause of Youth and the instruction of the



Mr. J. A. de Andrade

ignorant. Their success had been founded on experience, integrity and selfless service. It is this tried, proved and much approved system of Education that our Peoples's government is trying to hinder or perhaps demolish.

It is a crying shame that the Government should resort to such unreasonable tactics, when in point of fact the assisted schools do not cost the government a single cent by way of capital expenditure. They are ready made schools. On the contrary they are a large saving to government.

We must admit that there are cases of bad administration by individual managers. Such individuals should be weeded out and such schools brought within the care of able managers. It would be definitely unjust to attempt to uproot an entire sound system of education because of a few isolated lapses.

No less grave is Government's unwarranted interference regarding the collection of Facilities Fees. If a penalty for non-payment is withdrawn such action merely amounts to an unqualified approval to default in payment. Then the Facilities Fee will be a pure nonentity. Then school games, sports, recreation, libraries and other necessary activities, that form a more important part in a sound education than the mere cramming of text books, will have to be done away with or the management will have to enlist the support of well-wishers and benefactors of the school for means to provide these facilities.

The master stroke, however, is the eagerness of Government to absorb the teachers in assisted schools into its service. Here again Government seem to show scant regard to principle. Most teachers in assisted schools have taken to teaching as a vocation—their life job. They are subservient to an authority, yet free and independent. It is this freedom, which they so much value that Government now proposes to deny them. Then what of the parents? Have not the parents a just right to give their children an education to their liking, well-poised on a sound religious background?

There is a marked feeling of messiness in the field of Education today—almost a premonition of some impending harm. Why should this be so? Have not our Assisted Schools in the past produced good and loyal citizens? Have they not produced our best Lawyers, Doctors and even our Politicians, and have not many of them been acclaimed the world over as men of high standing and repute? Even among those

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revered men who fought and won our independence were there not many who would claim an Assisted School as the seat of their learning? These assisted schools have done well. Let us help them to do better and not cripple them. Let them live.

Such are the feelings of many of us but there is always the fear that these moves are so designed as to seriously limit the freedom of the Individual. To be more precise they are very serious violations of the rudiments of democracy in a highly reputed democratic country. Or rather are not these contemplated moves definite indications of swerving towards Hitlerism or absolute totalitarianism.

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Restoration And Repair of Tanks

THE announcement that the Minister for Land and Land Development has prepared Draft Estimates totalling nearly 50 Million Rupees for restoration and repair of tanks during the next financial year, is indeed welcome news. Those engaged in the paddy industry who felt themselves hindered from carrying on intensive cultivation especially will be glad to hear that Government is going to see to it that restoration of abandoned tanks and repairs to such tanks that do not function properly or are have been neglected are taken on hand seriously from October of the current year.

Although the past and the present Government indulged in great talk about making Ceylon self-supporting in regard to her staple food, we regret to state that no progress worthy of any mention is noticeable. Unless and until Government is in a position to assure the cultivators of well-regulated irrigation facilities, when and where required, anything approaching self sufficiency would be a forlorn hope. During the last thirty or forty years, Government's policy in regard to the restoration of tanks, or for a matter of that tank repairs, has neither been rigid or consistent. Money for the purpose had been voted no doubt, but how it was all spent is another matter and consequently paddy cultivators have found themselves discouraged and left to languish in complete frustration or carry on as best they could trusting to seasonal rains which after all was of no great benefit.

While referring to the matter of irrigation generally, we have on several occasions impressed on Government the desirability of restoring the old Makandura Tank, in Gonawila in the N.W.P. which functioned excellently about a score or two years ago and provided irrigation to quite a large number of high yielding paddy lands in the villages of the neighbourhood. But with the increasing avarice of local land-grabbers and encroachers resulted in the usefulness of this tank being curtailed as the channel through which water from the Maha Oya flowed into the tank-bed got silted or was allowed to get into a state of desuetude. If the Ratamahatmayadom of those days were men of patriotism or vision and realized the gravity

of the deprivations committed by land-grabbers the Makandura Tank would today have been functioning as of yore.

With the advent of the present Government Agent, Mr. A. O. Weerasinghe, to whom the paddy cultivators in the neighbourhood of the tank had appealed to grant redress what was in fact a public grievance, Mr. Weerasinghe we are told paid several visits to the area to investigate the matter and satisfy himself that the villagers had made out a good case for the immediate restoration of abandoned Makandura tank. It is believed that the Government Agent had viewed the matter sympathetically and submitted a report recommending that the tank should be restored. What the Government's reaction to his recommendation is we are unable to say. From what we know Makandura may be on the list of tanks earmarked for restoration. All that needs be done, according to the view of those who stand to benefit by the restoration, is to open a channel—a not too costly matter or difficult undertaking—and let the waters of the Maha Oya feed Mahakandura as was the case before it went out of use. If a fraction of the 50 Million the Minister for Lands and Land Development has earmarked was spent

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on restoration of Mahakandura, a work that is bound to yield a tremendous return within a short time of the tank being made useable, the Government will not only be giving paddy cultivation in the Gonawila-Pannala area a fillip to help increase the island's food supply but help to improve their economy. We sincerely trust that Mr. Weerasinghe will leave no stone unturned to see that the recommendation he has made to Government meets with success.

Letters to the Editor

"Unemployment a Minor Matter?"

THE P.M. says "Unemployment is a minor matter. I can solve the unemployment problem with one large scheme." He further said, "What worries me is the problem of increasing population which is increasing annually by the addition of 2,50,000 souls to the population of the country."

Increasing population is a lesser evil than perpetually increasing unemployment. What is the MEP Government doing to open new avenues to provide employment for the thousands and thousands of students our schools, colleges and universities are letting out every year? The position is this. Government is neither encouraging nor helping to start new industries in Ceylon. Nor does it afford facilities for foreign capitalists to come here and start industries. The taking over of the Bases from the British Government, is bound to aggravate the unemployment problem. Only one third of the

country is developed and the rest is still in jungle. Is it any wonder then that people have no other avenues of employment than in the tea, rubber and coconut industries?

Why should not the Government face the matter boldly and let foreign capital come in to develop the country and start industries. That surely will help. Else within the next two, three or five years, Ceylon will be a Communist stronghold. How would Mr. Bandaranaike like that?

Colombo. 7

A SIP OF VODKA

Giving Ceylon a Bad Name

WHAT is the Ceylon Government and the Ceylon Merchants Chamber, or the new Chamber of Commerce of Ceylon doing to prevent Ceylon getting a bad name among Merchants and Manufacturers abroad whom a certain type of Ceylonese Exporters of local produce, are systematically cheating, deceiving or duping, call it by whatever term you will, by shipping commodities not up to samples submitted and on which business had been secured? Ceylonisation of Trade is an excellent slogan. But what kind of commercial morality do we pursue in this new Ceylonisation of Trade & Commerce? I leave the question open.

Fort

A CREDIT-WALLAH

II

THE U.S.A. has stopped buying Ceylon Papain—an excellent export business built up for this country by the Theobald Brothers of Kegalle. The USA has definitely ruled that no Ceylon Papain will be

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bought because there had been, for sometime now, all sorts of deleterious substances introduced to mix with the Papain exported and which had been found to be useless for the manufacture of drugs. U.S.A. until recently was a large buyer of Ceylon Papain. In consequence of USA not buying Ceylon Papain thousands of people who produced the article in the Kegalle district are now looking up as the foreign market is dead for Ceylon Papain.

Polgahawela

PEPSIN

III

THE other day Government announced that complaints had been received from Red China that Rubber shipped from Ceylon, under the Rubber-Rice Agreement, contained inferior rubber and not of the standard grade agreed upon. It is believed that the shippers of this stuff are Ceylonese. Why should not the Government cancel the licenses of such shippers for violating their contracts?

Fort

MUMS THE WORD

Indian Citizenship

MR S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, after he crossed the floor of the House, speaking on the Indian Problem in parliament said "HE WOULD DIE HAPPY WHEN THE LAST INDIAN LEFT CEYLON," so insistent was he that the Indians were a menace to the people of this country and should, therefore, be asked to quit.

Mr. Bandaranaike is now the head of the M. E. P. Government. Eight lakhs of Indians are still sticking out and would not leave. Why is the M. E. P. Government so slow, so very slow, in finalising this matter by letting those Indians who have a claim to Ceylon citizenship remain here and ask the rest to push off?

Gampola

A. Kandyan

The Talk of Nationalisation

DURING the last ten years, we have heard much talk that Ceylon should be for the Ceylonese. We know that 70 per cent of the local trade is in Indian hands, and the largest land-owners in Colombo are Indians.

Now comes the Land Commission's Report recommending that Indians should be allowed to acquire land in Ceylon and crown land should be given to Indians. All this when the urge is for nationalisation or "Ceylon for the Ceylonese." Isn't it somewhat strange that Sir Arthur Wijeyawardene should recommend to Government to let Indian acquire land, retain what they hold, and even that they be given free land for development?

If Sir Arthur's recommendation is accepted, within the next ten years Ceylon will know all about it.

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Here are some of the highlights:

POPULATION

Population of the earth totalled an estimated 2,691 million in mid-1955 as compared with 2,246 million in 1940.

The world's industrial production in 1955 was ten percent higher than in 1954 and nearly double that of the prewar peak year of 1937. More coal, petroleum, electric energy and manufactured goods were produced ever before in history, and the volume of world trade reached a new all-time high. Extraordinary percentage increases in manufacturing output were recorded by many industrially developing countries and territories.

MORTALITY

Infant mortality rates continued their marked fall and life expectancy was greater than ever.

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Soviet Freezes Repayment on Bonds Sold to Workers

SOVIENT workers who have been required to finance the government by purchasing state bonds have now been told the bonds will not be repayed for 20 to 25 years.

In addition, the Moscow regime has decided not to pay interest on the huge obligation of 260,000 million rubles (\$65,000 million at the official exchange rate of \$26,000 million at the free market rate)

Soviet citizens for years have been obligated to buy annually state loan certificates worth from two weeks to two months of their wages. Some of these who had looked forward to the stipulated income from the bonds will now have to change their plans

Older Russians will not see their compulsory savings refunded during their lifetime.

All this was made known to the Soviet public by the Soviet Press and Radio Wednesday. The decision was announced by Communist Party Chief Nikita Khrushchev at the industrial city of Gorky.

Khrushchev, in revealing that Russians won't get their money back for at least 20 years told the workers that people in the non-communist world 'will never believe you are doing this of your own free will.'

Cement Control to go

GOVERNMENT has decided to lift the control on the price of cement imposed in November last year following the Suez crisis. A senior spokesman of the Ministry of Commerce and Trade said the official announcement would be gazetted shortly says the "Ceylon Daily News" of the 17th April 1957.

"The controlled price was fixed at Rs. 11 75 a bag, but with the arrival of stocks at fairly regular intervals and even the creation of a surplus in the market, the trade was selling below the controlled rate.

Towards the middle of February the supply position was considered by the trade, to be satisfactory with regular shipments from Japan."

The truth of the matter is this. There never was a scarcity of cement. At the time the Control came there were over 7000 tons in the godowns of two local cement importers. 'The Searchlight' made this clear.

The Control was established owing to rumours put into circulation by the cement trade using the Suez crisis as a blind. Government was entirely misled in the matter. The result was that certain importers pocketed over six lakhs of rupees within four months' trading.

Nationalisation vs Political Economy

THE country's is passing from denationalization to a sort of reactionary nationalization.

A country's economy is built on the three pillars in its agriculture, industries and trade. These three factors should move on a balancing lever in order to ensure economic stability. Instead of harping on nationalization it would be more advisable for advocates of nationalization to concentrate on manufacturing secondary products from the raw material available in the country.

It was pointed out by an expert scientist who visited our country not very long ago that brandy, whisky, gin, etc. could be manufactured from a variety of raw material, the

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coconut palm included, by throwing open the portals of scientific research to that end. Huge sums of money paid out on shipments of foreign liquor could well be saved if the same products were made available locally. But then the fanatics of temperance can only see the shadow and not the substance.

In regard to trade, the fact that our commodities have to meet open competition in the foreign markets from countries producing the same commodities was easily ignored by the U.N.P. Government in its craving for more and more revenue from increased duties even to the point of killing the proverbial goose. Ceylon is today on the horns of a dilemma driven thither by absolute indiscretion. It is a recognised fact that increased duties bring down the revenue in an inverse ratio unless the trade equilibrium is adjusted on a competitive basis.

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Give Food Production Top Priority

(Continued from cover page)

With the opening of schools in villages and towns which do not necessarily impart an education with anything like an agricultural bias or background to village youth, paddy cultivation is bound to suffer a certain amount of neglect. As the education imparted to the average village boy or girl is such as to make the embryo farmer in course of time to look to other avenues of employment rather than going back to the plough, to sow, reap and harvest the golden grain as was done by his or her parents and their forbears.

Today Ceylon has more schools and school going population than she had in 1900. Stat-

istics prove this to the hilt. If a balance sheet is prepared, it would show that Ceylon imports more food than what she produced herself. The increasing population is also a contributory cause for Ceylon's present dependence and want. Furthermore investigations would reveal that the importation of Flour has begun to show a remarkable rise. And be it noted that in every village throughout the country one

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EXPERT Certainly, anything you like.

CITIZEN Well, you are an expert brewer. You ought to know what beer is made of any 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 by gone 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.

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finds a bakery or two carrying on a flourishing business in the baking of bread and etc. Taking an all in all view of the matter in so far as seeing to the production of more paddy, it must be apparent to anybody that paddy cultivation has not made any headway. As for the pious hope that is entertained of Ceylon attaining the stage of self-sufficiency that seems somewhat remote. The Gal Oya multi-purpose scheme has so far done no good in helping to intensify paddy production. It is even problematical whether Mr Philph Goonewardene's Paddy Bill will do it either. If the colossal sums of money spent on the Gal Oya Scheme had been judiciously expended on the work of restoring tanks it stands to reason that Ceylon would be producing more paddy today. These are hard facts. So to cut a long story short. What then must Government do? Here is a commonsense answer and a way out of the difficulty.

Unless Government abandons its present policy in regard to paddy cultivation and formulates an entirely new and practical policy under which the cultivator class would be placed more favourably and left untrammelled and unworried by lack of irrigation and other facilities and paddy cultivation is given the highest priority with no legal or economic impediments, and lastly with no official interference with the

cultivators at all, the hope of Ceylon producing more food than what is actually happening now things will not brighten. The increase price paid for paddy by Government under the Paddy Purchase Scheme can hardly be said to have stimulated the cultivator to greater effort. For the cultivator realises that the person who benefits by his labour and energy is the paddy purchaser or middle man and not himself. Thus the whole thing goes on in a vicious circle. The urge of the cultivator is and has always been to secure sufficient for himself, his household or his immediate circle of relations to live on. Beyond that he is not concerned. Increased population does not worry him a bit.

Looking at the matter critically therefore the Government's drive to see more paddy produced and that the country is made self-contained in regard to her staple food, to secure which object enormous sums of money running into thousands and millions of rupees have been expended, the unmistakable conclusion one reaches is that the attempt has not been successful.

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Nehru, the UN and Kashmir

(Continued from page 4)

past eight years, it is true that important social, economic and educational reforms have been carried out and military positions consolidated in both the Indian and Pakistani controlled areas. India has used these eight years to complete the integration of her section with India. In all fairness, however, this should not work to the disadvantage of Pakistan, which has not been responsible for the long delay.

The argument that Kashmir's accession cannot constitutionally be revoked is equally invalid. For with each political step leading to accession—in October 1950, October 1951 and July 1952—Prime Minister Nehru has

stated flatly that India's international commitment regarding a plebiscite was in no way affected.

Finally, there is the question of Pakistani aggression. By her own admission, Pakistan sent her army into Kashmir in May 1948, and in the fall of that year she armed and helped transport tribesmen on their way to invade the province. The UN Commission criticized these actions in its resolution. Such being the case, one wonders why India did

not bring charges of an "act of aggression" under Chapter VII of the UN Charter. The fact is however, that she did not; and, by accepting the various UN resolutions, she agreed to the situation as it existed at the time of the ceasefire of January 1, 1949.

In its long years of deliberations on Kashmir, 22 different nations have held the UN Security Council's non-permanent seats. Except for the Ukraine, Byelorussia and Yugoslavia, all of them—together with the United States, Great Britain, France and China, four of the five permanent members—have consistently upheld the Council's resolutions on Kashmir and the recommendations of its Commission and its Mediator, Dr. Frank P. Graham. It is doubtful that a single country in the non-communist world would identify itself with the Indian position.

Only the Soviet Union and Communist China seem eager to support it. Nikita S. Khrushchev declared in Srinagar the capital of Kashmir on December 9, 1955: "The question of Kashmir as one of the states of the Republic of India has already been decided by the people of Kashmir." Last month while visiting Ceylon Chou En-lai took a similar stand. By supporting India on Kashmir, Russia and China have in effect mortgaged Nehru's independent position in world affairs. India's ambiguous stand during the UN debates on Hungary may

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well represent the fruits of this Moscow-Peking policy.

What will be the final solution in Kashmir? No one can say with any certainty. India now categorically rejects a plebiscite, while Pakistan insists on it and the United Nations is committed to it by several resolutions.

There seems no prospect of progress in the Security Council, where the Soviet Union has a veto. It therefore seems time to transfer the issue to the General Assembly. An Assembly resolution calling on India and Pakistan to implement the previous resolutions would in all likelihood be carried overwhelmingly. Such a resolution would unquestionably be rejected by India, but it would have the virtue of placing the opinion of some 70 nations in the record.

Even the uncompromising position taken by Krishna Menon may offer a slim hope of an ultimate solution. According to the Indian delegate, Pakistan prevented implementation of the section of the U N Commission resolution

dealing with a plebiscite by refusing to carry out the other part recommending demilitarization of Kashmir. This is not true: Pakistan was not expected to withdraw her forces from Kashmir as long as there was no agreed-upon plan for simultaneous Indian withdrawal, and India has retracted her approval of the UN Mediator's demilitarization proposal.

Nevertheless Krishna Menon's stress on demilitarization may hold the key to a settlement in Kashmir. Nehru has barred the sending of a UN force to Kashmir, but there is nothing he can do to prevent Pakistan from admitting UN troops to the area it occupies. Should this be accompanied by a Pakistani withdrawal, India would find it exceedingly difficult to continue refusing to remove her own troops on security grounds. And, once the military aspects of the problem

had been solved, what would stand in the way of holding the long deferred plebiscite?

More is at stake in Kashmir than the fate of a remote Asian province. On the UN's handling of this question may depend much of its future moral and political authority.

—The New Leader

U.S. COUNSELS PRUDENCE IN JORDANIAN SITUATION

THE United States has urged Middle Eastern governments to exercise "caution and prudence" in regard to the tense Jordanian situation, the State Department said today.

Department spokesman Lincoln White told newsmen that U.S. envoys in the region are in "daily contact" with the governments there and are making the U.S. position on the crisis in Jordan "abundantly clear". This position, White recalled, was publicly stated by President Eisenhower on Wednesday when he described the independence and integrity of Jordan as "vital".

In reply to a question, White said the "daily contacts" U.S. diplomats communications to the government of Egypt, Syria and Israel. However, he indicated that the U.S. envoys' contacts were not exclusively confined to the Middle East. He declined comment when asked whether the Soviet union was also being informed of the U.S. position.

Answering another question at his news conference, the spokesman said the Jordanian situation "is perhaps a little better" now than it was 24 hours ago.

He denied reports that U.S. citizens have been evacuated from Jordan and particularly from the Jordan sector of Jerusalem. "These reports are without foundation.



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Why are the Masses in Poverty?

THE comment, "we live to learn" is an often uttered one, Yes, we do learn one thing and another all our lives, and then what? It is the right thing that we should make use of the knowledge gained for the benefit of our fellow countrymen. With this in view, I venture to jot down certain views and ideas which I feel are worthy of considered action by all who have the welfare of the masses at heart, so that their existence in this happy land is worthwhile and not a nightmare which unfortunately it is today.

The people of this country would still be loyal to the British Crown, if the British Statesmen were really loyal to their King and Country and honest in all their dealings with the masses, and treated them helpfully to bring about their progress in every way, instead of leaving them to stagnate and live all along in ignorance and poverty; but they have their own way of explaining it off and are only deceiving themselves

Until the first great war the people in comparatively happy circumstances, the earlier type of Britishers left to fight for their King and Country, and it was only after the second great war ended and a type of Britisher who was intoxicated with the conqueror idea came and bumpiously asserted his superiority, the

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people realized that they had lost their former friends for ever and set about shaping their future in the best way possible. The Senanayake and the U.N.P. Governments came into power and ended without any appreciable or substantial progress, indeed an era of deterioration set in and the country is in a state of experiment-

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ation today, so much so that no one knows what to make of it.

Let us face facts and ask ourselves the question, why do the masses who comprise the major part of the population continue to remain in poverty, why do they not make progress? The honest answer to that question can only be that it is because they are exploited right and left and given no chance to build up in any way. Few extend sympathy and help, while many trade on their ignorance. This section would have the masses stagnating where they are, rather than see them progressing, and these are the very people who are loudest in their condemnation of the spreading of Communism, pretending that they do not know that it is their very attitude which engenders and encourages the growth of Communism.

Attend any of the law courts and one sees for himself facts which cause one to shudder; that is if one is an honest seeker after the truth. Here one sees that exploiter No. 1 is no other than the very person to whom the masses have to go and rely on for obtaining justice, members of the honourable profession as they shamelessly call themselves, but in fact are mostly veritable sharks who exploit their unfortunate victims mercilessly

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once they get into their grip and extract from them the last penny they possess before letting go their hold on them. They extract far more than reasonable fees and often appear unprepared to fight out the cause they obtained fees for. This is a very common happening and though perhaps the judges realize it, they do not take steps to remedy such a state of affairs. This is definitely one of the causes of the poor man's eternal poverty

If the numerous tactics of these exploiters are investigated in earnest, it would reveal astounding and alarming facts. This exploiting section of the honourable profession is so well established and supported by the numerous henchmen from practically every business and profession, including the professional litigant, who knows that the law can be twisted any way round, has carried on its wicked practices remorselessly for many years without detection and check. It is high time that effective action is taken against this combine.

Many of our Ministers must learn the value of honesty and be honest in all their doings irrespective of status or creed. They must remember that there is a greater power than themselves which will check their jealous or vindictive designs in a mysterious manner, if they are not absolutely straight towards struggling humanity.

In a country like Ceylon there should be no poverty, nor should it be necessary to apply crooked tactics to improve the lot of the masses against those who possess initiative and enterprise and make a success of life by honest means. That is the sure way of creating internal enmity and chaos.

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April 15th 1957

The Blunder Over Bus Nationalisation

DOES GOVERNMENT KNOW WHAT
IT IS IN FOR ?

THE Government has made the biggest blunder ever in deciding to nationalise the Road Bus Passenger Services. It has snatched away an industry which was created for the benefit of the nationals of this country and in the participation of which no national of another country was to be countenanced. Government even made it unlawful for a foreigner to hold any share or shares in a local transport service. And yet this is the same Government who speaks of increasing the national wealth of Ceylon. Ye gods and little fishes, what brazen hypocrisy! It is, indeed, a short-sighted policy that Government is pursuing. The mistake will very soon be manifested. We said the same thing when the Municipal Council decided to buy up the Tramways and run a Trolley Bus Service. Our advice then was not heeded. The Trolley Bus Service, as presently conducted by the Municipal Council of Colombo, has proved to be a failure. That is when we take two things into consideration, initial outlay, maintenance and expenditure on the one side and earnings on the other. The result points to a loss, to speak nothing about setting apart anything from income to liquidate the capital sum invested on the undertaking. Now such things are bound to happen when amateur politicians fancy themselves business magnates and try to teach their grandmothers to suck eggs!

The Government is in no better position. It has not made a success of any enterprise or industry it put its hands into. Its intentions in starting several industrial schemes, were genuine, no doubt. But, somehow, every such scheme invariably proved a big failure. For proof take the Steel Rolling, Glass, Leather, Ceramic, Tea

Chest and similar pilot projects. Has any one of these, we ask, been even a partial success? The three new projects now under way, viz the Sugar, Paper and the Vegetable Oil factories therefore are bound to go the way of the other projects, all of which ended up with heavy losses. The Bus Nationalisation is not going to fair better. It will be the worse of the series of failures enacted. Within a few years from now, we shall find Government realising that it had burnt its fingers and would be looking out for somebody or the other to relieve it of a burden.

Transport today is a specialised business that cannot be carried on anyway or anyhow. It changes from day to day and requires an all in all knowledge of every part of the organisation, its strength or usefulness. While science keeps advancing, the ingenuity of man is responsible for the creation of new ideas, gadgets, mechanism and methods that contribute to saving wear and tare of a car, bus or any motor propelled conveyance and furthermore helping to reduce cost which must be calculated to a fraction of a mile if any transport service is to work successfully. Hence it is only those who make it their business and concern to keep in tune or abreast with progressive and advancing times, backed by their specialised skill and sup-

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Assuming Government had the services of competent executives to whom the working of the new transport services could be entrusted, is it likely that they can be depended upon to run the same economically and as a business proposition should be run? One has grave doubts about that. For the failure to do so will be due not so much to any personal shortcomings on their part but to the inherent failings in the governmental system. Take the P. W. D. for instance. How is it that this department, despite the possession of highly qualified and degreed personnel, can never be relied on to keep any work entrusted to it within the estimated cost or the time allotted for its completion? Here it is not because the P.W.D. men are incapable but because they happen to be government servants and the work they do a government undertaking. The CGR is another instance. Conscious of the fact that as government servants they are snug as bugs in a rug, there is no incentive to urge them to put their best foot forward. Government Servants are easy going. So long as the rules governing their work are observed, as required by the Manuel of Procedure and the Financial Regulations and they put in the requisite hours of work per day, and that too indifferently, they care very little about the nett results of their responsibility.

Another point to be remembered is that an establishment that will comprise well

over a thousand five hundred hands from engineers, supervisors, drivers, time-keepers, clerks to workmen, all of whom are entitled to special privileges, the time of the Transport Advisory Board will be taken up in minding the affairs of its staff thus leaving very little time for considering weightier matters. When the CGR was bordering on insolvency—and it is even today so, more or less—Government appointed an Advisory Board that did no good and, eventually, had to be scrapped.

That the control and direction of the whole business has been entrusted to a Transport Advisory Board is hardly any assurance or guarantee that the State-owned undertaking will shape alright. Here we feel we must say that apart from Mr. Vere de Mel, the Chairman, not one among the five member Board knows anything about Transport, modern or ancient, much less have they any knowledge of mechanical or engineering problems. What does Mr Rampala, the quondam clerk who in the affluxion of time rose to be General Manager of the C.G.R which in itself is in a moribund state, outdistanced and outclassed as a public utility service with the advent of the fast-moving and cheap-running motor vehicle, know about motor transport and its various implications. Furthermore will not Mr. Rampala be always pre-judiced against motor transport since it would be a rival to the railway of which he is the present head?

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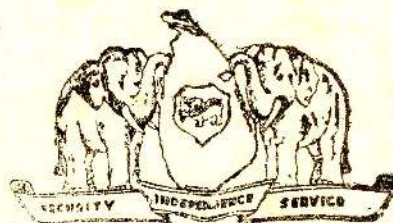
Then there is Mr. L. B. Harischandra, said to be a Mill Owner of Matara. What are this gentleman's qualifications or credentials to warrant his appointment to the Board which should comprise men who are quite Au Fait with modern motor transport and its various phases. As for the rest of this wonderful Transport Board which is going to guide the destinies of the Road Passenger Services of the entire Island the less said the better. The Chairman himself will, we feel sure, find his colleagues a dead-weight. He may even feel embarrassed to see a strange medley or so called advisers conferring with him. Let us be frank in our criticism.

The appointment or rather the selection of Mr. Vere de Mel as Chairman of the Board is wrong in principle. Admittedly he is an able man. He threw up his place in the Civil Service to better himself and that he easily achieved. But the question is why did Government select him as Chairman of the Board? Is it because Mr. de Mel had made a tremendous success of his business which is no doubt the best Taxi Service this side of Suez and on which he risked considerable capital. We understand he is to be paid a salary of Rs 3,000/- per month. He is worth double that we fancy. But it would have been infinitely better had he been prevailed upon and agreed to divest himself of every particle of interest he had in the Colombo Taxis. That would have been quite becoming of him. For it is too much to expect him to put his heart and soul into the new Government Transport Service and so work it as well eventually kill the child of his creation and from which he expects, we believe, a tremendous lot. We do not suggest at all that as Chairman he will seek to protect his private interests in the Taxi Service which if allowed to co-exist with the Nationalised Service the public will have much to say. That would not be in the interest of Government or of Mr. de Mel. Unless and until the public are assured that Mr. de Mel had completely dissociated himself with the Colombo Taxis or would do so before the D day of Nationalisation of the Bus Services, Mr. de Mel's position as Chairman will be open to misconception. We don't like that to happen.

By the way we should like to know why Government did not seriously consider inviting Mr. K. B. L. Perera and Sir Cyril de Zoysa to officiate on the Transport Board? Their vast knowledge and experience had it been availed of would have been of benefit to Government. Both are patriotic men with an abund-

ance of public spirit. In their case there is no denying if such an invitation was made to them, they would have come forward to work the Nationalised Bus Service for the good of the country. Mr. Perera from his school-boy days has been a motor-brain obsessed with steam-engines, motors, carburators, pistons, and other engineering gadgets. He is one who has brought into being one of the best carrier services in the East.

As for Sir Cyril de Zoysa he is another stalwart and distinguished man. His profound knowledge as the quondam chief of that vast business the South Western Bus Co, Ltd., which he built up, should have been availed of by Government. With him, Mr. K.B.L Perera and Mr. Vere de Mel, a trio unmatched in the Transport Industry of this Island and equal to those of any other country for a matter of that, would have been of incalculable benefit and advantage to make a success of Nationalisation of the Motor Bus Transport of Ceylon. Had this step been taken there can be no question that the Government's new undertaking would bear rich fruit but which is not going to be under the present ageis. We shall return to this subject in our next issue.



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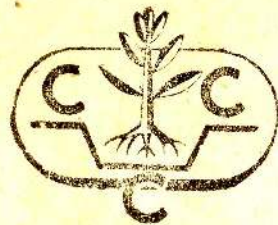
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What People Say ?

THAT Prisoners are to be taught Poultry Farming.

THAT each will be given a fresh egg in the morning.

LET us hope that this won't breed "Kukul Horas".

WHAT happened to the Prisoners who were taught carpentry & tailoring?

IT IS better to teach them to grow vegetables

AS is done at Gothetuwa by the destitute.

IT IS time the new Attorney General was appointed.

Delay causes inconvenience.

THE hot weather affects some people.

PROMISES are made galore but never kept.

LET us hope the new Sports Stadium, will not suffer from the stinks from the Refuse Destructor.

THAT the present is the best time to have a good clean-up at the General Hospital.

THAT Father Serru has given Methananda a rap on the knuckles.

IT IS time the Ceylon Navy was enlarged.

The good old "Vijaya" should be scrapped, or might be used as a Fishing Trawler.

WHAT is happening in the N. C. P.?

HOW much was spent on Drought Relief?

DID the poor people really get any money?

HAS anything happened regarding the Hospital Sweep Scandal. Why not hand the matter over to the C. I. D. ?

That the Government Training College at Maharagama is situated at an ideal spot and has an added advantage with nearly 25 or 30 acres of coconut in bearing.

It will be interesting to know from the Minister of Education whether the pick of coconuts from this big acreage accrues to the profit of the Government or does it go into private pockets?

Is the Headmaster entitled to the coconuts from this acreage?

If the Minister will open his weather eyes and probe into this question, he will find food for thought.

The Minister might as well, call for tenders and give this land to a lessee and earn some money for the Government rather than see the Government lose revenue by allowing the Headmaster to enjoy the benefits.

Mr. Dahanayake, whose sense of duty is well known, should leave no stone unturned in this matter.

But would he?

We have our doubts.



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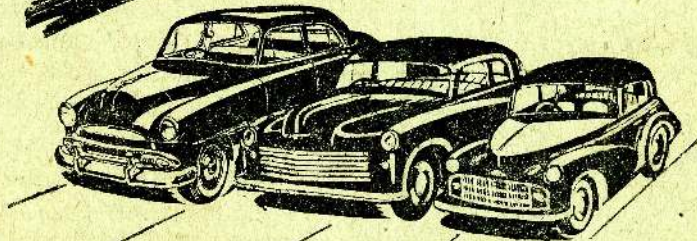
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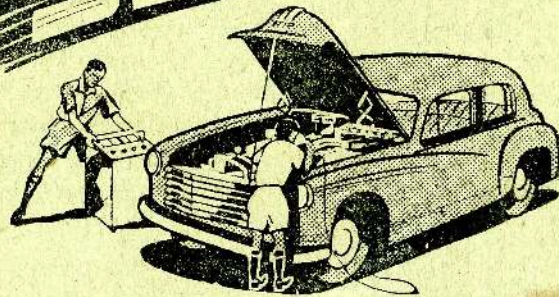
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