

THE

# SEARCHLIGHT

VOL 35 NO 11

COLOMBO

JUNE 30th 1956

## English & American Bases in Ceylon & Iceland

WE OF Ceylon and they of Iceland, both island countries, the first in the Indian Ocean and the second in the North Atlantic, are at the moment confronted with the identical question about the Bases held by England and by America respectively.

Ceylon wants England to give up her strategic holdings while Iceland wants the U.S.A. to give up her's in that country. England has not so far consented to do so. As for the Bases held by America in Iceland, we must await further information as an election is being held on that issue.

However, the British authorities have two alternative sites already in mind in place of Trincomalee. That is if England decided to evacuate both Trinco and Katunayake. The alternative sites are Mombasa in the East African Coast viz in British East Africa and the other at Cockburn Sound in Australian waters. U.S.A. has not yet decided anything about her strategic bases in Iceland. Meanwhile the following will be interesting reading. **June 23rd**

"The new conception of the vulnerability of static naval bases in an atomic war is gaining ground in official circles.

In a leading story today, the Daily Telegraph suggests that Trincomalee, after all, may not be of much use to Britain if the question of bases was examined in this light.

The safest place, argues the article, for a ship, in the time of hostilities, is the open sea.

And secret anchorages which have all facilities for repairing ships quickly must be far enough from battle areas to be safe.

### EMPLOYEES

Trincomalee, it says, does not have these facilities although the labour force employed there (six thousand) is almost as big as that of Malta's base.

This is because the base is largely used for storage purposes.

The article also says that the claims of Mombasa will be pressed at the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference.

It is pointed out that Mombasa stands at a strategic point on the Indian Ocean periphery and that its importance has even been recognised by Nasser whose Cairo Radio has begun to issue a stream of propaganda directed against rousing local opinion against the establishment of the base.

### ANOTHER SITE

Another site for a likely base is Cockburn Sound, which had already been inspected by

(Continued on page 15)

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## THE BRITISH BASES IN CEYLON

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Vol 35 No. 11

COLOMBO

June 30th 1956.

## Peace and Prosperity in Jayanthi Year

**W**HEN elaborate preparations were made for the celebration of Buddha Jayanthi the country was assured of peace and prosperity when the 2500th Anniversary of Buddhism ushered in and our new Government took every conceivable step to prepare the people for a great spiritual awakening. The preached "Ahimsa" and enforced it on other religions by banning meat, fish, eggs, and poultry for one week. Religious dignitaries from other countries were invited to join the local Buddhists in this great Buddhist Renaissance.

During the General Election which preceded the Buddha Jayanthi the Eksath Bhikshu Peramuna went all over the country and canvassed support for the M.E.P. Government as they felt that the U.N.P. Government would not take adequate interest in the Jayanthi Year, the same Government which made a big fuss and pretended to display its religious fervour, in conjunction with the same Eksath Bhikshu Peramuna and the other religious and national leaders struck a discordant note on the 5th of this month and incited the Sinhalese against the Tamils over the 'Sinhala Only' Bill. Our Buddhists who would not see a drop of animal blood during Wesak went out for the blood of the Jaffna and Indian Tamils and I wonder what credit the conduct of the Buddhist Leaders and their stooges would have brought on a great religion which had just entered on a new phase on the 23rd of last month. The brutal and inhuman manner in which Tamils were beaten, plundered and thrown to the pavements was

most heart rending. I can understand a man giving stout resistance to his aggressor and in a struggle even inflicting an injury but what explanation can he give if he just rushes on to one who is simply using the highway as any other free citizen and waylays him? Is it for this religious awakening that our Buddhist Government

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enforced a meat ban? Think of the daily increasing murder rate in this country and the rocketing increase in other forms of grave crime.

Mr. L. H. Methananda threatened the Tamils that the Sinhalese would boycott Tamil Doctors, Advocates, Proctors and even Jaffna Cigars. This is a very good weapon to use if it is practicable. I am charged in a Court of Law and in deference to the wishes of Mr. Methananda I retain a Sinhalese Proctor and a Sinhalese Advocate but I still cannot say what my fate would be if I am to be tried by a Tamil Judge or Magistrate! I fall sick and enter a Government Hospital as a Non-Paying Patient. The House Officer happens to be a Tamil or the Visiting Physician or Surgeon happens to be a Tamil. Where do I stand? Am I going to sacrifice my precious life to appease the desires of our language fanatics? Will Mr. Methananda tell us how many Tamils he assaulted during the recent riots? I do not think he would have ever ventured such a risky business. He apparently had not the courage to do it, so he got irresponsible men to do it for him! Buddhist Priests were conspicuous by their absence from Galle Face Green though they also joined in the threat. They would never have ventured for the sake of their own lives but incited others to do it. The rioters plundered the Tamils, looted their shops and walked away with the booty but when com-

ensation is paid every taxpayer has to take a share of it though thousands had no hand in it. Let the Eksath Bhikshu Peramuna and the other leaders like Mr. Methananda pay this ransom to the victims of this National Plunder of 1956.

The day is not far away when the same Eksath Bhikshu Peramuna and the same National Leaders under the Prime Minister would hold out the next threat to the Christians that they they dare not hold more than one church service a month and that if they do so, the same violence would be resorted to. I would ask your readers to mark these words of mine and see how the tide would turn.

People accuse the Sama Samajists and Communists of being responsible for bloody revolution but what have we just seen at the hands of a so-called Social Democratic Government? Is this a sample of the bulk to be delivered to us in the future?

During the U.N.P. Government we accused them that the Police were siding U.N.P. people but the conduct of the Police during the recent riots only showed that they had done exactly what they were accused of by the very people who are in power today.

By all means we should fight for our rights as Sinhalese but there is a way to fight for it—certainly not with brute force.

SHERMAN A. FERNANDO

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*The Searchlight Forum*

# The Parting of the Ways

GENTLEMEN:—This is an extraordinary session of our Forum. It has been summoned to ascertain your views in regard to the present discontent in the country and which lead up to last week's communal rioting and other disturbances accompanied by violence. I am advised that, on this occasion, for reasons of safety, I should refer to you all by the letters of the alphabet and not by your names. Though I am averse to referring to you thus, I agree that it is prudent, at this particular juncture, to adopt that form of address. This is in view of the delicate times we are going through and hence your identity should not be disclosed.

Now let me pose the question we are met to consider: "To what do you think the Government is driving the country to, and what should be done to prevent disunity among the people of this Island and to assure them peace and tranquility? Let us begin. I call upon Mr. C. to lead the discussion.

MR. C.—To start with, Sir, I frankly don't like to remain in anonymity. I fear nobody; not even the M.E.P. Government from the P.M. down to Sinhala Marikar. We must not be afraid to let the Government know what we of the intelligentsia of this country think of their political decisions and those confounded measures they decide to carry out. Anyway, my answer to the question you have posed is that Government is leading the country to red ruin, racial hatred, religious fanaticism, political disunity and general chaos.

MR. G.—(interrupting) I am afraid, Sir, Mr. C. is an alarmist!

MR. C.—(continuing) Not a bit! Rather, I am a realist. I believe in calling a spade a spade and not an agricultural instrument. I must be candid in stating that I am unlike those who having eyes see not and having ears hear not. Ceylon has not yet reached that stage of true Democracy. What we are practising is Mobocracy under the guise of Democracy led by Bhikkus. That is the long and short of the trouble the country is confronted with just now. Therefore, the sooner public opinion manifests itself vehemently

and we drive home to the Government our sense of keen disappointment and disgust at the present trends, the better it would be for all concerned and for an united and peaceful Ceylon.

MR. F.—What I personally think of the present situation is that the disturbances we have seen created, are due to a false sense of nationalism, largely of the creation of political mischief-makers and pseudo-patriots roused and misled by a fanatical section of the Buddhist priesthood. The P. M. himself, despite all his pretensions, has succumbed to the evil. He has shown tremendous weakness. He is swayed by a false sense of nationalism. He wants to run the Government of this country on sentiment and not by the rule of law, which recognises the rights of every section of the people as of paramount importance. He does not appear to see how subtly he is being pushed by the force of of circumstances and by a spurious, or shall I say furious? Nationalism or pseudo-religious fanaticism. What I feel about the matter is that the P.M. has created for himself an awkward situation, indeed. He must perforce yield to all this tomfoolery that is going on, or he must throw up the Premiership manfully and say "I stand

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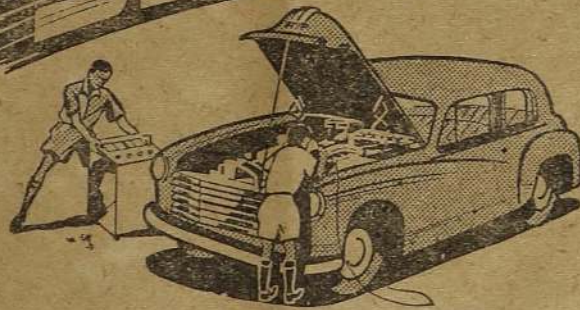
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no dictation"! Of course, there are many who think that is the last thing Mr. Solomon Bandaranaike will do. In my view, there is one of two alternatives for him. He must either resign gracefully or the country must force his retirement. He does not seem to possess that sense of impartiality, justice and fair play which the Prime Minister of a country with a non homogeneous people should essentially possess for the office of Premier.

**THE LEADER:**—Don't you think Mr. B, you are treading on delicate ground?

**Mr. B—**Why do you call it delicate, Sir? The course I suggest and indicate, I believe, is less delicate than letting the whole country go to wreck and ruin. Besides, our P.M., as you all can see, hugs the delusion that all's well in the country. He further appears to believe that the country is behind him. Sir John believed that he too had the country behind him! The P.M. probably thinks he is infallible and so the M.E.P. His high and mighty attitude during the Language Debate, is self-evident. In my view, he is not fit to be the Prime Minister of Ceylon. Dr. N.M. Perera, in his forthright speech on the Language Bill, had something pungent to say."

**The Leader:**—What did Dr. N. M. Perera say? I am unaware to what you refer.

**Mr. B—**I will presently read the relative extract from Dr. N. M. Perera's speech. .... Ah, here it is. This is what Dr. Perera said. Let me read it for the information of all here (Mr. B. reads.)

"Will the Tamil-speaking people of this country ever forget what happened during these few days. Are we not justified in accusing the Government of responsibility for those most inhuman acts?"

#### WORTHLESS ASSURANCES

"Is the Sinhala language Bill a Bill, or really a minority assurance Bill" asked Dr. Perera as every member in the Government side had stressed that justice would be shown to the minorities, even though action contrary to those assurances had been taken already by certain Ministers of State.

Dr. Perera also referred to certain decisions taken by the Minister of Education which were not in keeping with those assurances. The Minister of Education had made certain statements at public meetings which were utterly communal.

Dr. Perera went on say that most of the illusions of the M.E.P. to Government were in-

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fluenced by the Eksath Bhikkhu Peramuna. He had heard very responsible Bhikkhus ordering Government Servants about, and further referred to certain statements made by Baddegama Wimalawansa Thero, the Joint Secretary of the Eksath Bhikkhu Peramuna.

### RACIAL HATRED

Dr. Perera said throughout the history of recent times, the minorities had been given assurances, and soon after they had been broken. Was it surprising, he asked, whether the minorities were now chary of accepting assurances from the Government.

Dr. Perera next referred to speeches made by members of the Bhikkhu Peramuna on the eve of the Language Bill being introduced. You cannot, he said, raise racial hatred, and expect people to keep quiet. It was unfair and meaningless to blame members of the Opposition.

### CHRISTIANS NEXT . .

Dr. Perera said in 1948, they warned that the Tamils would be pushed out. Today he would like to say that the next section to go out would be the Christians. "You cannot stop when you start going down the slippery slope. You will end up by having only the Goigama Buddhist"

Mr. A.—I am inclined to agree with Mr. B. There is considerable natural fear in many quarters and many thousands of hearts, both Buddhists and non-Buddhists, that the Government flushed with victory seems to be callous and even blind to this manifestation of fear on the part of the inhabitants of this country. Numbers only seem to count and nothing, absolutely nothing else, matters. Where all this is going to end only the Lord knows.

Mr. G:—When Government, who calls itself a People's Government, plays into the hands of one section of the people disregarding the rights of the other sections, it is nothing but consenting to hooligan rule. or is it priest rule? The masses as we know, are still illiterate, uneducated and necessarily uncultured and, therefore, unreasonable. They cannot distinguish the right from the wrong. Their thoughts seem to run in the particular groove of erroneous thinking. They are influenced by mischief-makers like the Malalasekeras, the Mettanandas and the Jayasuriyas. If those whom the masses hoisted to power yield so readily to the demands of the masses then, I

say, a dark era will surely dawn on this once peaceful land.

Mr. C.—Had not that dark era already dawned, as indicated by the rising of the political Buddhist Priests, as indicated by the power they now hold over the P.M.? Are they also not holding out threats to all M.P.'s to do this and do that or to be prepared to face the consequences.

The Leader—But I don't see where the P.M. comes in, Mr. C.

Mr. C.—Don't you, Sir? The P. M. is the greater sinner in this respect. He is in the grip of the Priesthood. There is no escape for him. I'm sure he will soon rue the day he consented to be guided, or to be "led by the nose" by the political Bhikkus. We have seen the first act of the political drama that is being enacted under the M.E.P. Government. The subsequent acts and scenes I assure you, Sir, will be even more horrible than that Ceylon witnessed during the last week.

The Leader:- I did not expect to see so much heat generated over our deliberations today. However, I thank you gentlemen for your views so freely and frankly expressed. The time is now up. We will meet again some day a fortnight hence and conclude our deliberations in a calmer atmosphere. I now declare the Forum adjourned.

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# The Searchlight

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June 30th 1956

## The British Bases in Ceylon

SAY whatever one will, the people of this Island of all races and creeds have the greatest admiration for the British sense of justice and fairplay. This can hardly be denied. It was the possession of these characteristic traits combined with that sympathy for backward or less progressive peoples of the world that actuated the Kandyan Sinhalese, when they dethroned their King for misrule, to accept the British Sovereign by choice as their King. And when Independence was granted to Ceylon the people out of their free will consented to recognise Elizabeth II of England as the Queen of Ceylon. This long standing friendship and cordiality shown the Britishers and their Government have endured and remain unshaken despite differences brought about by unpopular administrative measures during the British Rule. The howl that the British Government had exploited the people of this Island for their sole gain and benefit, is a debatable point. However, the outstanding fact remains that the so called exploitation was not altogether without compensating benefits when it is realised that the credit side of the ledger is heavily weighed in Ceylon's favour as a result of the British connection.

So much by way of a prelude to the consideration of the subject of British Naval and Air Bases in Ceylon over which much is being talked and written since the coming into power of the M.E.P. Government with Mr. Solomon West Ridgeway Dias Bandaranaike as Prime Minister. Here, if the truth needs must be faced, it is well to bear in mind that the people of this country never had or could have any valid objection to the use of the sea and air bases by the British. Not even the most rabid nationalist had any ethical or political reason to object to the British Royal Navy or Air Force operating, in accordance with England's imperial policy and

plan, in the Indian and Pacific Oceans with bases in Ceylon. It was only a handful of Communists fire-eaters seeking to spread Soviet ideas in this country who raised this question in 1947. And it must be noted that these agents of Russian Revolutionists did not represent even a five-hundredth thousandth part of the inhabitants of this Island.

Right from the start of the agitation for Self Government for Ceylon and almost up to the time Independence was granted, the question about Sea and Air Bases for the British was hardly raised for Ceylon was concerned only about the management of her domestic affairs by her own sons. But when the Defence Agreement between England and Ceylon was drawn up in 1947 and eventually signed, it carried a clause permitting the Government of the United Kingdom the use of strategic points in the Island both on sea and land. Viewed broadly such a stipulation was by all means advantageous and beneficial to both parties to the contract; more beneficial perhaps to this country than to England and therefore should be treated with respect in keeping with Ceylon's honour and integrity since it is binding on the M.E.P. Government as it was on the U.N.P. Government to recognise the contractual obligations specified in the Defence Agreement.

# TOBY



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In dealing with these Bases the Prime Minister should not act in the manner he did with the Sinhalese Only Bill. It would be regrettable if he is allowed to run away with the idea that because he happens to be Prime Minister he had the right to impose his political likes and dislikes on the people. Nor must the M.E.P. insist on its policy being carried out because it is the party in power. The question of bases strictly speaking is not a party matter at all. It is an out and out matter of national importance affecting not only the majority community in this Island but the minority communities as well who have an equal say in the matter.

Be that as it may. For the next half a century or more, Ceylon cannot hope to build up a Navy or an Air Force of sufficient size, strength and of such quality that can hope to counteract or effectively withstand an enemy attack from without her shores. Until such time as she is able to build up her own defence arm, who is going to protect the Island if by the unwisdom of Prime Minister Bandaranaike and his "Yes men" the United Kingdom Government, is called upon to relinquish the bases here and withdraw her troops thus exposing the Island to the gravest danger? It is clear as anything can be that strengthened by the knowledge Ceylon does not possess anything like a powerful Navy or Air Force, any invading force can get hold of the Island without much resistance in less than twenty four hours. In view of such a possibility, it will be prudent for our Premier to seriously think of abandoning his policy or belief in non-involvement in the affairs either of England or the U.S.A. in any dispute they may have with other contending powers. In our view the wiser, and safer course by far, to follow would be to be guided by the natural law of self preservation. Accordingly let all facilities be given England to save herself and the Commonwealth of which we of this seagirt isle until recently was a part and parcel. That way lies wisdom. Will Prime Minister Bandaranaike take that view. In any case if a plebiscite is taken 95 per cent of the people will vote for allowing the British to use the Ceylon Bases and thus prevent the country from falling into the hands of any nation eyeing to get hold of her.

## *The Searchlight*

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# Increasing National Wealth

WHEN the State Council was established Government appointed a Committee, comprising of all the Ministers functioning at the time, to go into the subject of increasing the National Wealth of the Island. The object everybody thought was a very desirable and praiseworthy one. At length an elaborate Report was drawn up which contained a mine of valuable information supported by exhaustive statistics and followed by excellent suggestions and recommendations. These were in regard to how new industries could be set up, how new sources of mineral and other wealth could be tapped, and indicating how more money could be attracted thus enabling the Island to be prosperous and incidentally to be able to find work for thousands who were idling for want of it.

If half or less than half of the suggestions regarding the sources of wealth indicated for exploitation, were adopted and an attempt was made with due encouragement to those prepared to launch out on such enterprises and industries, by now the National Wealth would have been considerably augmented and prosperity assured to the people. No such thing was done. Like the earlier report, submitted by the industries Commission, it was shelved and the much talked about purpose of increasing the wealth of the country entirely forgotten.

Then came the World War in 1939 followed by an industrial and agricultural boom. The war-wealth that poured in got distributed in a remarkable manner. When this happened, individuals found themselves in clover and with money freely available. Nobody worried about increasing National Wealth. That did not matter to them so long as a handful of wealthy people became wealthier. However in a few years, somewhere in 1950-1953, all the wealth that came into the country began to be dissipated in diverse ways and directions. With the exception of a handful of people who had cash left over after paying Income Tax others took a hand in new floatations specialising in the importation of Motor vehicles, others concentrated on acquiring Rubber, Coconut and Tea Estates and not one per cent among the "new rich" directed their attention to starting manufacturing enter-

prises or looked forward to new sources of producing wealth. These they neglected and continue to neglect.

It is an indisputable fact that Ceylon is much handicapped by the non-availability of capital for financing trade and enterprise or pioneering new industries and development works. Prior to the grant of Independence money was plentiful and available at a low rate of interest. Those sources have now dried up consequent to the withdrawal of such capital for investment elsewhere. Furthermore during the last two or three years much capital have disappeared. Further the Exchange Control and other restrictions imposed on foreigners as well as the Citizenship Bill have aggravated the situation. The Exchange Banks, with the exception of the Bank of Ceylon, perhaps, are somewhat chary about making capital available to the nationals of the country. The Industrial Credit Corporation and the State Mortgage Bank are more or less exclusive financing agencies for Ceylonese estate owners and where, like kissing, a loan can be obtained only by favour or by wire-pulling and manipulation. Unless and until all these impediments and obstacles are removed and Government boldly re-orientates its policy of State Aid to those who need financial assistance, the pious hope of increasing the National Wealth will be as remote as ever. And political Independence without its handmaid economic Independence, as THE SEARCHLIGHT has often pointed out, will remain nothing more and nothing less than a mere illusion or is it a delusion?

*Letters to the Editor*

## Organic Fertiliser Trade

**I**N the issue of the 10th instant, the article you published from "Son of the Soil" is entirely correct.

I am now in correspondence with a firm in Bombay whose address is as above, and this firm who is going to secure for Ceylon Sole Export Rights from five leading Indian Manufacturers of Animal by-products and oil-cakes, have requested me to approach consumers for orders for natural organic fertilisers. I wrote to various European Estate Agents giving details of the products I am in a position to offer, and in spite of the fact that the prices quoted by me are extremely competitive without exception, most of these estate agents curtly replied that they were not interested in buying fertilisers from me!

It is a pity that after eight years of so called Independence Ceylon is entirely handicapped in this matter. This, I say, is due to the monopolists, and until the Government helps Ceylonese firms with facilities to trade, I doubt if Ceylon could ever progress and prosper. I hope you will publish this letter.

Yours etc

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# The Significance of the No. 6 in the "Language Issue"

YOUR Readers must have read the item of news which appeared in an evening paper of June 15th, which was as follows:—

## "SIX WAS THE SIGNIFICANT NUMBER."

"After the marathon debate was over this morning, the Minister of Education, Mr. W. Dahanayake was heard explaining to his colleagues that the number "SIX" had played a significant part in the Language Bill—for which, incidentally, 66 Members of Parliament voted.

"SIX" asked one M.P., "Today's the 15th."

The Minister replied that the Bill had been finally disposed of at Six o'clock on the sixth day of the sixth month of the year nineteen hundred and fifty six by sixty six votes to 29.

To his still puzzled audience, Mr. W. Dahanayake pointed out that the 15th was composed of the numbers 1 and 5 'and that makes six' he concluded with invincible logic."

I do not know whether our Minister of Education, Mr. Dahanayake, is a Numerologist", but his independent observation of the significance of the No. 6 in the "Language Issue. is further convincing proof of the accuracy of "Planetary Influence" that affects the whole world and the people who live in it. Mr. Dahanayake is quite correct in stating that the 15 is really 6 from the numerological point of view. It is really what the Numerologist calls "the higher octave of the No. 6". I have already explained the fact that Numerology only recognises the single or unit Number 1 to 9, and that all numbers above the 9 are mere repetitions of one of the Single Numbers. The Key number or unit number is obtained by the 'natural addition of the digits of a Compound Number.' The nine numbers on which our whole numerical system is based are designated by the nine planets the Sun Moon, Jupiter, Uranus, Mercury, Venus, Neptune, Saturn, and Mars and the affect of these planets and their numbers

over the earth have been carefully studied from the Ages.

In an earlier part of this article, I have pointed out that (a) The best and most auspicious dates for Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike for attending to any important undertaking was a date produced by the Sun Number 1 and its higher octaves such as the 1st, 10th, 19th and the 28th.

(b) And that the next best Numbers were those of the 3 and 6 series such as the 3rd, 6th, 12th, 15th, 21st, 24th, and the 30th.

Note:—The 3, 6, and 9 in numerology are strong numbers which are harmonious and interchangeable with one another: but the 9 has been left out in considering "Mr. Bandaranaike," because, as already pointed out the

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combination of the 9 with Mr. Bandaranaike's Key No. 8 is regarded as "unfortunate and unlucky."

The reader will, therefore, fully appreciate the reason why the No. 6 was a significant number in the case of Mr. Bandaranaike and the language Bill on the 15th June 1956. Let us, therefore, just glance at the significance of the No. 6 in this connection, also bearing in mind that the No. 3 is also an important number as it is a number that is in harmony and is also interchangeable with the 6.

(1) If we calculate the personal forecast for "The Hon'ble Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike on 15th June, 1956 we will find it giving the compound No. 15 with its single digit the No. 6 thus:—

NAME NUMBER.....1	} 15 = 6/
DATE (15th).....6	
BIRTH NUMBER (8th).....8	

If we refer to page 80-81 of "Cheiro's Book of Numbers", the occult meaning of the 15 shows that "the No. 15 is a very lucky and powerful number, and if associated with one of the peculiar numbers, such as the 4 or 8 (Mr. Bandaranaike is a No. 8 person) the person it represents will not scruple to use any sort of art, or even 'Black Magic' to gain what he or she desires. The No. 15 is peculiarly associated with 'good talkers', often with eloquence, combined with a strong personal magnetism. For obtaining money, gifts and favours from others, it is a fortunate number."

Therefore, it will be noted, that the occult influences affecting our Prime Minister on 15th June, 1956 foreshadowed the fact that the date was an auspicious one for any important undertaking. His undertaking was "the Language Bill" which he was successful in carrying through.

(2) The Language Bill was finally disposed on 15th June, 1956.

The Reader will note the significance of the 6 and the 3 in connection with this date:—

The 15th day.....	No. 6
of June (the 6th Month).....	No. 6
Debate concluded (6 a.m.).....	No. 6
Government won by 66 Votes to 29. Note the double 6. When the compound No. 66 is added it gives No. 12.....	No. 3
The year 1956 gives 21.....	No. 3

(3) The Debate in the House of Representatives on the "Language Bill" started at 2

p.m. on Thursday 7th June, 1956 and was concluded at 6 a.m. on 15th June, 1956 Friday. The whole duration of the debate had been 51 completed hours, including the time taken for intervals. When the compound No. 51 is reduced to a unit number, we again get the significant No. 6.

(4) The 15th of June, 1956 was a Friday which is regarded as the day of the Planet Venus whose number is also the No. 6.

(5) It is not surprising that the No. 6 happens to be a lucky and fortunate number for our Prime Minister as even his son and heir was born on the 15th February, 1949, which date again produces the significant No. 6.

S J. F. Bandaranaike

Wye,  
Colpetty, Colombo,  
15th June,

Mr. Bandaranaike's article "A Numerological Study of the Hon'ble Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike." will be published later but the article published above is to be a part of the other, which we publish today because of its topical interest and the reference to the "Sinhala Only Bill" to which Mr. Dahanayake, Minister for Education, made a numerological reference.—Editor]



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# MUSINGS

By  
T. W. Hoekly

## BAN ON SLAUGHTER

THE Ban on slaughter was continued for a whole week in Colombo during Wesak and the Buddha Jayanti celebrations. In Negombo the ban was for a single day, but in the District the ban is to continue for a whole month. This comes rather hard on the people as prices for dry Fish, Dahl, Potatoes, Flour and vegetable have soared. It is an undeniable fact whatever may be said to the contrary that Ceylon as in her rice production is not self sufficient as regards vegetables. The output of vegetables could certainly be greatly increased if market gardeners were prepared to work harder than they do and not indulge too much in the dolce fare niente and incidentally earn more money.

## A BUDDHIST REPUBLIC OF SINHALA DEEPA?

IF things continue to shape as they appear to be doing at present in the not too distant future we may see a Buddhist Republic of Lanka Deepa established in Sri Lanka with the Constitution so amended that only a Sinhalese Buddhist (if not a monk) could be the Head of such a state. I am quoting from a correspondent in the local Press. We may yet see a Reverend Thero installed as President of such a Republic. Sri Lanka could then well earn the name of "Yellow Republic."

## EMPIRE—COMMONWEALTH

THERE is an old French saying "le plus que ca change, le plus que c'est ta meme chose" "The more it changes the more it is the same thing." You pay your money and take your choice.

## CANNING FACTORY

IT is an extraordinary thing that when the State handles any Industry they hardly ever do so without incurring a loss. If and when a profit is made the Industry is handled in such a way that through lack of foresight or business acumen much wastage occurs with lesser chance of increasing profits. At the Canning Factory large orders have been received from abroad and the demand is great for canned pine apples.

Yet the Marketing Department States that the quantity of pineapples received is so great that it is impossible to utilise the whole quantity. The daily intake of pineapples amounts to 15,000 lbs. but the machinery at the factory can only cope with 10,000 lbs. The balance of 5000 lbs. has to be destroyed—a wicked waste. This means a monthly loss of Rs. 30,000—big money.

The Marketing Department states that this cannot be helped. But at least could not this surplus of 5000 lbs daily be distributed among the poor instead of ruthlessly destroying the gifts of God and bountiful nature? Why was it not possible for the Canning Factory to have been built so as to deal with the whole 15,000 lbs daily? Sheer lack of foresight. The Government nearly always seem to do the right thing in the wrong way. Some little time ago a colossal Rice Mill was erected that it was sufficient to deal with more Paddy than could be produced in the whole Island. It was just a great big white elephant. Doubtless those who placed this colossal order saw to it that they had their Commission from the suppliers of the Rice Mill but who cared? No one was brought to book it. It was just "one of those things."



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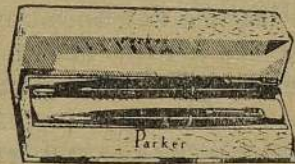
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Attempts I believe were subsequently made to dispose of this white elephant outside but apparently there were no buyers. It would be interesting to know what has been done about this Gargantuan Rice Mill, the result of the folly and lack of foresight of some official Jack in Office sorely lacking in common sense and greying matter.

I remember when I was a child and asked for an extra helping of food I was told that my eyes were bigger than my stomach. This applies to some of our officials with their big and extravagant ideas for which the people have to foot the bill, but this matters little to the officials who possess little if any Business know-

ledge or acumen. Their whole training is against it. What they are more interested in is the regular arrival of their pay packets. All else matters little to them. "Im all right Damn you."

### ONE CLASS RAIL TRAVEL

I consider it is a mistake for the Government to introduce one class carriages on the Railway. It does not matter so much for local trains or for short distances as in the case of Diesel trains but not for lengthy journeys and especially for night journeys of any length. Decent people desire some amenities and comfort

### AICC DOOMED

*"Sooner its activities are ended, the better"*

**T**HE days of the Agricultural and Industrial Credit Corporation are numbered.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture, Mr. Philip Gunawardene, told the members of the L.C.P.A. the "sooner the A.I.C.C. is dissolved and its activities ended the better."

Mr. Gunawardene said that well-known speculators were at the helm of this Corporation and are aiding the disintegration of large plantations under the guise of Ceylonisation "Its members must answer for this crime," he said.

"This is not Ceylonisation. I can understand Ceylonese taking over these estates intact and preserving their efficiency. But not those who break it up for sale. It is a crime. This must stop."

in a lengthy journey and do not wish to be herded among a crowd, or to enter a dirty compartment infested by bugs.

Travelling in a one class compartment would have no appeal for visitors, tourists and local educated people. This would mean that such people will not patronise the Railway but travel rather by car or charter a bus for their conveyance.

Mr. Rampala the General Manager of the C. G. Railway is going into the question of one class travel but whether he approves or not I suppose he will have to do as he is told by his Minister but the Minister should think twice before committing himself to such a policy however democratic his views may be.

Even in Soviet Russia will be found luxury coaches for long journeys. Food, restaurant cars,

comfortable beds and bunks, bath-rooms, carriages and even well-stocked Libraries. If this obtains in a Communist and classless country why should Ceylon seek to do otherwise? The question calls for much thought before a definite decision is arrived at. The first flush of so called Democracy. There are a large number of people quite willing to pay extra for comfort and amenities when undertaking a lengthy journey.

PROHIBITION

A prominent and responsible person recently told the Prohibition Commission that if they wished to enforce Prohibition in Ceylon they would first have to see that every coconut tree in the country was cut down and uprooted and then and only then could they hope to enforce Prohibition on an unwilling country. The same would apply to such a country as France and every grape vine in every vineyard would first have to be uprooted and destroyed with the incidental loss of the colossal ruin the wine and



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Brandy Industry of France. This of course France and every other grape vine growing country would never allow or agree to in any circumstance to say nothing of the huge loss in Revenue.

TAX ON CARS

SEE that Mr. Sagara Palansuriya, M.P. for Horana has asked the Minister of Finance for a reduction of the tax on the purchase of second hand cars. In this I am in agreement with Mr. Palansuriya as the tax is

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far too high and should be reduced. There is another matter which calls for early revision viz. the Licence Fee on motor cars. For the current year the Licence Fees have been doubled—just like that. One would not mind so much had Licence Fees been increased by say ten rupees but suddenly to double the Licence Fee is beyond all equity. Even if the extra amount were spent on the improvement and widening of our roads there might be some justification for this increase but we know that it isn't. Ceylonese mostly are a long suffering and patient race and even when they get a hard kick in the pants make no protest but just, to use their own inimitable expression pay up and "keep quiet." But this fierce doubling of Licence Fees calls for early revision.

SUSPENSION OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

A contemporary states that the M.E.P. Government decided to suspend the death penalty overnight as a Buddhist Monk had Batcho on his brain. But what has a Buddhist Monk got to do with it? Bhikkhus should never be allowed to mix in Politics. Politics and Religion should always be apart. Let the Bhikkus return to their temples and attend to their religious duties and refrain from dabbling in Politics. If they do this it will be the better for the country and the people. If we are to have Peace in the land

(Continued on page 17)



## English & American Bases in Ceylon & Iceland

(Continued from Cover page)

Admiral Mountbatten during his visit to Australia.

The whole trend of the article seems to suggest that Britain may not really offer much resistance to Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike's demands that the British must quit Trincomalee.

On the question of the air base at Katurayake there is complete silence. This is likely to be a much more thorny problem.

Britain is bound to insist on remaining there at least for a time because as yet atom and hydrogen bomb carriers have not enough range to do without valuable refueling:- (Lake House Foreign News Service)

Reykjavik (Iceland)

June, 22

Four political parties today wound up a parliamentary election campaign that will decide whether the United States can continue to keep strategic air bases on this North Atlantic Island country.

Only one of the parties favours retention of the bases. The Communist and two other parties want the bases closed. The election on Sunday will decide the issue.

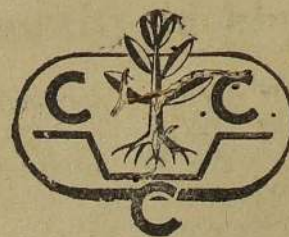
Presence of the U. S. air base at Reykjavik 35 miles from here, stirred up political controversy that led to the resignation on March 27 of Prime Minister Thors' Government.

Thors called Sunday's election to form a new Government. The four parties held final rallies today. Tomorrow, they will concentrate on getting the island's 93,000 voters to the polls.

Only if the Independence party, which controls the present interim government, wins will the U. S. forces have a good chance of staying in Iceland.

Opposing the bases are the Leftist progressives, Social Democrats and Communists.

The Progressives had formed a coalition government with the Independence Party for the last six years. This Spring they split



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with the Independence and joined the Social Democrats.

Some of the Social Democrats then split from their own party and formed a "Labour Alliance" with the Communists.

Last March the Progressives pushed through the Althing (Parliament) a resolution calling for withdrawal of all foreign troops from Iceland because of the "changed international situation."

The resolution called for revision of the 1951 agreement, which allowed the United States to use bases in Iceland for protection of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation area.

The United States is the only foreign nation with troops in Iceland.

It has spent about \$150 million building the air base at Keflavik and three radar stations. An estimated 4,000 men are stationed at the base.

The size and make up of the military forces is subject to Icelandic approval.

Officials say there has been no trouble between Americans and Icelanders. They said current Icelandic sentiment is "anti-foreign rather than anti-American"—(U.P.)

# Nationalisation of Estates Would be Disastrous

ALTHOUGH we are a non-political body we would but fail in our duty if we did not criticise the proposed legislation that affects our industries. In this connection, we view with grave concern the proposal to nationalise our agriculture and industries as we feel in no sense whatever can it benefit the country. The opposite will result," said Mr. B. D. Fay, Chairman of the Ceylon Planters' Society, at the 20th annual general meeting of the society held at the Uva Club, Badulla on Saturday 17th June.

Reviewing the the progress of the society during the 20 years of its existence, Mr. Fay said its activities were based on Whitley Council procedure and its aims were to better the working position of the planter, improve his professional status and service he gives to his employers.

The latter was very effectively done through the society's technical education committee.

The society had a membership of 891 planters and was a non-communal and non-political body. Twenty years ago its membership was nearly 100 per cent non-national—today it was 46 per cent national and 54 per cent non-national.

## INCOME TAX AMENDMENT

Referring to the activities of the society, Mr. Fay said: "We consider planting a profession. Gone are the days, when it was thought an adequate occupation for the remittance man or the dilettante. Although we are still more or less a jack-of all trades, we have to master, among other things, languages, agricultural practice, and the difficult art of negotiation with Government, Labour and Trade Unions (pseudo or otherwise)"

He said the society's technical education committee was endeavouring to produce a suitable text book for the study of Sinhalese.

On the question of retirement funds, Mr. Fay said that the Minister of Finance in the last Government had received a deputation from the society the purpose of which was to inquire about the effects of the Income Tax (Amendment) Bill and present its views thereon with particular reference to the effect on retirement funds.

It appeared that the Bill would no worsen the position as regards provident funds, but hit hard at gratuities a new departure in Ceylon.

He hoped that the new Government would take an equitable view on taxation and concentrate its energies on the prevention of waste which would more than counter balance any problematical gain by increased taxation.

## NATIONALISATION OF ESTATES

Mr. R. M. MacIntyre, chairman of the Agency Section of the Planters' Association of Ceylon, referring to the manifesto of the new Government which had mentioned nationalisation of estates, said that since coming into power the Prime Minister had endeavoured to give some assurance that nationalisation of estates was the last on the list.

Mr. MacIntyre added: "To my mind this must be so"

He said the records of nationalisation in other spheres and in other countries did not appear to be covered with success nor were they monuments to efficiency. It would be so in Ceylon if the Government proceeded with that programme.

Ceylon's economy depended on the three main agricultural crops. If it was to progress it had to be worked with the maximum efficiency. Competing countries in those commodities did not in the main rely on agricultural exports for their survival and had a more diversified economy.

## 'DISASTROUS'

In consequence it seemed apparent that any interference in duties so essential to the national economy must be disastrous and when emphasis had been to attract foreign capital to Ceylon it would have untold undesirable repercussions externally.

He hoped those facts would be appreciated in the proper quarters and interference in the efficient management of estates which was the result of many years of experience could not be adopted without the most careful examination.

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## MUSINGS

(Continued from page 14)

Bhikkus must refrain from politics and not be a factor for stirring up unrest and strife.

### ENGLISH NEWSPRINTS

**N**OWADAYS there seems to be so many faddists who put forward absurd and impossible whims and suggestions to ban all kinds of things and who grossly interfere with the liberty of the subject to further their own ends and ideas. By doing this the idea behind it all is not to benefit the people but to increase their own power. There are bans on that which are agreed to *nem con.* We shall soon have a ban on breathing.

But as I predicted a ban has now been put forward to prohibit the publication of newsprints in English and only Swabasha is to be used. But should legislation be passed for such rank absurdity who is going to read only newsprint in Sinhalese? There are many Sinhalese who possess a fluent knowledge of their own mother tongue but who are unable to read or write Sinhalese, or if so very slowly and with difficulty. Take my own case, although I speak Sinhalese fairly fluently and studied and passed

in this subject several years ago, through lack of sufficient practice I am now only able to read and write Sinhalese very slowly. There are many Sinhalese villagers who are quite unable to read or write Sinhalese. This also applies to a very large number of Educated Sinhalese.

I remember some years ago when I was in Colombo there was a big Land Case being heard at the Courts. The late Rt. Hon. D. S. Senanayake was one of the witnesses in the case.

When in the Witness box he was handed an Opuwa or Deed in Sinhalese and requested to read it. D.S.S. had to admit that although he spoke Sinhalese with fluency he was quite unable to read it.

Again, not so long ago when a Trial at Bar was being heard our present Prime Minister when being cross-examined by Pritt had to admit that he was only able to read Sinhalese script slowly. So there you are. What have our Swabasha Faddists and extremists got to say about it? There is no question about it but whatever happens or whatever may be said to the contrary English is and always will be a must. Not only is English a world language but it is the language of Diplomacy, Business and Trade otherwise how can Ceylon retain her contacts with the outside world. At Conferences the language spoken by delegates is English. How would it do if a delegate from Ceylon addressed the Conference in Sinhalese?

It would be manifestly absurd. How many people of other countries know Sinhalese or would trouble to learn it. There would seem a great lack of proportion among the people of Sri Lanka. I daresay understanding will come some day when it is found that no progress can be looked for or expected without the use of English. I am neither a reactionary nor a die-hard and only take a common sense view.

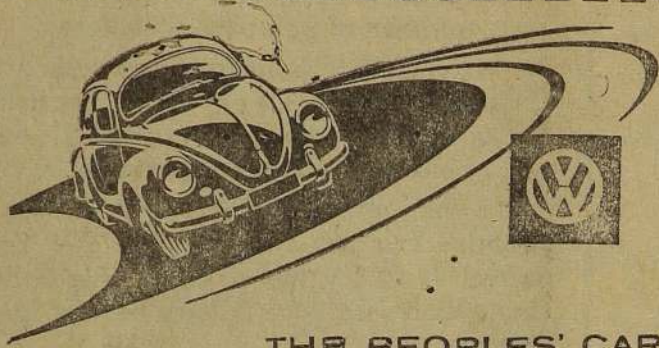
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### CHINA'S DEBT

I read in the local Press that China has offered a variety of goods as well as heavy machinery in order to bridge the £ 56 millions gap in the balance of payments to Ceylon. This is pure barter but the trouble is that Ceylon may not want all these various goods in payment for her Rubber and prefers to have hard cash. But apparently this is what China is unable to give us. Surely some modus operandi could have been fixed up as regards payments between China and Ceylon at the time of the Agreement and not left to chance? But are we to continue to let China have our rubber "on tick" and hope for payment in the future? "Living in Hope and dying in Despair."

If Ceylon intends to continue selling her rubber to China and also arranges to supply Russia with Ceylon Tea independent of London and Mincing Lane although the U.K. is easily our best customer for Tea, we shall soon find ourselves on the high road of economic Independence and then what?

### BARBERS AND SHAVING

"DO you shave yourself or do you employ a Barber?" asked a Sinhalese friend. I told him I always shaved myself with a Gillette Razor. 'But that isn't right' said my friend. 'Why?' I asked. 'Because if everyone shaves himself, how are the Barbers to live?'

And yet from inquiry I find most of the Barbers, in fact all of them, are Tamils and Indian Tamils around here.

There does not seem many Sinhalese Barbers about and yet we complain of unemployment. Sinhalese Barbers are too aristocratic and confine themselves to Barber Saloons. The People's Barbers are mostly Tamils in their humble way. "Too much style here" as an Indian once remarked to me.

### TRIPPER SPEICHT OF WASHINGTON

THERE seems to be a lacuna in the reply of Tourist Chief Amarasinghe in his reply to Tripper Speicht. I do not consider he has replied adequately or satisfactorily to all the complaints and criticisms

of Tripper Speicht. I do not think Mr. Amerasinghe has by any means carried off all the honours in the discussion Tripper Speicht complains bitterly of the Railway travel conditions here and describes the passenger coaches as disgracefully dirty and ill-kept. But I wonder what he would say when the proposed Classless carriages are introduced. They will most certainly not prove any attraction for visitors and tourists, very much the opposite.

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## THE SEARCHLIGHT

Even in Soviet Russia Moujiks or peasants and factory workers do not travel in the same coaches as Officials and V.I.P.s.

But why not follow the lead in the U.K. which long ago discarded 3rd class coaches and have only two classes viz. 1st Class and 2nd Class? In the U.K. the only difference between the 1st Class and 3rd Class is in the upholstery but the 1st Class Fares are about double. As I have said previously Ceylon always seems to wish to do the wrong thing in the wrong way.

### A MAXIM FOR REST HOUSE AND HOTELIERS

I QUOTE the following culled from some verses by Hafiz the famed Poet of Persia:-

'Serve thou thy guest,  
Food that is good.  
Be he a Prince or Peasant rude.  
Behold all dainties  
That your heart may wish  
From roasted fowl  
To fresh caught fish.'

### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"TOTAL Power is not sobered by responsibility nor softened by submission."

## FERTILISERS

The question of Fertilisers is one of interest to the agriculturist, be he the village goiya or the coconut, tea or rubber planter. In view of the tremendous qualities of Inorganic Fertilisers that are being used in this country as plant food, and the incessant complaint heard in many quarters that artificial manures do more harm than good to plantations, the following cutting taken over from the editorial columns of the "Times of India of recent date which I am sending you with the request to reproduce it in your popular journal for the information of your readers, is bound to prove of interest to all of us planters.

I also desire to let you and yours readers know that from personal experience, I have found the use of Inorganic Artificial Fertilisers harmful in effect. I am inclined to the belief, if I have correctly judged the matter, that this kind of manure has a tendency to deteriorate the fertility of the soil. If my observations are correct, the less we use artificial manures the better. This is a big ques-

tion and I trust the Soil Experts of the Government Agricultural Department will give us an unbiased opinion and directive in this all important matter. A Low-Country Planter. Veyangoda

The following is the article referred to:

THERE are obvious difficulties in correlating the varying levels of agricultural output and the precise extent to which these can be ascribed to specific measures which will make up the country's development programme in agricultural production during the period of the second Plan. Yet the Planning Commission has made bold to suggest that a quarter of the proposed rise in the output of food grains from 65 to 75 million tons will owe itself to the increasing use of fertilisers and manures. As the Union Minister for Food told the Simla session of the Board of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, the current consumption of nitrogenous fertilisers is six lakh tons a year. This is proposed to be raised by 1961 to 18 lakh tons. Already plans are under way for setting up three new plants, and the use of phosphatic fertilisers should also show a rise. For the first time, the country will be using artificial manures on an extensive scale and it is important that the implications of this programme should be examined with care. Happily, this has been done in part by a sub-committee which worked last week in Simla at the instance of the Soil and Crops wing of the Board. The result is a timely warning which the country could ignore only at the peril of its agricultural prosperity. The warning is by no means novel.

(Continued on page 21)

## ALKA-SELTZER



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## Fertilisers

(Continued from page 19)

It now there is an immediate danger that the quest for short-term gains might lead to policies that may be much against the country's long-term interests.

Dealing with the role of organic manures and chemical fertilisers in crop production, the committee has come to the conclusion that the continuing use of artificial manures over long periods brings about a deterioration in soil fertility. Consequentially, it reduces the yield per acre. In the committee's opinion, it was only as an emergency measure that the use of chemical fertilisers could be adopted on a large scale and without undue risk. The actual extent of the risks involved can only be discovered from experience on the farm and in the laboratory. The dangers, however, of relying for higher output on chemical fertilisers to the exclusion of bulk organic manures—like farmyard compost and green manure—are too serious to be ignored. It would be a grievous mistake, therefore, if Government, while it tries to extend the sale and use of chemical fertilisers, lets up the propaganda in favour of organic manures. Government must learn from the humus farmer, who frowns with good reason upon such artificial aids and let science and nature help his agricultural operations. In any programme of expanding agricultural production there will inevitably be greater emphasis on increasing the yield with the help of fertilisers. No care could, therefore, be too great to ensure that the farmer is educated about their uses and properties.—“*Times of India*”

## Barriers to Trade and Commerce

CEYLON has a new Government today. They call it a people's Government. This perhaps, is to emphasise the fact that the last Government was not a people's Government but a Government of the Capitalists or the Plutocrats who for nearly 10 years, ruled the roost, and let the people's interests go to the dogs! However, now that Mr. Bandaranaike has succeeded to the *Gadi*, it is believed a new era has dawned for Ceylon's economic welfare. With the talk of Ceylonisation of Trade, Commerce and Industry looming large, it is hoped that from the tiller of the soil to the man in the counting house, will begin to reap the benefits and thus reach the “promised land” and that wealth which had been accumulating for years in the possession of the foreigners in our midst and who controlled it, will now return into the keeping of the nationals of this land.

Three Governments have come and gone since Ceylon gained Independence. The fourth has just come into power. If the truth must be faced, neither the first, the second or the third if we go by results, had succeeded in bringing about any material change for the better or enabled the people to hold their own against those who have been allowed to exploit the resources of the country as well as the people—an exploitation that had gone unchecked, thus enabling the former to be in the predominant position to dictate to the Government and incidentally to reduce the sons of the soil to a position of absolute economic dependence. Now that the circumstances as well as the opportunities which facilitated such exploitation have changed for the better let us all hope that a golden age has dawned for the nationals of Ceylon.

It has been often said by Ministers of State, Members of Parliament and others, and very properly said, too, that Political Independence without Economic Independence was of little use. This is the truth. As it is amply demonstrated by the absolute dependence of the Ceylonese on the foreign moguls who hold the strings and keep on pulling while the latter like puppets danced as the strings were pulled from behind the scenes, with the national Government looking on probably in the belief that things will right themselves without any attempt being made by it to right what is wrong and iniquitous or fair to the sons of the soil.

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## The Late Mrs. W. F. De Silva

THIS appreciation is written in memory of the late Mrs. W. F. De Silva of Wackwella Road, Galle, who passed away on the 2nd April this year, like a gust of wind that carried

away everything in its stride. The late Mrs. W. F. De Silva, was a well-known and respected personality who possessed charm and dignity. Something that was genuinely remarkable about her was that she never took 'no' for an answer even in times of great adver-



Mrs. W. F. De Silva

sity, but with simplicity and characteristic candour treated life with a pleasant smile. Her singleness of purpose, as a social worker and a true adherent of the doctrine of *Maitriya*, won for her the love and respect not only of her family circle but also all those people who came in contact with her. At the age of 62, when she was devoted to the service of humanity, making no distinction to her own or those from outside, who sought her guidance and help in temporal wants, her sudden death was indeed like a bolt from the blue!

Her late husband who predeceased her 17 years ago, entered into the sphere of business in 1902 and founded the firm of Messrs. W. F. De Silva & Co., in the Jewellery & Lace Trade. Towards the success of this business enterprise, much depended upon the late Mrs. W. F. De Silva, who was able to give unstinted support and loyalty to her husband in abundance. She no doubt was a wonderful co-adjutor and there is no gainsaying that she has passed on her instincts to her son Mr. P. De S. Wimalasundera, who is now looking after the interests of the firm in Colombo and Kandy, with remarkable judgment and efficiency. Messrs. W. F. De Silva & Co., Chatham St., Fort, occupies a

pre-eminent position in the business life of Colombo, as Sole Agents for several Watch Manufacturers in Switzerland. The firm's branch office at Kandy, run on the most up-to-date and elaborate lines, caters to a large and influential clientele and it can be safely said that the firm's efficiency to the minutest detail together with its undisputed integrity and character, bear the hall-mark of service.

Making a success of his father's business undertaking as a result of devotion to duty and perseverance, Mr. P. De S. Wimalasundera has gone a step further by acquiring Govinna Estate, Govinna, one of the best Rubber Estates in the Kalutara District. Now that he has taken up to practical planting, Mr. Wimalasundera is sparing no pains to enhance his business instincts in the direction of planting, by giving of his best efforts, to see that a high standard of efficiency is maintained by his estate, resulting in greater success in the realms of commerce and trade. It is indeed a source of great pleasure for the writer to know that Mr. P. De S. Wimalasundera, is a chip of the old block, lacking neither in brain or brawn, but goes forward from strength to strength, bearing in mind the famous adage "Nothing succeeds like success" C.A.L.G.

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**Barriers to Trade and Commerce**

(Continued from page 21)

However, in view of the policy recently announced by the Prime Minister, when he assured Ceylonese engaged in Trade and Commerce that their claims for advancement unhampered by artificial barriers had Government's sympathy and recognition and accordingly all facilities due would be accorded them, it is hoped and believed that those avenues which remained closed to them hitherto—for whatever reason it may be—will be thrown open wide and without let or hindrance enable them to secure for themselves legitimately if not by preference, their due share of the business of their country which in the past they were denied by artificial means, or, may be, due to racial prejudice.

We are obliged to make these comments because complaints have been made, and about which Government is not altogether unaware, for we understand representations have already been made to the Minister for Agriculture and Food by a Ceylonese firm financed by capitalists in Bombay that they have experienced considerable difficulty in placing their products in the local market owing to the machinations of a combine of certain business interests who appear to enjoy a monopoly, so to say, in the line the for-

mer hope to compete with their products in the Ceylon market. This firm even aver that obstacles are being placed in their way and no quarter is given them.

If what has been stated to us is based on substantial grounds, and we don't doubt for a moment they are not the Ministers in charge of Trade and Commerce as well as Agriculture and Food and Industries should usefully step in and act in the matter.

While we recognise the fact that there can be no sentiment in free trade we believe that any attempt at creating a monopoly, or anything like a monopoly, should be viewed with the utmost disapproval and disapprobation by the Government. For in these democratic times and under a democratic system of Government, it is good for those engaged in business, it is good for trade and commerce and, consequently, good for the Government and the people, if those seeking any monopoly realised that the policy of "live and let live" pays better dividends than the policy of greed and grab, like those persued by the old John Company, with the aid of cartels or combines and thus seek to flourish by an evil that is frowned upon by every Government in the world as far more wicked than the methods of the Devil himself that must be destroyed for the sake of the general good of the country.

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# A New Danger

Grocery Dealers Cigar and Boutique  
Keepers as Chemists

**M**R. DAVID SILVA, President of the All-Ceylon Pharmacists Association has rendered a distinct service to the community by drawing the attention of the general public and the Government to a new danger that has arisen in the country. That is by permitting Grocery Dealers, Cigar and Sundry boutique-keepers to stock and trade in Pharmaceuticals and also Sulphas and Anti-Biotics.

"These establishments though armed with a licence sell not only Pharamaceuticals but even Sulphas and Anti-Biotics which is a most dangerous thing to do" cautioned Mr. Silva. Furthermore he suggested that Inspectors under the Food and Drugs Act should visit such establishments regularly to check up and see that medical preparations sold are in good and fresh condition and not deteriorated and useless muck.

These grocery dealers and sundry boutique-keepers, are not qualified or trained men like recognised Chemists and Druggists who know what they handle having obtained certificates of competency and licences to deal in Drugs and Chemicals both dangerous and non-dangerous. But the former stock such preparations for sale not knowing anything at all about the composition, efficacy or keeping qualities of the stuffs they sell. It so happens that these preparations are kept in their shops for very long periods and eventually loose their efficacy. The public who buy these preparations, perhaps cheaper than obtainable at a chemist's shop or owing to convenience, find on using that they had bought a perfectly useless article which proved ineffective

In that way the public are being cheated. This does not, of course, happen when buying any medical preparation from a recognised Chemist or Druggist who will think twice before palming off any stale drug or medical preparation to a customer.

In fact, as a rule, such stuff is consigned to the incinerator. To expect any boutique-keeper to conform to such a code of ethics, is to expect too much indeed. Nor does the danger Mr. David Silva referred to end there. He laid further emphasis on the need for Government action in regard the importation of drugs

and chemicals under the Food and Drugs Act. And here is what said:

"Following the enactment of the Bill there is also another measure that has to be adopted in order to reap the full benefits of the Food and Drugs Act. It is our intention to urge the Government to introduce regulations regarding the import of pharmaceuticals, anti-biotics, sulphas etc., so that only outstanding firms who have in their employ qualified and registered Pharmacists can import them. This a very necessary provision and we feel confident that the authorities will give due consideration to our representations."

We are in entire agreement with the President of the All-Ceylon Pharmacists Association in the far-sighted and necessarily precautionary steps he recommends. The importation of chemicals and drugs if not effectively controlled can turn out to be a menace to the public and to the safety of the state. We therefore would urge that those who import, drugs and chemicals should employ qualified pharmacists.

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Printed & Published by Anton Bertram Gomes at THE SEARCHLIGHT  
Printing Works No. 71/1, 37th Lane, Wellawatte on the  
JUNE 30th 1956.