

The SEARCHLIGHT

36th YEAR OF ESTABLISHMENT

VOL 36 NO. 7

COLOMBO

30th April, 1957

“Terrible state of affairs”

A Minister of the M. E. P. Cabinet has proclaimed to the world that I always develop stomach trouble when I speak at meetings and enter hospital, but I would like to ask whether there is any individual who would not develop stomach ailments when he or she sees the terrible state of affairs prevailing in this country under the Mahajana Government” said Mr. Dudley Senanayake, addressing a mass propaganda rally of the United National Party (Kurunegala branch) held at the Town Hall.

Democracy in this country was in danger because that democracy fanned

the communal fires and created disunity among various religious sects and what is more, of the nine provinces of the country, two have been pitted against the rest, and if that trend of affairs was allowed to continue it would be a sad day for Ceylon.

Even if the M.E.P. had no defects, it was the duty of the masses to give the U.N.P. a new lease of life because there should be at least two strong political parties in a democratic country and urged them to help to rebuild the U.N.P.

(Continued on page 8)



Mr. Dudley Senanayake

What People Say

LOCAL employees of a foreign Embassy want to know...

WHY a Burgher youth, who is most unpopular with the local staff has been singled out for very special favours:

Is it - they ask - because:

1. THIS perky youth partners another's wife so regularly and so frequently in the Rock N Roll and other dances at a popular 'HUT' in Colombo South.
2. THIS perky youth accompanies this natty Nell to every public dance and night club in Colombo.
3. THIS perky youth treats this little Nell to knicker bickers at a very popular "House" in Union Place.

THIS perky youth is occasionally taken to the "flicks" after the lights are out!

Inspectors will note that unless action is taken in this matter representations will be made to Headquarters.

THE new formed Burgher Welfare Association should read Mr. E. B. Wright's letter to the Press of 27th April, 1957 (under the caption of Burghers.)

THAT when is the Mulleriyawa Mental Hospital to be occupied. The building was completed nearly 9 years ago?

Will the Mayor have a look at the beautiful round about in front of the Women's International Club.

Continued on page 11

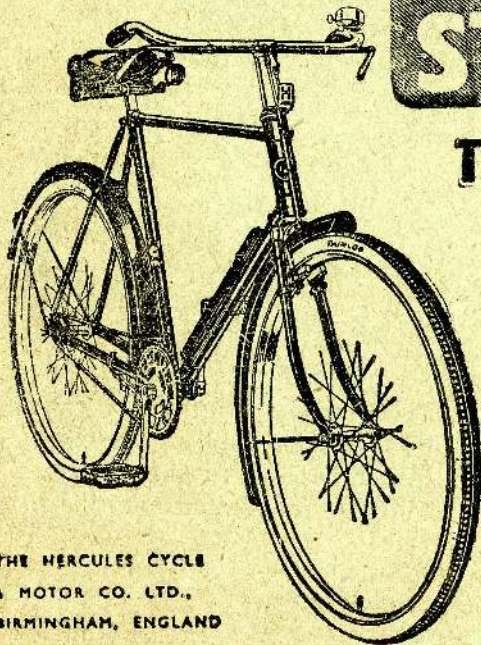
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Vol 36 No. 7

COLOMBO

April 30th 1957

MUSINGS

U.S. AND CEYLON SIGN AID AGREEMENT

THE U.S. International Cooperation Administration (ICA) represented in Ceylon by the United States Operations Mission (USOM) announced its first development assistance loan to Ceylon.

The loan is for \$2.5 million and represents one-half of the \$5 million which ICA has allocated during the 1957 fiscal year which ends June 30 for development assistance in Ceylon. The balance of the 5 million is being granted to Ceylon for agreed projects. Additional sums have been granted to Ceylon for purposes of technical assistance and payment of ocean freight on CARE flour for the Ceylon School lunch program.

The loan agreement between Ceylon and the United States was signed by Ceylonese Ambassador R. S. S. Gunewardena and for ICA by Stanley C Waugh, President of the Export-Import Bank which administers the U.S. loans.

The U.S. technical development assistance program in Ceylon is now in its second year. The program was started in April 1956 with an allotment of \$5 million in technical development assistance funds to help Ceylon finance the purchase of diesel locomotives, equipment and supplies for irrigation and agricultural projects as well as the Ceylon University extension program.

U.S. aid projects supplement Ceylon's own six-year development program to advance the economic well-being of the Ceylonese people.

BOOST FOR CEYLON TEA

THE Tea Council of the U.S.A., with increased contributions from India, Ceylon, Indonesia, and American tea packers, plans an expanded advertising campaign during 1957.

In an announcement, the Tea Council reported that the increased contributions raise

TOBY



LAGER ALE STOUT

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its total advertising budget to more than \$ 2,250,000. Of this amount, the Council said some, \$ 1,800,000 will be spent to conduct an industry-level campaign to increase tea sales in the United States. This is an 80 per cent increase over 1956.

Tea Council Chairman Robert B. Smallwood explained that this 'healthy increase' will enable the council to expand its "market by-market" coverage to 18 major city areas, an increase of six over the former pattern of 12 basic markets for tea.

He added that the largest share of the money will be used to increase advertising of hot tea and that 'for the first time since 1954 we will have an adequate iced-tea advertising program in 29 markets.'

Commenting further on the strengthened advertising campaign, Smallwood said: "It is to the everlasting credit of all the individuals representing the governments of India, Ceylon and Indonesia that they so wholeheartedly recognized the need and acted to provide their share of the expanded fund.

NATIONAL COMMUNISM IN INDIA

THE widely-read Indian daily 'The Hindu' has published an editorial calling attention to Moscow's renewed Stalinist attitude toward Yugoslavia and that country's adherence to a policy of independent national communism.

The Indian daily observed:

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"Stalin is condemned for what is called 'great nation chauvinism.' It is difficult, however to see how the present Russian strictures against Yugoslavia and national communism in general are any more justified than Stalin's former attacks. Either a small country is independent and may follow its own line or it is a satellite. But Moscow still believes that countries are divided into those of the "socialist

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camp' and those out of it. And those within the camp must follow the Russian example in all details

U.S.A AID FOR RELIGIOUS BODIES

A MERICAN overseas relief agencies of the various faiths distributed more than 1,140 million pounds U.S. reserve food stocks free to needy people abroad during the nine months ended March 31, 1957. Ceylon is among the many nations receiving such aid.

The overseas shipment by the religious agencies had a total value of \$99,895,942. Other reserve stocks similarly distributed by non-religious voluntary agencies amounted to 108 million pounds, with a value of \$14,184,256, of this, the largest amount—nearly 101 million pounds—was distributed by CARE (Cooperative for American Remittances Everywhere, Inc)

In addition, 61 million pounds of dried milk valued at \$9,605,040 were distributed through UNICEF (U.N. Childrens Fund.)

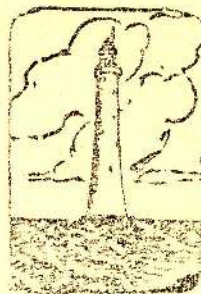
Operations of the overseas free food distribution by the religious faiths groups was carried out in addition to their regular world wide schedules of relief and rehabilitation.

AMERICAN FOREIGN AID AND PEACE

PAUL G. HOFFMAN says mutual cooperation between the United States and developing countries is helping to build up these nations which Russia seeks to subvert.

The former head of the U.S. Economic Cooperation Administration, which administered the Marshall Plan, said that if these nations

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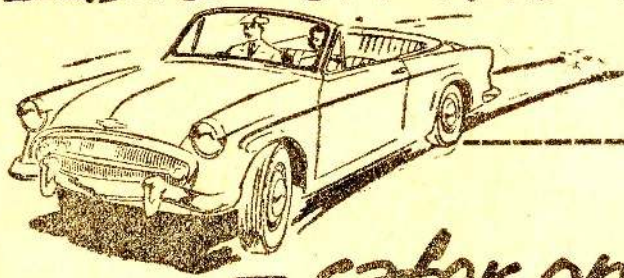
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can be strengthened enough, Russia may abandon efforts to communize them and adopt, instead, a policy of 'live and let live.'

He cautioned that the value of economic aid to developing countries, offered in an effort to keep them from the grasp of the Soviet Bloc, could not be assessed "in material terms because freedom and peace have value beyond dollars."

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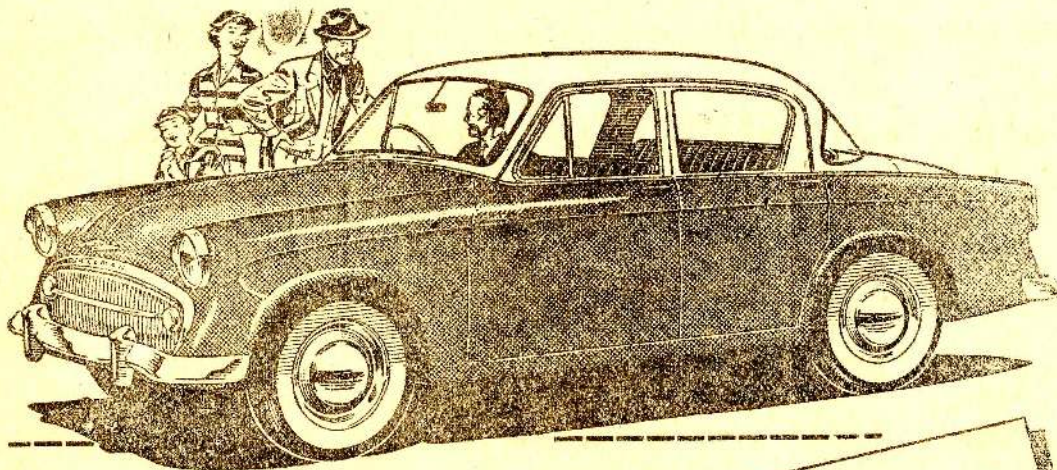
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Speaking at an international affairs dinner at Chicago Hoffman urged continuance of foreign economic assistance at the level proposed by President Eisenhower. A change of Russia's policy could be a great saving to the American taxpayer, he said. "If the (Russian) policy should be changed to one of live and let live for.

"Military expenditure can be safely reduced by 50 per cent—perhaps more. Then we will have a federal budget which will permit us to levy taxes with which we can live comfortably." Making a case for foreign economic aid as a good American investment, Hoffman presented the arguments that:

1. "Our own dynamic economy has made us dependent on the outside for many critical raw materials."

2. "Moreover, the underdeveloped countries offer the largest consumers market in the world. They are spending twice as much on our goods as they did at the end of World War two and five times as much as in 1938."

THE ROUBLE DROPS

THE present free market rate for the Soviet rouble is approximately 50 percent of the value of a year ago

Franz Pick, foreign currency specialist, reports that the current free market rate is 37-50 roubles per one U.S dollar. In April 1956, the free market rate was around 19 to the dollar.

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The official Soviet rate is four roubles to the dollar. For foreign tourists, however Moscow announced last month that the rate would be 10 to a dollar. This is still far from the current free rate.

The "New York Times" in reporting the development said today that major foreign currency dealers here are not buying roubles even at the low free rate because of fear that the value of the rouble may drop still more. "This fear," noted the Times, "is connected with the Soviet Union's virtual repudiation of the government debt recently and Moscow's action a month ago in devaluing the rouble for foreign tourists to ten cents from its former 25 cent exchange rate."

Pick said Soviet roubles are in comparatively plentiful supply in Western Europe at this time despite the fact that officially the Soviet government forbids the export and import of roubles.

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"SYED"

TRADE FAIR BRINGS BILLION IN ORDERS

THE President of the just-concluded United States World Trade Fair considers the show 'a fabulous success' with many benefits extending beyond the economic field.

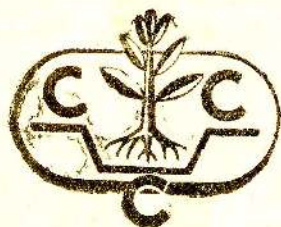
According to Charles Snitow, the fair brought well over a thousand million dollars in actual orders placed with the exhibitors of foreign goods. Many of these were 'test' orders he said, and would pave the way for considerably more sales in the future.

The two week exposition turned out to be "unique verticle" for promoting both economic cooperation and understanding among the world's businessmen.

In Mr. Snitow's view "the fair produced friendships and amity among exhibitors which will make a realistic contribution toward world peace."

The exposition was the largest international trade fair ever held in the Western Hemisphere. It included over 3,000 displays from 59 countries.

Total attendance count for the hours when public and trade viewed the exhibits was well over 500,000



FERTILISER MIXTURES

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As top executive of the exposition Snitow is already making plans for the second U.S. World Trade Fair next year.

Snitow estimated that about 90 percent of the buyers at this year's exposition were U.S. buyers. He said foreign manufacturers benefited from the opportunity to gauge the U.S. price structure and adapt their packaging to meet the American market requirements and that the less industrially advanced countries "demonstrated they can produce and sell goods in our market which are not ordinarily recognized as valuable trade items".

SOVIET DISARMAMENT PLAN

PRESIDENT Eisenhower has asked the State Department to make a detailed study of the Soviet Union's newest disarmament plan including a "half way" acceptance of President Eisenhower's "Open Skies" proposal.

Hagerty said it was explained that if there is an American answer, the reply would be made is by Presidential Disarmament Advisor Harold Stassen who is now attending the United Nations Disarmament subcommittee meeting in London.

The Soviet Union, at the UN Disarmament Subcommittee talks in London, indicated a partial acceptance of President Eisenhower's Open Skies plan which would permit mutual U.S. and

Soviet air inspection of each other's military installations. The President put forward his plan at the Geneva summit meeting in July, 1955.

Under the new Russian plan, most of Europe, and 22 Western States of the United States should be thrown open to aerial photo-

graphy by disarmament inspectors. In turn the western margin of the European part of Russia and Eastern Siberia could also be photographed.

Soviet statement May 1st of contrasted with almost years of Kremlin denunciation of the "Open Skies" plan as propaganda.



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'Terrible' state of affairs

(Continued from cover page)

DISUNITY

He said the present Government came into power having given thousands of assurances but had done nothing useful to mankind. It had brought about disunity among bhikkus, religions and society and as a result has created the path to ruin the independence achieved by the U.N.P. It was the U.N.P. that brought about peace and unity among the various religions and nations.

Peace among nations and religions was the only way to achieve economic independence. The M.E.P. has drawn up a program during the whole of

last year to achieve economic freedom but so far nothing was forthcoming from it.

The M.E.P. was planning to set up Regional Councils and give them powers to elect members for colonisation schemes. If this happened he said the people of other areas other than areas close to colonies would have no chance of joining the colonies. He added that there was disunity among the Ministers of the M.E.P. Cabinet. The Food Minister said all foreign-owned lands should be nationalised, whereas the Lands and Land Development Minister disagreed.

Ultimately the Prime Minister put an end to the issue due to the differences between the Ministers. This was the state of affairs prevailing in the M.E.P. Cabinet.

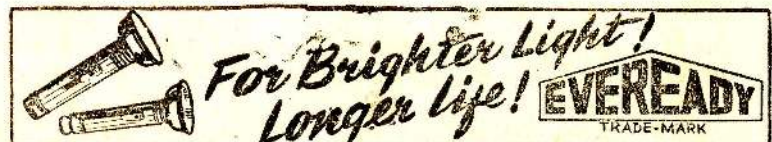
In conclusion, he said that the M.E.P. was keener on taking revenge than improving the conditions of the masses. He said it was regrettable and undemocratic to attack public servants, especially the police.

Hope for Suez Settlement

PRESIDENT Eisenhower says although the Suez Canal question may go back to the the U.N. Security Council, United States has "not completely given up hope" of a solution through the Cairo talks between the United States and Egypt.

The President stressed "We have not completely given up hope on those conversations. We think we have made progress, but it certainly is not yet to the point that we could say that we both are agreed that the plans developing will be within the purview and the limits of the six principles.

"So while I do not deny that the matter might have to go back to the body in the United Nations with which the problem has already been lodged. On the other questions concerning the canal and the Gulf of Aquaba, the President emphasized that United States has not changed its policy on either.



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Lawlessness, Thuggery

SIR JOHN KOTELAWALA at propaganda meeting said the M.E.P. was an unstable party and would not last long because lawlessness, thuggery, communal disharmony, all ills that could befall a country, were rampant and unfortunately the police were unable to do a job of work due to political interference. Ceylon did not belong to Sinhalese alone. The other communities too had a right to live in this country.



He said it appeared that the present Prime Minister had no freedom to travel in a third of Ceylon. This was shameful. If he as Premier had to tolerate those circumstances he would immediately resign from the Premiership.

The present Government had no power to pass the laws they framed because they never thought about the future. As a result the country was ruined, said. The immigrants in Ceylon were now planning to ask for their citizenship minus the power of voting. If this was allowed he said a major community clash was always possible and the independence achieved would vanish.

GOING AHEAD

IF a man wants to do a thing there is only one course to pursue, proceed. Go ahead and do it. And the sooner done the better.

IF a man wants to swim, he would venture in wade around a bit, venture a little farther, splash around with his hand, gradually gain confidence and experience and at last he would be swimming with the best of them.

"Public were deceived"


MAJOR Montague Jayawickreme, the former Minister of Transport and Works, at a propaganda meeting of the UNP at Ahangama said that though the UNP had made every possible attempt to fulfil the needs of the country, the Opposition had made such utterances and promises that the public had been deceived.

When the MEP promised to bring down the price of food-stuffs and solve the unemployment problem the public naturally voted for the party presuming that a new broom would sweep well.

CHEATED

The Ex-Minister said that now they were unable to face the public having cheated them. The public were demanding the fulfilment of the pre-election promises and in an attempt to implement them, they were making things worse.





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Though the UNP had successfully combated the influx of illicit immigrants, the MEP had failed miserably and the smallpox epidemic that had ravaged the country was due to the influx of immigrants in vast numbers. Though the former Government was being accused of wielding undue influence in making appointments the public now saw the great difference. Frequent interference in transfers and appointments at the wishes of MEP Ministers and MPs were so common that these had made the Party unpopular and brought disgrace on it.

With all their faults at such heights the MEP takes pride in abusing the UNP Government. If the important problems of the country could not be solved, "the MEP should seek a fresh mandate from the people" the Major added.



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What People Say ?

(Continued from cover page)

Pavements in Colombo also need attention
LESS Holidays and more work would do
Government Employees a deal of good.

THAT the C. L. T. A's team to compete in
Japan in the Davies' Cup was a wash-out.

THAT the money market is getting tighter
daily.

BUT our Politicians have their air trips to
various countries.

WAS the Nuwara Eliya Race meet run at
a loss

WHAT was the amount involved ?

THAT Marikar has been told by the Prime
Minister to drop the idea of his aerial jaunt.

CANNOT our Ambassador in Japan do
what is necessary and save the country some
money ?

Estate Cumblies

ARE A SPECIALITY
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YOU CAN DEPEND ON ITS
QUALITY AND DURABILITY
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HATTON BRANCH

THE party at the Japanese Embassy in Hon-
our of His Majesty the Emperor was a huge
success.

THAT Everybody was happy

HOW is it the Rupees 5/- Jayanti Coins
have not got the name Ceylon on it ?

THAT "Caruso" and Party have returned
to Colombo from Nuwara Eliya.

WHEN will the Show in Colombo start ?

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The Language of the Kitchen

FOR MOST OF THE ENGLISH EDUCATED PEOPLE OF CEYLON the language is the only means of their spiritual and intellectual life as well as of their material sustenance. The number of such people among the Sinhalese, Tamils, Moors, Malays and Burgher is a considerable part of the population comprising most of the intelligentsia. The Tamils, like the Sinhalese are a territorial power with little to fear from the Act. A Tamil autonomic state is more than a mere possibility. Such a state will enable them to adopt any language or languages and also prevent their being either swamped by the Sinhalese or scattered by them. But in the case of the English educated, to most of whom pertain neither material competence nor living facilities nor means of employment, in the changing conditions, without the English language the operation of the Act in business and in schools, especially with Tamil Parity or Quasi-Parity, seems to be the **coup de grace** in the process of elimination that has been going on in Ceylon for the past twenty years. It will be interesting to scrutinize the emigration list of Ceylonese who have gone and are to go to Australia, New Zealand, Canada and other countries and note the proportion of the educated Sinhalese among them, in more recent years.

The Tamils have valiantly fought their own cause, but the same causes as made a number of Donoughmore Buddhists, and the want of courageous statesmanship, save that displayed by Sir P. Ramanathan, Sir Marcus Fernando, Mr. Geo. Wille and perhaps one or two others, when our present franchise, a drastic measure that has cast up all the problems with which we have been and are struggling, was introduced without qualification, has also given almost dumb acquiescence on the part of the English educated in the Act. They perhaps see the hopelessness of a struggle against Brute Force on those who would have overnight a conglomerate Sinhala country at any cost.

Right was Seneca translated by an English poet in these words:

"Small cares speak when mighty griefs are dumb;" and Raleigh, I think, who reinforces and echoes the thought:

"The bottom is but shallow whence they come."

Though the Premier has failed to make Sinhalese the State language within twenty-four hours, he will surely be able, with the support of a Socialist and Marxist oligarchy after the changes which we might be able to guess are dear to his heart in a new constitution to replace all English educated employees in Government as well as in most other services within that period of time.

This contempt for the English educated and the intelligentsia on the part of blind, unreasoning, grasping puerility arises in strong contrast to the first appearance of the Ballot Box in Ceylon, when the educated Ceylonese voted Sir P. Ramanathan to represent them in Council. It speaks very poorly for the statesmanship in this country that even Dr. N. M. Perera Mr. P. Keuneman and Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam in their brilliant advocacy of the Tamil cause, ignored English.

The Premier has decidedly erred. If he made remises in bargaining for power, took the advice of the voters and the clergy who were not competent to advise him. His honourable course is to introduce legislation for making English, Sinhalese and Tamil the State languages. Questions of difficulties and expenditure to implement such a law do not arise. Usually Political Parties frame manifestos; this they are competent to do; but the M.E.P. was dictated to by the voters.

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STATE EDUCATION AND THE CHILD

BY J. A. DE ANDRADO

THE free and independent teacher may soon be an employ of the government, while the assisted school may submit to state control. These are some of our Education Ministers newest moves. Such changes are inevitable. Persistent threats and the ever increasing fear of the formation of a campaign hostile to our People's Government by interested sections have resulted in a proximate urgency regarding these changes, whereas in truth the presence of such an urgency is unreal.

Though many are the requests to make these changes effective immediately, the reasons adduced are few and unsound. Behind it all there is the veiled truth that the demolishing of the denominational system of education is the prime and perhaps the only object. Political considerations taking the place of justice and fairplay seem to precipitate a venture that calls for mature understanding and careful study.

A careful analysis will show that these reasons are puerile and fantastic. They can in no way be considered valid for supressing a system of education that had found favour with thousands during the last century.

If the reasons so far cited are inadmissible for effecting a change so vital, let us search for other drawbacks that may be genuinely held against this system.

THE PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF A SCHOOL

The main functions of a school in any community are:-

1. It should provide an environment best suited for individual and social development.
2. In such an environment it should stimulate and guide healthy growth.
3. It should provide ample facilities for children to acquire habits, skills, knowledge interests and attitudes of mind which they will need for living a full and useful life.
- 4 To set a standard code of behaviour, effort and attainment by which they can measure their own conduct.

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De Vos Exchange Tables and John
S de Silva's Interest Tables.

If these are the minimum requirements of good schooling, in what respects, if any, have our assisted schools failed to satisfy these needs. Even the most critical of us, provided there is no rank prejudice bias, will hardly spot any shortcomings that can seriously impede a child's progress. Without exaggeration we could safely assert that our assisted schools have stood for all these and much more.

However sound a system may be, there is always scope for improvement. Perfection is an ideal the zenith of which may not be within the reach of human effort. Our System is no exception. Hence what is really needed is its reorganisation and not wanton destruction.

Reorganisation to any desired or appreciably good pattern is not possible unless we clean up certain misunderstandings and misapprehensions which have created an erroneous public opinion, breaking the spirit of good fellowship so vital to keep the different communities of the Island as members of the same body.

BUDDHIST GRIEVANCES REAL OR IMAGINARY

The Buddhists, it seems to me, labour under certain grievances and hence assert cer-

tain special claims. These claims came into conflict with the rights of the minorities, particularly Christians.

In justice to all communities and for the sake of peace and harmony, these grievances need immediate removal, respecting at all times our common legitimate rights.

The main grievances of the Buddhists are as follows:-

1. That due to four and half centuries of foreign rule (Christian) Buddhism in Ceylon had suffered decline and decay.
2. That the teaching of Buddhism had been so badly neglected and discouraged by the colonial educational machinery, particularly the Missionaries, that Buddhist children had grown up in ignorance of the Buddhist way of life,
3. That the Missionaries, having admitted Buddhist children to their schools had spared no pains to spread their religion by proselytisation.
4. The majority of these grievances are particularly attributed to the Roman Catholic Church of today.

These charges are grave? Are they true? If they are true they need immediate redress. But let us see how true they are.

WHAT THE BUDDHIST KINGS DID

Long before the introduction of Christianity to Ceylon, when Ceylon was ruled by Buddhist Kings, Buddhism had often fallen a prey to decay. Many Buddhist Kings had been obliged to take steps to purify Buddhism and preserve it from corruption. Our History

says so. Repeated disputes, dissensions and quarrels within the Buddhist Sinhalese Royal Family, resulted in resorting to foreign aid to preserve power within the country. King Bauvaneke Bahu invited the Portuguese to defend and guard the sea-coasts of Ceylon against a threatened invasion of the Island by the Muslims at the request

of Mayadunne. That was how the Portuguese, who were earlier only interested in Trade with Ceylon started to take an interest in our internal affairs and thus began the Roman Catholic Church in Ceylon, at the instance and instigation of a Sinhalese King

Likewise Rajasingha 11 had later to seek the help of the Dutch to destroy the Portuguese forts in Ceylon. So it is our Buddhist Kings who have brought about our degeneracy and ruin. How ridiculous it is, now to blame these foreign rulers for the decay and decline of our national culture when they came merely as our guests at our invitation and we ungrudgingly played host for our own purposes and ends. It is equally unjust to blame the Christians and Catholics of today for the erroneous conduct of their ancestors. The fault dear Brutus is not

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in our foreign European rulers, but in our dear old Buddhist Kings of the past.!

Though the teaching of religion is very necessary in school and religious instruction be included in its curriculum, the religious grounding possible can only be very elementary. The complete teaching of religion and its practice should be done out of school hours under the supervision of a teaching authority. It is the duty of the religious teacher to keep a watchful eye on the follower and afford him every facility to advance in the knowledge of his religion and faithfully practice prescribed precepts.

To perpetuate his Philosophy the Buddha founded the Sangha. It was the duty of the Sangha to preserve and spread the Dhamma. Thus if the Buddhist Children grew up in ignorance of the Buddhist way of life, the blame is entirely on the Sangha not on the missionary school.

DEARTH OF GOOD BUDDHIST SCHOOLS

Most Buddhist parents show a marked tendency to send their children to

Christian or Catholic Schools. Often this is to preserve old school ties. Else it is because of the dearth of Buddhist schools that had made the grade. Here again the Missionary School is blameless. There is always the possibility of there being a greater percentage of Buddhist children over the children of the denomination to which the School belongs specially in rural areas. This is so because the Buddhists are a Majority everywhere. The surest way to prevent such a situation is to have three Buddhist schools to every christian school. This is no idle talk. Such an undertaking is well within the reach of the Buddhist Public with its overwhelming majority and resources.

This frequent charge of proselytising, particularly by the Roman Catholics, is whimsical. Records are not clear as to what percentage of Buddhists or Hindus were originally converted to the Roman Catholic Church. However after four and a half centuries of acute proselytising and with so-called 'Proselytising Dens' in every Buddhist Village, the christians are still a bare nine per cent of the island's population, which is a ridiculous proportion when we call to mind that stupendous two-third christian majority among the peoples of the world. The rate of increase among Christians for the last twenty five years has been less than two per cent and this is traceable to the increase in birthrate among Christians rather than conversions. If proselytising is so rampant how do we account for this "microscopic minority" among Catholics after so many years of this nefarious intense activity?

Undue influence in the matter of conversions is incorrect. I do not, however, suggest that the prevailing influence in a school may not create a favourable impression on a child, specially its home and its environments are in a disordered or negligent state. The child is quick to see and relise what is good and its desire to get out of a rut may spur it on to retaliate against a situation that had only been an incidence by birth. Such a

(Continued on page 18)

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'A few rabid Buddhists'

"**D**ESPITE the existence of a few rabid Buddhists in Ceylon the different communities in this country will continue to live peacefully." said Mr. R. L. Pereira, Q.C., when he declared open the Mutwal Delights Fete.



Mr. R. L. Pereira, Q.C.

Mr. Pereira said that 'these rabid Buddhists must realise that this country does not belong to a particular community but to all those who live in it.

Even in the days of the Sinhalese kings he said, there was religious tolerance in Ceylon.

He referred to the king of Wahacotta as an example of a king with liberal views.

'A few religious leaders had arisen now during a time of transition and they must of necessity be forgotten in time. They did not represent the large mass of good Buddhists.' he said.

The late Sir Ernest de Silva,

KT,

It is with deep regret we record the death of Sir Ernest de Silva, one of Ceylon's most illustrious sons. Sir Ernest who had been in poor health for sometime, developed an attack of pneumonia and his condition took a grave turn and thus he passed away on Thursday (9th instant) night at 11.30 p. m. at his mansion "Sirimethipaya," Flower Road, Colombo.

Sir Ernest was a Planter, Banker and one of the best known financiers. He commanded a large fortune which he used to help his poorer relations and people of his family circle. His philosophy in life was to lessen the burdens of others and this he was able to put into practice well. He



The late Sir Ernest de Silva, Kt.

donated land and gave money lavishly to charities and charitable causes. Among the many social service bodies that benefitted by his philanthropy the Y.M.B.A. was so dear and near to his heart. Other religious bodies also received from him unostentatious munificence.

Sir Ernest was a staunch and devout Buddhist whose tolerance of all other creeds marked him out as very exemplary. He built the Chest Hospital at Welisara, a School at Rathgama and a Maternity Home at Balapitiya. These institutions will stand as living monuments to perpetuate his revered memory.

Educated at Royal College he left for England and graduated at Clare College, (Cambridge) in 1910 and passed out as a Barrister in 1921, but the legal profession held no charms for him. In fact he hardly cared to practice the law. Instead he decided to follow in the foot-steps of his great sire and eventually he took up to Import and Export business which field of work

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had been carved out for him and which suited him best. His contributions to the development of the Island's Trade and Commerce was great. He was Chairman of the Board of Directors of the State Mortgage Bank, Bank of Ceylon and a Managing Director of the B. C. C. which positions he held with rare acceptance, judgment and independence...He also served on several Boards and shouldered great responsibilities. He shunned politics. The personal standards of thought and conduct, he set for himself were too high to let him mix himself up in political matters.

It was perhaps as a prince of Ceylon sportsmen that Sir Ernest was better known and respected. And here too he maintained the high ideals and traditions of Horse Racing. His sterling integrity was of a kind that was rare and beyond even a breath of suspicion. As an active member of the Ceylon Turf Club for over a quarter century and then as President of the C. T. C., he insisted on clean racing and came down heavily on those who brought racing into disrepute. He was also on the Board of Stewards on a number of occasions. His laurels on the Ceylon Turf includes the Robert's Cup, two Governor's Cups won by LUVELLO and LELALLEGRO, the Governor's Bowl, the Governor's Plate. He also won the Governor's Cup at Calcutta and several and other important racing trophies. As an owner he was a thorough sportsman. He raced for the sake of sport and sport only.

I remember an incident at an August Meet many years ago, when LITTLE JOSS won the E. L. F. de Soysa Cup, run over 1. M. 3 Furs, in which Sir Ernest de Silva's SANDFISHBAY was a contender. After the race was won and lost, it so happened that it was alleged that the winning horse had been doped. As a result of the finding at the enquiry by the then Board of

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Stewards, LITTLE JOSS was disqualified and the race was awarded to SANDFISHBAY who ran a brilliant and fighting second, Directly this happened Sir Ernest donated the Stake Money to a charitable institution. Several acts of this nature showed his greatness. It is very hard to find men of such character as that of Sir Ernest today in Ceylon.

His collection of stamps ranks with the best in the world. He had perhaps one of the rarest collections of Ceylon stamps reputed to be second only to that of the personal collection of the Royal Family built up by George V and George VI. Personally he was a gem and possessed several ennobling traits of a gentleman and living up to the traditions of a Knightly Squire which he maintained with dignity and independence. He will be remembered for his generosity and goodness. He was a great man with a golden heart. To the members of his family I offer on behalf of the readers of this paper our deepest sympathies

A. B. G.

State Education and the Child

(Continued from page 18)



change of front is no forced conversion but a spontaneous, independent desire to elevate itself to a comparatively better sphere.

It is now clear that the so-called grievances of the Buddhists are only trivial matters that need adjustment and hardly worth marshalling against a major issue on which much good of the country will depend.

THE WAY OUT OF THE PROBLEM- BETTER BUDDHIST SCHOOLS AND PROPERLY CONDUCTED

The present claim by the Buddhist Public regarding the desirability of State Education may be summed up as follows:-

1. European Christian Rulers have wrecked Buddhist Education.
2. Christian Denominational Schools favoured by Christian Governments are in a well-established and sound state.
3. Buddhist Schools are few and their number may not increase in proportion to the demand.
4. Hence at any cost and irrespective of any adverse consequences the State must take over all schools and control them as best it can as that is the only way Buddhist children are assured an Education

in the Buddhist Way, by Buddhist Teachers in buildings put up by Christian Missionaries.

Are such demands fair? Is it not more correct to admit that failure to make headway with Buddhist Education was due to lack of organisation and discipline in their own camp. If the Buddhist majority marshal all its resources and talent and run its schools in a correct and ordered way all these handicaps and barriers will vanish.

The Child belongs to the parent who has the largest say about a child's future. Has not the parent a specific and prior right to exert his will and pleasure in moulding the character and paving the way to achieve that end, the child is striving for. Thus the parent should have a free choice. A free choice is not possible unless there is a variety of schools to choose from. Hence the necessity to at least have Central Schools, Assisted Schools and Private Schools.

It is beyond doubt that our secondary schools are the best in the East, some of them compare favourably with the Indian Universities. These should be urged on to greater efficiency, and not introduce measures to mar their progress.

Though we may be inclined to condemn everything that is English! yet we can at present do no better than copy the English System of Education with its stale Schools, Country Schools and Private Schools.

GOVERNMENT MUST MOVE CAUTIOUSLY

The Country Schools of England did not come into existence by parliamentary legislation overnight. They were evolved during periods of transition from one system to another. Likewise we should follow a similar pattern and we should rashly undo what has already been well and truly done by introducing hasty legislation.

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The American Government runs its State Schools. It has the money to do so. It has a stable government with a fixed policy. The Soviet Union too has its State Schools, following its policy of state monopoly in everything.

It is absurd for us to attempt a system of Education just now. Such a venture is impracticable and dangerous. It is impracticable because we are financially unsound. Moreso as our system of government is still immature. We have

no fixed policy. In most countries where the party system of Government prevails, all parties are agreed on the basic principles and whatever party be in power the fundamentals on major issues will not undergo radical changes.

In Ceylon a change of government means a radical change in Policy. Most children may experience at least two changes of government during their school career. Imagine the confusion that can arise if the polls result in a change of party at every election as it did happen during the last eight years.

We are aware of the messy state of nearly three thousand schools now managed by the government. Bad administration, bad management, bad teaching, and even bad morals are charges levelled against them. Our Education Department has enough work on hand at the moment. When it has discharged its present quota sufficiently well we may think of allowing it to venture on fresh fields.

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The Tourist Development Board

A TIMELY WARNING

THE high hopes entertained by Government when it was decided to tap the tourist industry as a source of revenue has not worked up to expectations. A spokesman of the Ministry of Trade and Commerce has told the press in no unmistakable language that "the failure to arrest the downward trend of Ceylon's tourist earnings had been chiefly due to the inflexible Government Machinery." The official spokesman omitted to mention another contributory cause. And that is Government red-tape. For almost from the start we fear there had been too many cooks who spoilt the tourist broth. Besides the Tourist Advisory Board in our view was not properly constituted or effectively managed and worked. To begin with its affairs were entrusted to people who knew very little about tourism and the way to attract tourists to this country.

In Ceylon where everybody fancies himself an authority or expert and manages to get round a minister whose knowledge of tourism is as deficient, mismanagement was inevitable. However now that the authorities concerned have begun to realize Ceylon had set about the wrong way to exploit the tourist industry we don't think it fair to further embarrass them by pointing out where the Tourists Advisory Board has been found wanting.

However the proposal now before Government to entrust this potential source of revenue to a Tourist Development Board, who will control the entire industry from beginning to end, must be viewed from various angles and not solely from the point of view of revenue raising. Therefore before matters can be finalised Government, through the Minister for Trade and Commerce, should consult the various agencies, especially those who conduct motor carrier services as their advise and co-operation is very important, should not be disregarded.

To set up an autonomous board who will be dominated by a chief, who we expect will be none other than the present presiding genius who runs the tourist bureau, is a step that must not be taken without giving weighty consideration to the several aspects connected with tourism. Hence the Minister for Trade and Commerce we trust will act with his eyes wide open and not be too much in a hurry to get the Tourist Development Board going. For it would be well for him to remember that in other countries tourism is attended to by private agencies working in conjunction with some appropriate Government authority and who in turn is guided by an Advisory Board representing all interests connected with tourism. Lastly we don't wish to hear the Minister for Trade and Commerce being accused in any way of creating a cushy job for a favourite. Mr. R. G. Senanayake must therefore act with caution.

As regards the Minister's suggestion that the Tourist Development Board should made an autonomous body, we consider this unwise. For the Director of the Board—and that will be his designation we suppose—can become a law unto himself unless his duties are clearly defined and those who comprise the Board have the right to veto the decisions of the Director.

Ceylonisation of Trade & Industry

IT looks as if the Ceylonisation policy ad-
 umberated by the UNP Government and the prospects held out to the nationals of this country, that they are welcome to embark on Trade and Industry when Government support to them will be forthcoming, is being re-relaxed or gradually forgotten. On the strength of Government's declaration, Ceylonese of substance and standing readily embarked upon business enterprises having equipped themselves to cater both for Government and public support especially in the transport of ship's cargo. In the carrier business at any rate Ceylonese were entitled to preference. But somehow non-Ceylonese appear to be getting all the plums and the nationals of the country allege they are left out in the cold.

We refer to this matter as there seems to be considerable dissatisfaction and even disappointment that the Government Stores Department despite Government's declaration, have selected or given preference to an Indian capitalised company with a locally domiciled Indian as Managing Director and who, for two years now, holds the Government Stores Con-

tract. Under what precise terms and conditions this firm has been favoured with Government patronage we don't pretend to know.

Whether the rates quoted by Messrs Abbas Freighters Limited were more advantageous to Government than those of Ceylonese competitors who had applied, we are unable to say. Whatever it is, we cannot understand why Ceylonese transporters of recognised standing and integrity should not have been considered as entitled to and deserving of the Government's support and patronage. If our information is correct, the Government Stores cannot conscientiously say that the services of Abbas Freighters Limited are of a high order or of extraordinary efficiency to merit continued support being given them.

Were it so really how is it that a shipment of Steel that should have been transported immediately after landing was not taken on hand to be conveyed for any given place or stores for eight long months. If this firm of Government Contractors was giving efficient service, where was the need for the authorities to request another transporting firm to clear that identical shipment for delivery where it was required? Did not the non-delivery of the Steel for quite a long time entail inconvenience, delay and may be even loss to Government? furthermore a large consignment of Aluminium Sheets in bundles entrusted to Abbas Freighters Limited for transport we understand, was mis-delivered or mis-directed and found in some private god-down or garage where the Police on information received discovered the same. If there was anything like efficiency and satisfactory service such a thing could never have occurred. Since it is stated on the authority of a Government communique that the contractors concerned had undertaken to make good the loss, we shall not pursue the matter. But the question that arises is does the Superintendent of Government Stores condone such a laxity and lapse on the part of the contractors or regard their services as satisfactory or efficient? As publicists we don't think so at all.

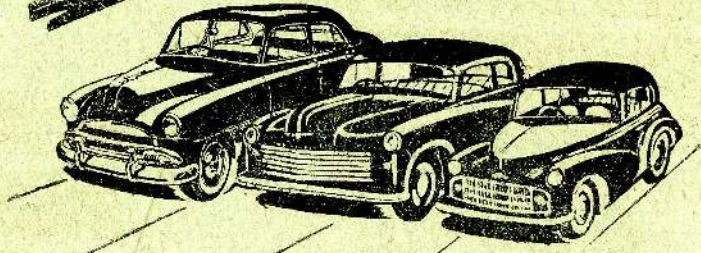
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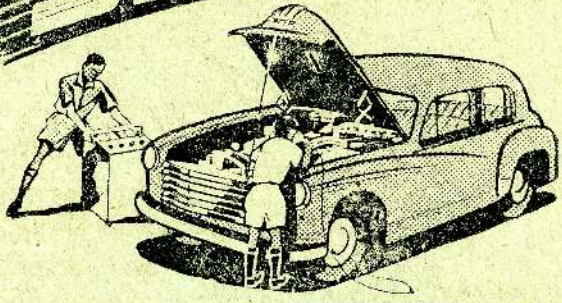
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