

TRIBUNE



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Tribune Publications

43, Dawson Street, Colombo-2 Phone 33172

Letter From The Editor

ONCE AGAIN, we have a cover picture from the Swamy Rock area in Trincomalee. Very recently, we published on the cover a picture of Ravana's Cleft, also known as Lover's Leap. This time we have a picture of a view from the ledge besides the present Sivan temple on Swamy Rock which looks down upon some fragments which are said to be part of the legendary temple complex of the days of Ravana. This temple is said to have gone down during the so-called third marine denudation which had altered the geography of the Indian Ocean area. Undersea divers have reported that columns, pillars and other structures of this temple are still to be seen on the sea bed. The second temple of Koneswar was built on a new site only to be destroyed by the buddhist fanatic Mahasena. The third temple built by a Chola king was razed to the ground by Portuguese christian proselytisers. And the entire place became a desolate military camp until the fourth temple was built in the forties and fifties of this century. What its fate will be is yet to be seen. Elsewhere in this issue we have published an article by M. D. Raghavan, an archaeologist and antiquarian, who had worked in Sri Lanka from many years. It is a sketchy piece but it sets out in a small compass all the points of interest about Trincomalee, and its Sacred Hill on which the Temple of Koneswar stands. Apart from everything else, Koneswaram stands as one of the examples of cyclic changes in human destiny, (applicable also to all man-made empires and structures, big and small). There is a beginning, there is life (sometimes with greatness), and finally decay (with death or destruction). This cyclic change has enveloped Koneswaram three times already. First, it was destroyed by the forces of nature, and later, twice, by the fanaticism of man. Koneswaram is a constant reminder to us that everything, including the human gene, comes from dust and goes back to dust. The holy ash of Siva, said to be taken from a burning pyre in a crematorium, is only a reminder that immortality is only as evanescent as the ash. In the contemporary era of decay and destruction—in which new life can be seen to spring up in the most embryonic forms—there are innumerable examples of this process of beginning, decay and end. The British Empire is now no more, but from its ashes new life has sprung up in Asia, Africa and America. The mighty United States of the post-second World War will soon be no more—in spite of heroic efforts to perpetuate its domination as the world's policeman—but from the ashes of the USA of the Dulles', the Vanderbilts, the Nixons and the Rockefellers will grow a myriad of life forms. Currently, there are zealots who believe that in Mao Tse-tung and Mao Tse-tung Thought the ultimate in everything necessary for man had been found: that Marxism-Leninism (with a touch of Stalinism) had been super-streamlined by Mao to provide mankind with a guide to action for all time. But this fantasia had begun to crumble even before Mao's mummification and the masoleum have been completed. A hundred varied flowers of new thought have already begun to bloom from Mao's Thought. And the strangest complications have arisen within a month of his death. The widow, Chiang Ching, and the so-called "radical group" around her—also referred as the Shanghai Mafia—have been arrested for subversion, conspiracy, coupism and worse. The medicine which this group had meted out to political opponents during the Cultural Revolution and after is now being handed out to them—to start with on wall newspapers and wall posters. Chiang Ching, who only a few weeks ago was regarded as the natural successor to Mao and as a kind of dowager Empress is now accused of having plotted to kill Mao towards the end of his days, of having tricked Mao into unleashing hate-campaigns against stalwart communists who had made the Revolution to liquidate them politically, and even physically, and of having misled Mao into sending to "the countryside" for re-education in labour camps thousands of communists who were not prepared to follow the inhibited and sectarian aberrations of the Shanghai Mafia. Old readers will recall that *Tribune* had pointed out as early as 1966, and regularly thereafter, that the Cultural Revolution was a monstrous abortion of everything the Chinese Revolution had stood for and had achieved. Because of this, zealots had sought to explain our refusal to accept the logic, dynamics and mechanics of the Cultural Revolution and everything that flowed from it as stemming from revisionism, opportunism, reactionary fascism and what not. We were told that we were "anti-China" by those whom, unlike us, were anti-China at the time the Revolution was made.

TRIBUNE

Founded in 1954

A Journal of Ceylon and
World Affairs

Editor S. P. Amarasingam

Every Saturday

October 30, 1976

Vol. 21 No. 21

TRIBUNE

43, DAWSON STREET,
COLOMBO - 2

Telephone: 33172

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

* Sri Lanka * China

THE DAILY PRESS in Sri Lanka, especially the English language papers have undergone so many changes in the last five years that they have become "unrecognisable" (from what they were five or ten years ago). Lake House which was owned by the Wijewardene family is now a government concern. An interim-machine, set up to effect a transfer to a "broadbased ownership", continues to run Lake House. When concrete steps will be taken to "broad base" the ownership of Lake House is not yet known. In the meantime, Lake House is a shadow of its former self, journalistically, although the organisation is coining profits (in spite of unnecessary and wasteful expenditure): all its publications are no more than glorified bulletins of certain sections of the government. In the recent weeks, there have been laboured efforts, in editorials in the *Daily News*, to draw attention to certain shortcomings in the government machinery and the administration. But such "critical" editorials are not likely to minimise, in any way, the huge credibility gap which now exists between Lake House and the reading public. The *Sunday Observer* has lost what little punch it had sometime ago and the weekend reading matter it offers is not worth writing about.

In comparison, the Gunasena weekend review now called *Honey* is a bright paper, and although it has an overdose of sex, pop and cheesecake, it has more scintillating political tidbits tucked into its columns than in all the Lake House papers put together. What is significant is that all Lake House news, particularly on local political matters, is so heavily slanted and "managed" that a discerning reader always asks himself the question as what the full facts are and why a particular news was released at that particular time. *Honey* fills a vacuum in supplying news which Lake House is never likely to publish. But the weakness of *Honey*—it is not a weakness if one accepts *Honey's* avowed *raison d'être* for publication—is that it does not have any incisive, deep or penetrating analytical inter-

pretations of current events. *Honey* dishes out its news in its own inimitable style in a way the readership it seems to go for will lap up without difficulty.

The *Sunday Times* (after a long spell in the wilderness during which it hibernated part of the time under the name and style *Times of Ceylon Sunday Illustrated*—this was after the evening *Times of Ceylon* had been shut down) has now shown new life and, after Mervyn de Silva took over the reins, has an increasing number of analytical and interpretative articles of merit every week. These articles and comments present different points of view (with which it is not always easy to agree) but there is no doubt they are informed and topical. Apart from the *Honey*, which stands in a class by itself for a special class of readers, the *Sunday Times* now has something to offer the reader who is interested in the political developments in the country. The *Daily Mirror* has also shown greater evidence of journalistic pep. It ran the "elections or no elections in 1957" story to the point where the number of leading politicians who had wanted the elections to be held far outweighed those who had wanted them postponed. But this was done without giving the impression that the *Daily Mirror* was in any way "blackening out" any point of view. (The Lake House had for a long time only published SLFP-UF spokesmen who had wanted the postponement of elections and had made it out that the demand for the 1977 elections was a UNP mania). The *Daily Mirror* has in recent weeks published political news which throws light on current developments.

There are "rumours" that the *Dawasa* group of newspapers will make their appearance once again. The LSSP, which had carried on a witch hunt and an extermination campaign against the Gunasenas and the *Dawasa*—Sun group seems to be worried even now that these papers may re-appear once again. A comment in the *Socialist Nation* of October 22, 1976, under the heading "DAWASA" PAPERS WILL RE-APPEAR? stated as follows: "It is reported that the *Dawasa* newspapers are preparing to reappear in the very near future. The proprietors and the reactionary interests behind them are basing

their calculations according to reports, on the possibility that the High Court judgement on the validity of the Declaration of Emergency will not be reversed by the Supreme Court. In that event the order closing down the *Dawasa* press will be no longer valid. It is interesting to observe the role being played by the *Daily Mirror* and *Sunday Times* in championing the rights of the 'Dawasa' proprietor. The *Sunday Times* for instance, found it necessary to jeer at our comment two weeks ago on the dishonest attempt of the Government and family newspaper monopoly to concoct news regarding the strike in certain CTB depots. The *Times* ignored our justification of the action taken against the *Dawasa* press and yet harped on our 'double standards'! Let us repeat what we said on that occasion—'As for the *Dawasa* group of newspapers, it had become not much a newspaper enterprise as a hotbed of political vipers. The nearest analogy that we can find is that of *El Mercurio*, the principal newspaper mouthpiece of the reactionary opposition to President Salvador Allende in Chile. Allende's commitment to respect what he considered the inviolability of opposition newspapers prevented him from liquidating the real centre of the open conspiracy against his Government. Today the United States itself admits that *El Mercurio* was sustained and manipulated by the CIA. In the context of open UNP rebellion (non-violent, though JR proclaimed it to be) against the United Front Government the *Dawasa* papers were playing no less sinister a role. They counted on their connections with the Right wing of the Government to give them immunity from counter-action. It was this calculation that let them down'....."

The LSSP does not seem to have learnt the lesson of its own exit from the Government and the ruling coalition. In the multi-lingual multi-racial, multi-religious and multi-political society in Sri Lanka, (and as evidenced by the Republican Constitution of 1972), the suppression and liquidation of those who differ politically will only undermine the dynamics of healthy political development. It is one thing to regulate or control, while permitting the right of protest and criticism, but it is a

totally different matter to endeavour to liquidate. In the era of the post-1970's such total liquidation is not easy and more often than not it boomerangs: and even where it appears to succeed, it has come back with a bang on those who wanted the liquidation.

Even more than analytical-cum-interpretative articles on local matters, there is a more than a complete dearth of analysis of international events in our local English dailies. This has become especially evident now with the political earthquake taking place in China. *Reuter* and other reports have been published, but no serious attempt has been made to view these events from the angle of Sri Lanka or the nonaligned world.

It may be that Lake House can argue that being a government-sponsored paper it could not make any comments until there was "official" intimation that certain changes had been effected. This is indeed a lame excuse because there are instances where Lake House has indulged in speculative comments and analysis even without "official" bulletinising.

Though events had begun to spark off in Peking from October 5/6—and these were reflected in the world press from about October 10 when the wall posters had begun the campaign against the Shanghai Four—it was only on October 22 that Peking officially announced that Hua Kuo-feng had been appointed as Chairman of the Chinese Communist Party. And with that the Chinese press and the *Hsinhua* News Agency started out in full blast against the "Shanghai Mafia" with the same vigour the campaign had been carried on against "Confucius", Teng, and other "capitalist-roaders."

No sooner was the announcement made officially, the Sri Lanka government, very correctly, sent messages of felicitations to Chairman Hua. *The Daily News* of October 26, 1976 reported as follows: "The President and the Prime Minister have sent messages of congratulations to Mr. Hua Kuo-feng on his appointment as Chairman of the Communist Party of the People's Republic of China. The President's message reads:

"Please permit me to extend to you my sincere congratulations and warm good wishes on your appointment as Chairman of the Communist

Party of the People's Republic of China. I have no doubt that the people of China will continue to forge ahead under your distinguished leadership and I feel assured that the bonds of mutual goodwill and co-operation linking our two countries will get further reinforced."

The Prime Minister's message is as follows: "Please accept my warmest felicitations on your appointment as Chairman of the Communist Party of the People's Republic of China. I wish you all success in the great tasks ahead of you. I am sure the future will see the People of China continue to achieve further progress and prosperity. I am equally confident that the warm and cordial ties binding our two countries and peoples will continue to flourish in the years ahead."....."

It is to be now seen that whether, after this, there will be any attempt to analyse the intricacies of the power struggle in China, or whether our papers will continue to merely echo the official bulletins of the official news agency *Hsinhua*.

There is no doubt that although the "Shanghai Four" have been politically liquidated on ideological grounds, it has been made to appear that they have been found guilty (by whom?) of criminal and pseudo-criminal charges: attempted coup, forgery, conspiracy, attempted assassination, etc. It is necessary to disentangle these "criminal" charges (they may be framed-up charges or merely half true) from the ideological differences (which are really important from the point of view of non-aligned and developing countries).

The Economist of October 16, 1976 (even before the news was official) said in an editorial under the heading ENTER CHAIRMAN HUA: *The Sweeping aside of Mrs. Mao and their Radical Friends will make China stronger—but may be less friendly.*

"Mao Tse-tung died a second death this week. One month after his heart stopped on September 9th, the Chinese revealed that his remains will be embalmed in a crystal sarcophagus, his thought will be codified in a collected works and his acolytes will be consigned to outer darkness. All this was the work of the last of Mao's several chosen successors, Hua Kuo-feng, who has now been duly installed

as chairman of the Chinese Communist party and as China's equivalent of commander-in-chief. Since Chairman Hua also remains prime minister, he controls the four main sources of power in China today—the party, the army, the government and the testament of Mao.

"He has already proved himself a worthy successor in one respect. The reported arrest of Mrs. Mao and her three leading allies in the radical faction of China's divided politics shows that Chairman Hua can be bold, cunning and ruthless when his power is threatened. The decapitation of the radicals is one of the most decisive changes in Chinese politics since 1949. Overnight the compass has swung away from the left, with its stark egalitarianism and struggle-for-struggle's-sake, towards the pragmatism of what in China could be called the extreme centre. The secrecy of the arrests, the furtive hints about radical conspirators being caught in the act of forging Mao's will, speak volumes about the way politics are run in China. But this week, at least, they have run in a decisively new direction.

"So long as the widow Mao and her so-called Shanghai mafia sat on the politburo, they exerted a constant leftward pull on Chinese policy. Anyone who tried to override them, so long as Mao was alive, did so at his peril; the militant moderate, Teng Hsiac-ping, discovered that when he was abruptly supplanted by Mr. Hua last winter. The removal of Teng set back the moderate cause by silencing its most outspoken advocate. But the moderates remained strong because of the depth of their roots—in the central bureaucracy, in the army and among provincial leaders. The radicals also had some allies in these organisations, and strong support among ex-Red Guards and other profiteers of the 1960s cultural revolution. But the radicals' real power was no more than politburo deep. It has been effectively destroyed by the arrests of the Shanghai four.

HELD OVER

**★ POLITICAL EARTHQUAKE
IN PEKING**

"With the radicals out of the way, Hua can now set about putting his own men in top jobs and his own policies into action. He will have debts to repay, particularly to the army, whose support he must have secured in order to carry out his coup. This could mean storing up trouble for the future—as Mao found with Lin Piao and as Khrushchev found with Marshal Zukov. But for the moment the army seems a natural ally both for Mr. Hua and for the Chou En-lai-style moderates he is likely to promote.

"The first pointer towards Mr. Hua's new directions was the emergence this week of Li Hsien-nien, chief economic planner under Chou En-lai for more than two decades. Mr. Li may be resuming the role of prime-minister-without-title which he briefly enjoyed in 1974. An administration headed by Li would be conservative by Chinese standards. It would almost certainly give top priority to planned economic growth and political stability. It would be likely to jettison the radical campaigns which have impeded production—such as the effort to narrow pay differentials—and to put greater stress on profitability, efficiency and expertise. It would also be likely to resume the exchange of Chinese raw materials for western technology which has lapsed lately under a radical onslaught.

"If Hua and Li are allowed a period of peace before the next political upheaval, they can start

to move towards the goal Chou En-lai marked out in his last public speech in January, 1975: "To build an independent and relatively comprehensive industrial and economic system before 1980." A strong economy—and particularly the self-sufficiency in food production the Chinese could attain by 1980—would give Hua's China a louder voice in the world. How this voice would be used is one of the bigger question marks over the new order in Peking.

"As a novice in foreign affairs, Hua cannot be pinned down with either a pro-American or a pro-Russian label. His remarks on foreign policy at Mao's memorial service put Russian and American imperialism on a par. But curiously since the death of the arch-Russian-hater Mao, the tone of China's anti-Soviet propaganda has been even more strident than before. One good tactical reason for Hua to step up his attacks on the Russians right now is to cover his left flank: to prove that his purge of China's revisionist-hunters does not mean that he is himself soft on revisionism. But one phrase of Sunday's attacks on the Russians in the *People's Daily*—blaming all that is evil in Russia on a "handful of renegades"—suggests another possibility. Chairman Hua may be opening the way for a change of line once Mr. Brezhnev steps down. The removal of the radicals last week makes it more probable that the Chinese will eventually decide to make their peace with the Russians—partly

because Mr. Hua and company do not share Mao's ideological hatred of Russia; and partly because as hardheaded pragmatists they will reckon up the profits and losses of continuing the confrontation across the border and almost certainly conclude that the losses should be cut

"The sweeping aside of the radicals, if that is indeed what has happened in China this week, is a mixed blessing for the democratic world. The presumably more pragmatic China of Chairman Hua is less likely to want to be the banner-carrier of revolution in the world, because it will concentrate more on modernising China itself. That is no doubt to the good. But the new China is likelier to look for an accommodation with Russia, and that will release Soviet resources for the Soviet Union's own contest with the west. It will also probably be a stronger China, and if a stronger China no longer at loggerheads with Russia one day turns back to the evangelism of international revolution the world will be a more turbulent place. The China of Mao Tse-tung—Russophobe and dedicated believer in the virtue of international turmoil—was the sort of China the west could get along with pretty well. Chairman Hua's China will have fewer wild gleams in the eye but it may be a less amenable place".

We hope to publish many more points of view apart from *Tribune* analysis of these very important changes in the coming weeks.

SRI LANKA CHRONICLE

Oct. 10 — Oct. 13

A DIARY OF EVENTS IN SRI LANKA AND THE WORLD
COMPILED FROM DAILY NEWSPAPERS
PUBLISHED IN COLOMBO.

CDN—Ceylon Daily News; CDM—Ceylon Daily Mirror; CO—Ceylon Observer; ST—Sunday Times; DM—Dinamina; LD—Lankadipa; VK—Virakesari; ATH—Aththa; SM—Silumina; SLD—Sri Lankadipa;

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10: Norway offered Sri Lanka development aid to boost its fishing industry and possibly offshore oil exploration. The Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike who had talks with leaders of Norway later told the press that fisheries experts would be arriving in the country to study the country's needs in detail: Mr. Odvar Nordli, Prime Minister of

Norway, did not reveal the projected cost of the program but said his government intended pushing through legislation which would allow it to start the aid program early next year—CO (Reuters). Earlier, Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike, had talks with the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Norway on several topics including the Non-aligned policy and the Indian Ocean Peace Zone proposal—CO. The Prime Minister will be accorded a national reception on October 17 at the BMICH for an epoch making appearance before the United Nations General Assembly in the capacity of Chairman of the Non-aligned group: the Cabinet headed by Acting Prime Minister, Mr. Maithripala Senanayake, is making all arrangements for the occasion—CO. Health Ministry sources said top priority will be given to the demands of the GMOA and Medical Specialist Association—CO. The SLFP trade union of the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation which holds the annual general meeting on Thursday at the party headquarters has a resolution on the agenda calling for a politically oriented Board of Directors to run the

SLBC and want a new Chairman: the resolution calls for a full inquiry into the activities of the SLBC and into the adverse criticism made in the press regarding the summit conference publicity, reportage and media facilities—ST. The Public Trustee, Mr. Mahinda Ellepola, has sealed the charity boxes in 24 temples and places of worship including devales: under the Vihara Devalagam Ordinance he has been empowered to manage a total 191 temples and 35 devales—ST. Education Ministry has drawn up a program to improve nearly 2500 village schools with the assistance of developed schools—SM. Mr. T. B. Ilangaratne has recommended to the government to liberalise laws governing divorce: according to him the present laws are not beneficial to either party—VK.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 11: Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, will present in the National State Assembly a Bill to revalidate all extradition treaties Sri Lanka inherited from Britain and this will make Sri Lanka the first Commonwealth country to enact legislation to extradite any citizen who has been convicted of committing economic offences in his own country—CDN. At an official banquet hosted by the Norwegian Prime Minister Mr. Nordli in honour of Sri Lanka's Prime Minister in Oslo the former said that his Government has decided to open an official development co-operation program with Sri Lanka: he further said that detailed discussions on this program may take place before the end of the year if this is acceptable to the government of Sri Lanka: Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, replying said that this program was fully acceptable to the Government of Sri Lanka: a team of experts from Norway will visit the country soon for detailed discussions—CDN. According to the *Daily News* the worsening supply position of coconut and coconut products expected to continue till May next year is causing anxiety to authorities: the paper further said in the domestic market the price of a coconut is likely to go up to a rupee each by December this year. Two senior doctors belonging to the Government Medical Officers' Association have resigned their post in protest against the proposed "point scheme" demand put forward by the GMOA to the Ministry of Health—CDN. Mr. J. P. Pronk, Minister for Development Co-operation of Netherlands, told a press conference yesterday that Sri Lanka deserved all the aid possible because it was one country in the Asian region which had made a concerted effort at development which was showing tangible results: the Netherlands Minister who left yesterday said this year the Netherlands Government's budget afforded Sri Lanka aid to the tune of Rs. 160 million and next year his government would step up aid to Sri Lanka—CDN. According to the *Daily Mirror* the Government decided in August this year to withdraw most of the Emergency Regulations now in force with effect from September 17 but now since the validity of the Emergency Regulations became a legal matter before the Supreme Court the withdrawal has been stayed. Colombo recorded a rainfall of 9.4 inches and this is said to be the heaviest in the past quarter century: several other towns in the island too received heavy rain during the past few days—CDM. A boat carrying 18 pilgrims capsized in the Gurugala ferry in Avissawela and nine pilgrims were drowned—CDN. Mr. B.P. G. Kalugalle, Minister of Shipping, Tourism and Aviation, in an interview to the *Virakesari* said that Prime

Minister has informed them of the decision to hold the general elections next year and the general elections will be held next year: he further said that the present government has served the people well and it need not fear for an election—VK. Trade unions in all mines taken over by the government have appealed to the government not to pay compensation to the owners for the take-over—ATH.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12: Mr. T. B. Subasinghe, Minister of Industries and Scientific Affairs, yesterday ordered the closure of the Veyangoda and Thulhiriya textile mills until the trade unions gave an effective assurance of their readiness to resume normal work pending the investigation of all their grievances by a Committee which will submit a report within one month—CDN. Mr. Felix Dias Bandaranaike, Minister of Justice and Finance, had discussions with Malaysian Prime Minister, Mr. Daduk Hussain, regarding a forthcoming visit by Sri Lanka's Prime Minister to Malaysia: Mr. Bandaranaike told reporters after the meeting with the Malaysian leader that both leaders will meet in Malaysia to discuss follow-up actions on the decisions taken at the Non-aligned Summit held in Colombo—CDN. Mr. T. B. Ilangaratne, Minister of Trade and Minister of Public Administration and Home Affairs, will shortly introduce legislation in the NSA raising the minimum marriageable age for females to 16 and males to 18 from the present 12 and 16 respectively—CDN. Forty government MPs including eight Deputy Ministers have in a petition stated that Ministers feather their own electorates, by giving a lion's share of employment in the state sector to those in electorates represented by the particular Minister: these MPs further said in their petition that because of this constituents in their electorates were denied of employment opportunities—CDM. Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, in a speech in Norway is reported to have said that she would not be a pawn of any country, organisation or bloc during the next three years when she heads the Non-aligned movement: Mrs. Bandaranaike has made this statement at the state banquet given in her honour by the Norwegian Prime Minister in Oslo—ATH. Mr. M. Thiruchelvam, Q.C., and former Minister in the UNP government, told the *Virakesari* that if the government is genuinely anxious to solve the problems facing the Tamil speaking community by discussions, the Prime Minister should convey this to Mr. S. J. V. Chelvanayakam, leader of the TULF, in writing: he made this statement to the paper commenting on newspaper reports that the Government was anxious to solve the Tamil's problems. Government decided to increase the intake for training to the National Apprentice Board by a further 5,000 making the total number of trainees 10,000—DM. The Committee appointed by Dr. Badiuddin Mahmud, Minister of Education to probe the incidents that led to a strike by employees at the Peradeniya Campus of the University will hand over its report today—DM.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13: Mr. P. B. G. Kalugalle, Minister of Tourism, Shipping and Aviation, told the *Daily Mirror* that elections will be held next year and the Prime Minister has instructed him before her departure to the UN to get ready for the polls next year: the paper further said that a number of government MPs are not likely to be re-nominated—CDM. Mr. A. W. A. Abeygoonsekera, former Chairman of the Port Cargo Corporation and a prominent member

of the UNP, is said to be one of those who travelled in an Indian Airlines jet which crashed at the Bombay Santa Cruz airport killing all its 95 passengers and crew—CDM. Mr. Percy Wickremasinghe, former CP MP for Kamburupitiya from 1960 to 1970, has resigned from the Communist Party and joined the SLFP—CDM. Mr. W. P. G. Ariyadasa, Minister of Local Government, in recognition of the usefulness of Janatha Committees, has decided to have such committees in all local government wards—CDN. Mr. Maithripala Senanayake, Acting Prime Minister, speaking at a meeting in Mahiyangana, said that the government is ready for an election even tomorrow and is sure of a victory in view of the record achievements during the past six years—CDN. The Constitutional Court has ordered that none of the provisions of the licensing of Traders and Regulations of Internal Trade Bill is inconsistent with any of the provisions of the Constitution: this follows an action filed by a trader in the Constitutional Court against the Bill: The Deputy Chairman of Committees, Mr. C. Arulampalam, yesterday informed the NSA of the decision of the Court—CDN. *Aththa* in an editorial comment criticised the practice of closing down the institutions whether it be the University or textile mills whenever there is trouble in these institutions: the paper said such practice will be advantageous to the Opposition parties especially when there is a general election round the corner. The airport police at the BIA arrested five employees of Air Ceylon on suspicion for allegedly removing goods from the baggage of passengers: the suspects were produced before a Magistrate—ATH. Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, will arrive in the island tomorrow from Norway—ATH. Mr. Lakshman Jayakody, Deputy Minister of Defence and Foreign Affairs, told the NSA yesterday that the Police would soon launch a campaign to combat the increase of violence and crime in the city and other parts of the country during the past few months—LD. The Executive committee of the Government Medical Officers' Association and Medical Specialists Association will meet today to decide on direct trade union action to win their demands—DM.

INTERNATIONAL DIARY

Oct. 9 - Oct. 13

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9: At the world Bank meeting in Manila it was estimated that by 1985 developing countries may have to buy 75 million tons of food grains from other countries to feed their people according to the meeting sources this amount would be about 5 per cent of the world output of food grains that year. The United States has estimated that the Soviet Union will harvest 215 million tons of food grains in 1976—10 million tons more than Moscow's target. Zambia yesterday called for intensification of the armed struggle in white-ruled Rhodesia until a genuine black majority government is formed in Rhodesia: this was revealed in the address by Zambian Foreign Minister, Siteke Mwale, in the UN General Assembly. Mr. Jimmy Carter, Democratic Party's Presidential nominee yesterday

commenting on President Ford's statement in the televised debate that Eastern Europe is not Soviet dominated said it is beyond belief and an affront to the people of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and East Germany who have striven for so long for some small measure of freedom: Mr. Carter also said this statement by President Ford revealed his lack of knowledge on the issue: political observers commenting on President Ford's statement said this is a major blunder by Mr. Ford in his campaign. President Anwar Sadat of Egypt said that Egypt will resort military solution to solve the Middle East situation if political solutions failed: he said this while addressing a meeting of military officers. Vietnam charged the United States for the coup in Thailand: the Vietnam News Agency said the seven-man military council ruling the country now are all agents of the American Central Intelligence Agency. Angolan President, Agostinho Neto, arrived in Moscow for his first visit to the USSR and was met by President Nikolai Podgorni at the airport. Cuba said that the airliner that crashed into the sea off Barbados was definitely blown up by a bomb: the Cuban DC 8 jet crashed on its way from Havana to Guyana killing all 73 passengers and crew aboard.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10: Prime Minister Hua Kuo Feng of China succeeded Mao Tse-tung as Chairman of the Communist Party: wall posters appeared on Peking streets proclaiming Mr. Hua Kuo Feng's appointment as Chairman of the Party's Central Committee but there were no official confirmation from China. King Bhumibol Odulyadej appointed a politically inexperienced lawyer Mr. Thanin Kraivichian as Prime Minister of Thailand: political observers said this showed the country's wish to form a rightwing civilian government as soon as possible. US State Secretary, Dr. Henry Kissinger met Chinese Foreign Minister Chiao Kuan-hua for about three hours in the Chinese mission in the United Nations: a spokesman said they discussed the global scene and Sino-US relations. President Ford in a meeting with professional and business leaders in San Fernando valley spoke about his comment on the Soviet domination in the televised debate with Jimmy Carter: Mr. Ford said what he really meant was certain East European countries were free of Soviet domination: he further said his Administration did not concede that there should be such domination. Prime Minister John Vorster of South Africa rejected pleas from black leaders for a national multi-racial Convention on the country's race problems and refused to consider the release of detained black leaders. The United States rejected as "ridiculous" Vietnamese charges that it was behind last Wednesday's military coup in Thailand. Indonesian President Suharto and Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser expressed their determination to keep South East Asia and the Indian Ocean free from competition between the superpowers: speaking at the state banquet in honour of the visiting Australian leader Mr. Suharto said the people in the former Portuguese colony of East Timor has exercised their right to self determination when they decided to join the Indonesian Republic. China officially informed that the body of Chairman Mao Tse-tung will be placed in a mausoleum in Peking so that the whole nation will have a chance to file by in tribute: the body would be placed in crystal Sarcophagus in a specially built memorial hall.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 11: One of Thailand's leading English language papers, *Bangkok Post*, said the military rulers of the country should pursue the development of friendly relations with China and the new Communist Indochina nations. Wall posters appeared on Peking streets proclaiming Mr. Hua Kuo-feng's appointment as Chairman of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee but still no official confirmation has been received: but the posters appeared to have been officially sanctioned. The Soviet Union yesterday announced its readiness to receive the top secret MIG 25 interceptor flown to Japan. The Rhodesian government attributed communist influence to the pre conditions set by black leaders Joshua Nkomo and Robert Mugabe for attending the British sponsored Conference in Geneva on Rhodesia: Mr. Mugabe and Nkomo in a joint press conference in Tanzania said the proposed conference on Rhodesia must organise the immediate transfer of power to Rhodesia's black majority. An Arab league mediator commenting on the talks of the warring factions of Lebanon said most of the major issues between the factions have been now settled: Syrian Palestinian and Lebanese delegates met for four hours and further talks will be resumed again today. Viking II, the US spacecraft now in Mars, managed to roll a rock on the surface of the Mars and prepared to dig for evidence of life that may have sheltered beneath it. The Italian Cabinet approved a bill in the Parliament which enables journalists to refuse to divulge the source of information: earlier some reporters have been sent to jail for refusing to divulge the source of information of their stories. Radio Peking announced that poems by Chairman Mao Tse-tung with their English translations will be available for sale: the book which contains 39 poems will be distributed for foreign readers by Peking's International Bookshop. In the course of the hearing of a 2 million dollar suit against former Vice President Mr Spiro Agnew, the judge of a US court ordered the Justice Department to investigate allegations Mr. Agnew has violated terms of his probation.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12: Former US Defence Secretary, James Schlesinger, said in an interview published in the *US News and World Report* that the United States should not reject out of hand the idea of supplying sophisticated weapons to China, but it should not press arms deliveries on China. The United States has agreed to sell sophisticated arms to Israel which it had previously rejected: this was told by Israel Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin to the Cabinet yesterday: according to Cabinet sources Mr. Rabin did not give details but said the deal had been closed. Rhodesian Prime Minister, Mr Ian Smith in an interview to *Newsweek* insisted that Whites must keep control of the Defence and Law-and-order Ministries in any transitional government for the breakaway British colony: he further said in his interview that this part of the agreement on eventual black majority rule for Rhodesia was worked out by Dr. Henry Kissinger, US Secretary of State. Mr. Robert Mugabe, one of Rhodesia's African nationalist leaders, said in Dar Es Salam that he was not optimistic that the British-convened conference on Rhodesia could succeed: commenting on the proposed Geneva conference he further said that he did not feel that the black leaders have a common starting point with Prime Minister,

Ian Smith. According to a survey conducted by *Time* magazine Mr. Jimmy Carter, Democratic candidate for the Presidential race, has a 2-1 edge over President Ford at this stage of the race for the top post in White House: under the American system each electoral district has been allocated with a certain number of votes according to the population with a total of 270 needed to select the President. Nearly 20 groups of organisations in Switzerland in a joint statement told the government to postpone any plans to build nuclear power stations until the harmful effects of these were studied.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13: Chinese Prime Minister, Hua Kuo-feng, was yesterday officially named Chairman of the Chinese Communist Party's Central Committee: an official spokesman of the party declined to comment on reports by reliable sources that former Chairman Mao's widow, Chiang Ching, and three other leftist radical members have been arrested on charges of plotting against Premier Hua's regime: the spokesman further said at a state banquet in Peking that Mr Hua Kuo-feng has also been appointed as Chairman of China's Military Affairs Commission and had retained his post as Prime Minister. Visiting Indian Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, told a meeting of Indian community in Mauritius that the Indians living in South Africa should express solidarity with the struggles of the blacks for liberation: speaking at a press conference she said India has been applying a strict economic boycott against South Africa but was compelled to maintain certain ties because of the Indian community living there: in a joint communique issued in Port Louis by the Indian and the Mauritian Prime Minister, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, it was stated that the Non-aligned movement must stand true to their pledge to support the representatives of the people of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) so that effective majority rule could be established expeditiously. Palestinian gunmen yesterday attacked the Syrian embassies in Rome and Islamabad protesting against Syrian involvement in Lebanon. An Indian airlines Caravelle crashed in Bombay's Santa Cruz airport killing all 95 passengers aboard: according to *Samachar* most of the bodies were burned beyond recognition. The White House announced yesterday that President Ford has approved the shipment of new weapons to Israel according to the spokesman these weapons were never before supplied to Israel: description of the weapons were not given. Despite calls by black leaders of Rhodesian to put off the proposed Geneva conference on Rhodesian by at least two weeks Britain is still sticking to its date of October 21. Syria announced yesterday that there were still disputed points between Syrian, Lebanese and Palestinian negotiators on an end to the civil war in Lebanon: however the delegates will meet again today to discuss the disputed points once again.



MARGINALIA

* "Suddha" * Armaments * Elections * Food * Tourism

by Bryan de Kretser

WHITE TRAUMA. I often have the privilege of entertaining visitors at Prithipura, many of them happen to be foreigners, usually from the First world. They tell me that one of the obvious and unappreciated reactions of natives to the encounter with white folks is uncontrolled deference. Now that natives should go out of their way to be polite and kind to the stranger in their midst, be he white or black, is one thing, but the way in which we fall over each other, and often fall down before, the big white brothers and sisters is something of which we ought to be ashamed.

I have sometimes accompanied such white folks to Kelaniya Temple or Kataragama. I assure them, cynically, that we do not need to make any attempt to secure front seats by going well ahead of the time the ceremonies are planned to begin. Religious authorities, Police, even the worshippers, will clear the way and provide up front accommodation once they see their white skins. Invariably, I am proved right.

Now I know I shall be told this has something to do with our innate sense of hospitality etc. Bunkum. It has much more to do with our sense of inferiority. And the deferential treatment is most obviously given when the natives happen to be English-speaking folks—perhaps this language itself makes us accept White superiority without question. This, anyways, is the neo-colonialism of the mind which we must deplore and for which, incidentally, we had better not abuse the West. This same group also incidentally looks down on the Sinhala only speaking crowd. I met a friend the other day who on informing me of his son's marriage, added "Unfortunately, the girl does not know English". At first I imagined the lad had contracted a marriage with perhaps some Scandinavian blond. It turned out however that

he meant she was Sinhala speaking. Alas, for our nationalism.

PEACE AND WAR Every now and again, Third world folks mutter some platitudes on this subject. Even the respected Chairman of the UNO Mr. S. Amarasinghe has proved no exception to this rule. He deplored the failure of the world body to make any serious dent in the armaments race. When asked to explicate, he confessed, in the end, that it had something to do with fear and mistrust and that this was not an easy matter to resolve. Precisely. All armaments discussions break down at this point, the point where it has to do with human anxiety, angst. Butterfield in his book *Christianity and History* likens the situation to two men who are enemies and are each armed with a loaded pistol. They have a disarmament conference and agree to throw away the guns, then each man stays action as he tells himself "Now I am going to throw, but will he?" And incidentally are not the Third world nations just as much guilty with the rest of spending more than they ought to or can, afford on armaments? Why dont our statesmen quit the 'holier-than-thou' attitude for a time.

ELECTIONS. Each time before the elections national feelings reach a new height, of fear on the one hand among those who believe they will lose, of high hopes among those who expect to win. Enthusiasm reaches rare heights when the results are declared, then slowly but surely it gives way to despondency and frustration. Obviously this must happen. 90 men and women, however, well-motivated, cannot deliver the goods—fact is that we place far too extravagant expectations on the MP group. The MP folks are quite incidental, the bureaucrats too. The folks who really matter are the ordinary folks, in village and town. Only they can deliver the goods. For this they must achieve freedom. We dont need "minority rule in Sri Lanka, let us devise steps to transfer real effective freedom to the people, the majority. They alone can deliver the goods.

Several of my friends expressed astonishment at the support I gave to Mr. Felix Dias Bandaranaike's

suggestion that if a two-thirds majority were secured, constitutional changes could be effected, and the elections postponed. I feel constrained to explain my stand.

As I see it, today, the people will either choose the SLFP or the UNP. What difference is there between these two parties. Mr. Jayewardene openly tried to bring about a marriage between the parties indicating that he considered there were fundamental principles of agreement between them, any number of MP aspirants cheerfully switch over from one side to the other, and quite recently Mr. Jayewardene stated in the National Assembly that if they were returned they would not rescind any of the legislative enactments of the present Government. Substantially, these are facts beyond dispute. Yet the peoples of the country are fearfully excited at the prospects of elections. Those in power, in fear perhaps of defeat, those without, hoping in victory at least to be able to exact an eye for an eye. How has this sorry state of affairs come about, why is there this radical polarization of the nation between these two parties when actually there is so little political difference between them?

I believe that among the most significant factors causing this division is the MP letter business. Folks in positions of privilege do not perhaps appreciate the far-reaching ramifications of the letter business. It reaches out to everyone who desires to achieve anything. Even the simple matter of transfers requires the MP's letter. This letter is usually given to those who have been known to be supporters of the Party in power, the losers over the years are cast into outer darkness, where they nurse feelings of frustration and revenge. The practice continues the colonial habit of 'divide et impera'—divide and rule. It ties the people up in emotional knots, arouses action confusion, and is a salient reason why we have failed to deliver the only goods that really concern us all.

FOOD. I hold that this is a good time to look at the total political picture, without allowing the Election business to catch us up emotionally in a campaign where, apart

rom personalities, no serious political issues are at stake. Clearly, for various reasons, and through a series of political enactments, our members of the National Assembly have assumed too many powers. These powers are especially manifest at "electorate and district level. Many have become feudal barons writ large, for power tends to corrupt us all. One simple expedient by which we can cut the MP to size is to debar the MP letter. This is a good psychological moment to ask for this to take place. One side is unsure, and the other ready to make promises in the hope of winning votes; let us capitalise on the situation and demand the abolition of the MP letter business.

Secondly, we ought to secure the democratization of the decentralisation structure which has been set up. As of now, generally, the nominees of the MP have a majority vote in all significant district committees. It seems to me this stultifies debate and free and open discussion. And both debate and free discussion are necessary in order to ensure that money, talent, resources and people, in each area, are used to achieve true development.

These two measures will bring a tremendous sense of release to the common man. It will indicate that those in power desire to get close to the masses, that they trust them, and realise that only by their efforts, freely given, can we transform the land. A foreign visitor visiting a co-operate farm the other day made the comment that it gave the appearance of a school boarding—presumably, politicians and bureaucrats serving as the masters, and the youth as school boys and girls. I believe the remark was a perceptive one. It indicates the extent to which control from the top continues because those at the top do not wish to surrender power or are afraid to do so. Either way a peoples movement to maturity is stayed—and the campaign to grow more food grounded.

We are greatly concerned to secure majority rule in Rhodesia—I am anxious to get majority rule in Sri Lanka, especially at the level where it really counts—the village pump.

TOURISM. Can nothing be done to stop the ever-growing habit

of large numbers of our young children hanging around every Tourist hotel, in the hope some visitor will drop a coin into their expectant palms? Money, money, these are the first words these children learn of the English language. These are the words with which they hail every tourist. The damage to the soul of these young folks is incalculable. They are growing up, lazy, undisciplined, and trained by habit to expect money to drop into their pockets just for the asking.

More, they are being strongly infected with the old colonial ideas that the White chaps are the "gods" of this earth. Despite all our international talk, our peoples both young and old, alas, are being drilled with the belief that the First World rules. As in the past these folks occupied the most productive of our land and exploited it to serve their own ends, so too, today, with the active assistance of the natives this time, the finest beaches, the best buildings and the tastiest of our foods are reserved for Whites only. As the white over-lords held the key posts in the colony, so too today in the Hotels, the key positions are reserved for whites only. When one adds up their salaries, the cost of many have-to-be-imported articles, the illegal transactions which must be taking place, the cheap money made available to Tourists, and most of all, the damage to the soul of the nation, one must continually asks if we are not paying too high a price for tourism?

One disturbing feature of Tourism is the extent to which all towns and some villages have become almost solely devoted to tourism. We are fast growing into a parasitic community, living on the health and vigour of more competent peoples. If their health fails, we would be in serious trouble. But granted they remain in good health, and granted that in these modern times, easy travel means that tourism has become a normal feature of modern living, one must ask whether we have not made it an obsession. Under every jak tree there is a batik shop, and the graduates of our privileged school's chief ambition is to become a bell-boy in a five star hotel. I do not believe we shall build an independent people in this fashion.

I have always held that Tourism must be incidental to the true development of our peoples. Many foreigners have stated they would be prepared to sleep on a mat floor if allowed to visit China. I think this is because they want to meet a people who by sheer guts and united ability have built themselves into a nation, competent and confident. Our habit of clinging on to the tourist at every street corner must be a bore to them, our national pastime of standing for hours gazing at them a positive nuisance, and our obsession of showing them only the great achievements of the past—the ruined cities—a pathetic indication of our present-day failure as a people. Even the best of our modern achievements have been for the most part put up by foreigners and with overseas aid. The airport by the Canadians, the International Conference hall by the Chinese and the Bandaranaike statue by the Russians!



BUILDING A VILLAGE HOUSE—96

Paddy—Whack

By Herbert Keuneman

To us in Ehetuwewa, who have not reaped a harvest in 4 years, the word 'paddy' has a near nostalgic sound. One hears faintish echoes: they are hopefully building a paddy-processing plant in the Rajangana area; and the fourteen gaunt silos of the paddy-storage plant near Galgamuwa rear an impressive but stark monument to the duped optimism of sanguine human expectation, for all though completed nearly two years ago they still stand empty of all but (hot?) air; and a few days ago three *kades* in the locality—two in Embogama, one in our own *kadamandiya*—were temporarily closed down and had their doors sealed by officers of Price Control or Paddy Purchase or whoever does such things for having paddy in their godowns. But that is about all.

Gossip says the Ehetuwewa *mudalali* alone had 80 bags of it and had to pay Rs. 2,600 in a fine before he could open for business next day; and in that case they must have made a considerably

bigger haul in Embogama, which is a much bigger and richer village.

I wish I could have seen this paddy. Not that I disbelieve the gossip, but I should like to just see paddy in largish quantities again. One hardly does now. And especially I should like to see again what not so long ago one often saw in Ehetuwewa and could almost count on seeing in Embogama, the pretty paddy-hulling dance of the village girls outside the big *kades*, as four or six or eight of them in their charming tight *hattes* circled round a heap of the golden grain piled on a mat, their heavy pestles flashing like wands, their nimble feet—gold on gold—fearlessly pushing truant grain back into the heap, between the pounding blows of those iron-as shot staves....oh! very, very pretty. But one no longer sees it. Nor as I was saying, does one see much paddy.

It wasn't, however, really paddy as such I began to write this article about. Still less about vanishing jocundities in Merrie Lanka, entrancing though those girls looked. For one thing, the girls themselves have dealt pleasure in these scenes a shrewd blow by the adoption, islandwide, of a hideous version of the Malay *kebaya* instead of the short *hatte* and robbed the male eye of the sight of their trim little midriffs particularly pleasuring when agleam and glinting gold, bronze and copper from exertion. (It wasn't modesty that made them give the briefer bodice up, either, or one might have found a hollow comfort in sublimation! It was just Fashion.) For another thing, before I was led astray I conceived the idea for this pot-boiler (for that, frankly, is what this article is: the best of us must occasionally pot-boil, and this week I have nothing particular to say) as the result of a word said to me which has, I can now confess it, no connexion with Ehetuwewa, or rurality at all.

'It is so depressing' said this depressing speaker—and he was a Ceylonese, though an American-returned one, at that—to see all these *rice-paddies* dry!

Now, one may put up with platitudes and banalities in the name of hospitality. But not with anybody who includes in a banality the name 'rice-paddy'. There

are verbal abominations that get each of us, no doubt, on the raw: my particular *bete-noir* is the shallow affectation of being *au fait* by the use of some would-be-initiate technicalism or neologism used for no other purpose than to display a pretended familiarity in a field. Like 'rice-paddy'..intended to show (though showing no such thing) that one has been to Southeast Asia and the region has no more secrets from one: 'Why, I even know what 'a paddy' is!' Grr-rr-rr!

Do you, indeed, you posturing idiot! Then you will know that there is no such thing as a paddy, in the singular, any more than there is such a thing as 'a' rice or 'a' wheat or 'a' any other grain, save in the sense of 'a (strain of) paddy; that even in this limited use it is preferable to speak of a strain of rice rather than a strain of paddy; that the reason why is that 'paddy' is an English corruption of the Malay *padi* (a as in father, and i as in *fin champagne*) which means 'rice in the straw' or, the word's commercial use, 'rice in the husk'; never the threshed and husked grain without its golden covering; that 'rice-paddy' is a hideous and recent Americanism as bad as Select-a-matic or Oysterburger!

I don't know why I have this rather ridiculously intense objection to this particular word, but I have, I hate it and an unjustifiable proportion of my energies has been devoted to trying to track its origin down! I used to think it was a growth of World War II—and certainly World War II with its lakhs of Veterans from the Southeast Asian sphere has had a lot to do with its spread—but I see, as I shall show, that I am wrong, I thought, too...and here I believe I may not be wrong—that I had discovered the seed from which the horrible hybrid grew when I overheard a passage of words that suggests an explanation.

I was travelling from Galle by train some time in the 1940s when we were crossed at Boosa by a troop train. The poor things had obviously been loaded in with no intimation of their destination, and someone leant out of a window and begged of someone in our train: 'Hi, Jack! Tell us where this..train is going?' Now, there

is about us Ceylonese a certain pedantry which demands not to be misheard; so that we repeat things, unasked, or amplify them, to make ourselves the clearer: 'Run, run!' or 'Half-past-six, six-thirty' or whatever may be our message. 'Jack,' politely accepting the soubriquet as not worth quarrelling over, obligingly didactically answered: 'Galle! Galle!' The name could have meant nothing to the soldier; but the style of it, as he heard it, obviously struck him as right and familiar; here was another of those reduplicated cinematically indoctrinated properly tropical names, like Dum Dum or Bali Bali or Pago Pago, which he was only too happy to assimilate. He turned to his companions and shouted: 'Hear that, you guys! W're going to Gol Gol'. Just so, I think it very likely, someone may once have asked (waving a hand at a bright green rippling field) 'What d'you call this? What plant?' and was answered pleonastically: 'Rice! Paddy!' Whereupon it was eagerly docketed away for use to prove close acquaintance with the Orient: 'Hear that, Sadie? That's a rice-paddy.' How the hell else did it begin?

But I see that it certainly happened a good deal earlier than World War II.

The other day I received from my ex-pupile and always friend Ian Goonetilleke, a most pleasant gift (and most pleasantly inscribed: 'Herbert—recalling many charming vistas of instruction and delight along the long trial of memory..') being his fascinating new anthology, *Images of Sri Lanka Through American Eyes*, published in America as part of the Bi-centenary Celebrations. With Ian's urbane and informative introductory note to help assay each selection—of which there are 36, ordered chronologically, from 1813 to 1968—it is an unusual anthology, for it presents a thesis: the gradual trend from the West's patronizing 'observation' of the Orient as the habitat of an unfamiliar zoological genus to its latest concept a visit to the East as a pilgrimage to the shrines of wisdom! although to follow the thesis it seems to me an advantage to follow also the chronological arrangement and not accept the editor's own suggestion, a sop—surely—

to a present-day allergy towards coherence! that the reader dip in at random 'and find his own patterns of wanderlust.'

At any rate, I am glad I disciplined myself this much; for it enabled me to discover a use of the term 'rice-paddy'—and that by two noted American writers and lecturers—in 1897. Was this the first of the barbarism? What, I wonder, if anything, does Webster have to say? for, despite my zeal, I have never quite got round to finding out! At all events the term did not catch on immediately: in 1903 Clara Kathleen Rogers, a Massachusetts matron, a nice woman with a due respect for terminological exactitude, wrote:

Then we saw something to us quite new—terraced rice plantations. Picture to yourself a mountain slope terraced as in Switzerland or Germany for vineyards, and then imagine these terraces all flooded with water and sown with rice, or 'paddy' as they call it. And even in 1924 Margaret Mordcaid still wrote:

...the whole sides of the mountains are terraced, each terrace being a rice field.

A field, please note; not a 'paddy'. In fact, the beastly term does not, I believe, appear again in Ian's book. But alas! I know that twenty years later it was being bandied about by simply everybody and 'rice-paddies' had come to stay.

I was delighted, however, to find that of at least one writer of the post-paddy period in the anthology I had apparently made a recruit to my crusade. She was—and, I trust, even now is—Miss Yvonne Hanemann, whose photographs profusely illustrate the book. (When I say I trust she 'even now is' I do not mean 'is' Miss Hanemann, of course: I wish her very well, and she may be and with my blessing Mrs. somebody, by now, or even M/s; all I trust is that she remains my recruit in the Cause.)

Miss Hanemann in the course of one of her so fruitful photographic quests in Sri Lanka was for a few days the guest of my wife and me in our island fort of Hammenhiel, and has left us a memento of the occasion in the shape of a handsome photograph of a 'Tuttukudi' barge—a vanished

sight—as it passed our home, its great bluff black hull topped by the vast lateen sail translucent in the sunlight as a nautilus shell. She was one of the most earnest Americans we had ever met—'Oh! I just don't know how we are going to get through with all we Americans just have to do! There's our commitments in Southeast Asia; and then the Middle East is in such danger; and then there's all of Africa! Never had we known anyone as burdened with the American Man's (and Woman's) Burden as Miss Hanemann. So I decided to add to Miss Hanemann's burden further.

'Miss Hanemann,' I begged, 'will you undertake yet another responsibility?'

'Well—if we can. If we can', answered Miss Hanemann a trifle harassedly. Gately, nevertheless. So then I went into my spiel about rice-paddies and catamarans (another misuse of a vernacular word about which I feel strongly).

'You must use your influence—your personal influence—' I perorated, falling somewhat into Miss Hanemann's own manner, 'to rid the world of these bastard terms: it is your duty!'

'Well, I don't know!' she replied. 'I'll try. Perhaps I can do something about 'rice paddies'; but I just don't know about 'catamarans' it's so long established.'

'I'm trusting you', I said.

Good girl! My trust was not misplaced. I cannot tell what she has accomplished vs. 'rice-paddies'—after all, that's been pretty long, and certainly widely, established too—and maybe she was only realistic to give up the struggle against 'catamarans' from the beginning. But at least she evidently doesn't speak of rice paddies herself. There is one of her own articles reproduced in the anthology, and in it she does not mention paddies once; in fact, she leaves the whole subject severely alone.

But the use in her article—an account of an exorcistic dance—of other vernacular technicalisms is meticulous. And the article itself is a fine piece of highly descriptive but unsentimental writing.



LETTER

• Minority Problem

Sir,

When one mentions the minority problems in Sri Lanka, there are several reactions.

We have a few ostriches who will bury their heads in their comfortable jobs, professions, business empires or seats of power and say "what problems, we don't have any. It is only a handful of politicians who are trying to create problems" Well, the ostriches are getting scarce these days. Almost all of us on both sides accept that there is a problem. A problem that involves equality of opportunity, selections on merit, recognition of one's language and religion, and above all equality and justice in this land.

Of late there is a "Palestine" problem in our hill country where Tamil speaking people are being deprived of land, because historically this land belonged to the Up-country Sinhalese, just like the Israelites claiming a historical right to Palestine. Will the Tea and Rubber dollars be as powerful as Petro dollars in making us shout 'Thief.'

The problem is one that needs a political solution which implies that a solution to this will have to be found by the elected leaders. There is a Smith of Rhodesia who tried negotiating with his chosen chiefs and very soon there will be no more Smith. All dialogue will have to be between the elected representatives and not the Chiefs of the Colombo Clans.

One or two Ministers specially when loaded with garlands in the North or East are on record as having said—"We love the Tamils, that is why we are spending money in developing their areas". Well Sirs, what we want is justice and not charity. Justice absolves both giver and receiver of patronage and gratitude respectively. Charity will give the halo and garlands people in power seek and get the gratitude and servitude they demand for a time only. Well Sirs, let us not meet as giver and receiver, but as partakers of a common heritage.

It is a common axiom that those who benefit from a system will

move heaven and earth to preserve that system while those who suffer from it will be driven by frustration to a point of no return when they will drag the whole nation with them and perish, rather than live under this system. Dialogue is only possible before we reach this point of no return. Time is running out for all of us, not just me.

Let all of us who like to consider ourselves as socialists for a United Lanka also remember, that history recalls that a race liberation struggle has taken precedence over the class struggle. Angola,

Rhodesia, Palestine, Vietnam are good examples of this in recent history.

Let us therefore, while there is time, sort this problem out, or history will give our leader a place next to Nero. Let it not be said that the sentiments expressed in glowing terms about justice at the recent Colombo Conference and at the U.N. more recently are not for export only, like the prawns and crabs of Batticaloa.

Dr. S. K. Selliah

Batticaloa.
10.10.76

U. S. COMMUNIST VIEW

Hens Are More Cared For Than Farmers Are

By Erik Bert

ON EGGS

HENS EGGS cost anything from 70 to 80 cents each at the moment in Colombo. Eggs are not any cheaper in the outstations but are a lot more scarce. The *Observer*, a few days ago, ventured to educate its readers as to *Why The High Egg Prices?* "Egg prices have gone over the past month and are likely to increase further towards the end of the year, according to Trade sources. The present price of grade 1 eggs at the Marketing Department is 72 cents and grade 2 is 71 cents. At the Govi Sala, eggs were around 70 cents each last week. Last month the prices of G 1 and G 2 eggs at the MD stalls were 61 and 62 cents respectively." (The MD stalls and the Govi Sala have eggs for sale for a couple of hours on three to four days a week—for the rest the answer is "sold out"—Editor). The *Observer* then embarks on an "explanation" why egg production had dropped. "At the Pettah market, eggs fetched around 65 to 70 cents. MD sources told the *Observer* that the price hike was due largely because this was the 'off season' for eggs. Poultry breeders confirmed this. 'The shortage is because most hens are not laying during this period. We call this the 'moulting period'—which occurs during various seasons.' They denied rumours of a poultry disease said to be attacking layers. They added that the present price of poultry food had nothing to do with the price hike in eggs. The price of mash today is Rs. 62 a cwt.—which is about a rupee more than the price of poultry food a few months ago. MD sources said that the drop in production from their various collecting centres was nearly fifty per cent. 'It is because of this, and the growing demand for eggs as a substitute for fish, which is also very scarce these days, that our prices have shot up' they said. Unless there is an increase in production, trade sources fear that prices will shoot up further by Christmas time."

What this amounts to is that an egg will very soon cost Rs. 1 or more each. And there is nothing we or anyone else can do about it—for the moment, at any rate. We have published in this issue an article on how eggs are mass-produced in the USA. Whilst avoiding the pitfalls of capitalist over-concentration Sri Lanka has to formulate a national programme to enable farmers more and cheaper eggs for the hungry consumers.

The U.S. agricultural scene is reported in the press almost exclusively in respect to the bigger farms, that have 'made it' or hope

to. A recent article in the financial section of the *New York Times* (July 11, 1976) describes one crop area: eggs. The article by Steve

Lohr, a reporter at The Press, in Binghamton, New York, provides informative material on the fate of the egg producers. Lohr opens the discussion by comparing the consequences of "the revolution in egg farming" for the egg farmers and their chickens. The application of modern technology has dramatically reduced the number of egg farmers while raising the laying capacity of America's hearty hens. Prodded with artificially lighted 16-hour days and special feeding, most hens average 250 to 270 eggs a year." Lohr reports; while "a team of poultry scientists at the University of Missouri, by inbreeding and the 23-hour day, is close to developing the egg-a-day hen."

Lohr cites the fantastic consequences of increased productivity. The 64.4 billion eggs produced in the U.S. last year "if laid end to end," could have circled the earth at the equator 100 times. What's more, the nation's egg farmers could breed enough extra hens in just nine months to increase production 20 percent or 30 percent, according to John R. Pedersen, economics vice president of the United Egg Producers. That's enough extra eggs, for example," Lohr writes, to supply every man, woman and child in the usually hungry African nation of Chad with a dozen a day."

IMPERIALIST EXPLOITATION and economic repression insure that they won't get any more eggs. More immediately, there is no evidence that the millions of Americans subsisting below the poverty line will get any more eggs.

The main economic trends in egg producing are: the concentration of production in an ever smaller number of giant farms, and the ruthless uprooting of the smaller egg producers. The elimination has been ruthless and massive. In 1964 there were 1.2 million egg farms; today there are about 200,000. More than four of every five egg farmers existing in 1964 were eliminated in the dozen years. That's only half the story. Of the 200,000 remaining egg farms, 4,000 own more than 90 percent of the laying hens, industry analysts say, according to Lohr. That is, two percent of the egg farms produce 90 percent of the eggs.

Egg Machine

The intense concentration of production in the very largest corporate farms has been accompanied by similar logistical concentration. Four states, Lohr reported—California, Georgia, Arkansas and Pennsylvania—account for one third of the eggs produced in the nation. Lohr quotes Gerald C. Bookey, vice president of Nulaid Foods, Inc., a San Leandro, California, egg co-operative, one of the nation's largest, with five million hens: "There's just no way that anyone with less than 100,000 hens can make it today."

Professor Ralph L. Baker of Ohio State University, predicts that by the 1980s, with the national hen population remaining at its present level, there may be no more than 520 flocks of more than 480,000 hens each. The giant egg companies are often diversified operations, including grain, feed, and broiler (eating chicken) production.

The remaining small farmers are a kind of serf, owning their land and buildings, inclusive of mortgages to the banks and other creditors, and producing eggs on contract to the big operators.

Lohr describes one of Pennsylvania's largest egg farms, run by the Pennfield Corporation. In addition to feed, seed, fertilizer and broiler poultry holdings, Pennfield owns 300,000 laying hens on its property and another 300,000 on nearby small contract farms. Feeding, watering and egg collection in Pennfield's 'largest chicken house... a complex of nine huge warehouse-like buildings, each holding 30,000 hens," are "all done by machinery—moving troughs for food, moving water cuts for drink, and a moving belt to take away the eggs." When a (Pennfield) chicken lays an egg, the egg travels down a slight grade to a conveyor belt and is carried to the farm's inspection and packing room. There the eggs enter a machine... where they are doused with water, dried and coated with mineral oil to prevent them from drying out. The eggs are then automatically separated by weight into five groupings, from regular to jumbo. When a dozen eggs have assembled at the gathering docks, a machine with vacuum fingers picks them up and gently sets them down in awaiting cartons. Next, Depart-

ment of Agriculture inspectors, called candler, take samples and examine them. Those that fail the tests "are broken and sold to food companies..The rest are wheeled into Pennfield temperature and humidity controlled warehouses to be held for a day or so before going to grocery wholesalers."

The path followed by the farmers is almost as restricted as that of the eggs, though they are treated less gently. Hendrick Wentink, a big Pennsylvania egg farmer and a member of the National Egg Board, said, according to Lohr: "When you spend a good part of your life with chickens as I have—raising them, worrying about them when they're not producing or sick, and watching the poor devils die—you get to know them...see them as friends."

THE CONCERN of the egg corporations for the hens is not matched by that shown for the small egg producers. Nobody, literally nobody, outside their family circle, cares whether they eat or drink. Their food and drink is not assured to them by moving apparatus, or any other. The eggs are moved automatically and, so probably, are the chickens after they have one-year tour of duty. The removal of the small egg farmers has been, perhaps more uneven, but no less certain. The eggs are washed, dried, and coated to prevent their drying out. No one, literally no one, outside the family circle, cares whether the farmer is washed or dried, and no one supplies any coating to prevent his being dried out by the withering blast of monopoly competition by extortionate prices for what he buys, cut-throat prices for what he sells, or by interest rates on the money he borrows. Sample eggs are checked by the Department of Agriculture inspectors. The small farmer's well-being, or otherwise, is checked by his bank, the mortgage holder, his creditors, and if he is found wanting his removal is assured by remorseless justice.

The concentration of farm production in ever larger units is characteristic of all agriculture under capitalism, especially in the U.S. Concentration is most intense, and corporate farming the most advanced in egg, poultry,

fruit, and vegetable production. The pace of farm enlargement, the resulting concentration of production and the elimination of small and middle size farms depends on a number of factors, including the development of production technology, the possibility of consolidating farm acreage, and so on. The tide of technological progress advanced at the expense of the farmers. During the past half-century or so, more than one half of the six million farms at the peak have been wiped out, and the farmers with them. In 1975 another 12,000 farms went out of business, without the benefit of a redefinition of what a farm is.

"This decline continued a trend begun in 1940," the Funds Report says. (Actually, the decline began about 1920, with a return-to-the-farm spurt in the early 1930s when half a million or so families, devastated by the crisis, fled the cities to rural areas. "Over the past thirty-five years more than three million U.S. farms folded," the Funds report points out. It adds that "an estimated 480,000 rural businesses have disappeared" during the same period (as capitalist development raised the survival level of rural business enterprise, and the chain store webs expanded their field of operation.)

THE FATE of the Black farmers, like their origins, has been unique. Their origins lay in plantation chattel slavery and, then, in semi-slave plantation sharecropping. Unlike the white farmers, they had not even the semblance of any rights to the soil, and so their elimination has been even more cruel. During the half century in which somewhat over half of the white farmers were wiped off, nine-tenths of the Black tillers of the soil were rubbed out—as farmers.

The savagery of racism has not let up, however. A tabulation of monthly payments to families with dependent children (New York Times, July 11) depicts the continuing barbarism. Fifty states are tabulated. The fifteen lowest on the list, in the amount of aid to families with dependent children, are in the substantially agricul-

tural Southern or border states. The lowest payments range from \$ 14.38 cents per month in Mississippi to \$55.29 in North Carolina, compared with Wisconsin, Alaska, Hawaii and New York with payments of slightly above \$100 per month.

The Funds Report says:

"Today America's small farms are being forced into a capital and energy intensive form of agriculture which they can ill afford. All this has caused and will continue to cause tremendous upheaval and displacement among American farmers."

These truths are concealed by the harriidans of the press.

THE CONCLUSIONS above can in no way be ascribed to enemies of capitalism, for the national board of the funds are predominantly liberals of a reformist tendency.

Clearly, struggle is needed for to advance the living standards of the impoverished rural population and to defend the non-capitalist farmers against the relentless impact of capitalist 'progress.'

It would be naive, however, to think that anything less than socialization of farm production, and the abolition of capitalist exploitation can assure the rural population of a decent livelihood, freedom from oppression, and exploitation, and the elimination of the gap between rural and urban life.



TOPICAL

Of Trees And Men

by Nimal Sarathchandra

I love trees and I love men.

Trees are such fascinating things that you would not get tired of seeing trees as much as you would not get tired of seeing elephants, trains or aeroplanes.

Understanding men, loving them and working with them was my profession once, but now though I am relieved of those duties, still I continue to love men. It has come to stay with me as a hobby.

Having worked with a work force of over twenty thousand I am convinced that men are the

prime wealth of a country. Trees come next. All men are good to a certain extent as all trees are useful in varying degrees.

To love men you should be human and to love trees you should be a naturalist or a poet.

In recent times much has been said about trees. Today there are societies for the protection of trees and societies for the planting and propagation of trees and greening Sri Lanka.

Arthur V. Dias, the well known social worker from Panadura, dedicated his whole life for the preservation and propagation of the Jak tree. If we had a few more similar god-fathers, we would have preserved some of the more useful trees that are now being wantonly destroyed.

The Wild Life Protection Society protested against the falling of Sinharaja, the only rain forest existing in Sri Lanka. Yet it is being passed.

Forests are cleared not only in the Sinharaja Adaviya but in all parts of the country. Vast tracts of forests from Kantalai to Habarana are cut and burnt may be to be replaced by some other vegetation but we are robbed of the trees, the herbs and the shrubs and the wild life.

Where, once stood majestic and dauntless trees are found charred stumps and wood ash a pathetic and remorseful scene. Where natural forests once survived, are teak forests. The afforestation programme carried on by the Forest Department is to be appreciated but rows and rows of monotonous never ending teak trees will never surpass the beauty of the natural forests where various species of trees, shrubs and bushes grow.

The wet zone forests covered with a canopy of flowers and fruits, abounds with bees, butterflies and birds. The shady trees, helps the creepers to crawl towards the light and help the orchids and other epiphytes to bloom. The floor of the forest strewn with decaying leaves and rich humus retain the moisture and help the reptiles and the insects to survive. The forest is full of activity.

Travelling down almost every week from the east coast to the west I have the opportunity of seeing the different types of forests and the various kinds of trees

and shrubs. Yet I have never felt tired of seeing them in fact every tree is a poem in itself. This remains me what Jouca Kilmer had said about trees.

"I think I shall never see

A poem so lovely as a tree

Poems are made by folks like me
But only God can make a tree."

The Knotty Rhododendron on the undulating planes of Sita-Eliya, the sturdy oaks of the Hakgala Gardens, the white patched Eucalyptus of Haputale, the ever green cyprus trees at Nanu Oya, the cooling Kumbuk trees along the Menik Ganga, the silhouette of palmyrah trees against a scarlet sky in Batticaloa, the swaying coconut trees along the Beruwala coast, the outspreading tamarind trees in Jaffna, the pillared banyan trees at Fort Fedrick and Adayar, the bo-trees in every temple compound and all other trees and shrubs in the dry zone and the wet zone has their characteristics to display and their philosophy to preach.

Trees serve men in various ways, they supply fruits, and timber, provided shade and shelter and add beauty to the environment. Forests helps in bringing rain and conserve water and provide a heaven for wild life.

It was Kudaligama a renown poet of the Colombc era who lamented before every one of us at the wanton destroying of forests.

"පොලොවේ සාරවත්බව
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ශස්වැල් වන ලැහැව් හා
මිළු නොකල හැකී
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මිනිහා අළුත් යුගයේ
කලඑළිය දකී"

"The inestimable beauty of the trees are vanished, the trees that enriches the soil and retains the moisture are wantonly destroyed with the dawn of a new era."

"ආලෝකයට හළවී
අන්තිමට මෙහේ
කවියට කලාවට අහරක්
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ලස්සන දකුම්කළු දේ
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කවියා කලාකරුවා
යන්නටද කොහේ"

"With the dawn of a new era and the vanquishing of the forests the food of the poet also vanishes.

When such beautiful things are destroyed where shall the poet and artists go for their inspirations."

Though trees are to be preserved, parasites such as cuscuta and loranthus and useless thorny shrubs and herbs should be destroyed and replaced by some other beneficial vegetation. Among men too are such parasites, and men who are harmful and dangerous to the society, they like the parasites and us less trees deserves to be replaced by a new generation useful to the society.

IN THE NORTH—2

Hindu Education

— 1840 - 1880 —

by K. Arumainayagam

BESIDES THIS, the missionaries themselves were not very happy to allow the government to enter a field which was virtually a monopoly of theirs since their arrival in Jaffna. The American Missionaries were very adamant and did not tolerate the interference of the government. In a reply to the Sub-Committee of the Legislative Council on Education appointed in 1867, one of the American Missionaries said as follows:

"I understand that our Jaffna Saivites claim for a Government College where Heathenism with all its abominations may be patronised by Government. Such a step would prove positively that Victoria is not only a defender of our faith, but a defender, promoter and patroness of Saivism....."

"Honour to whom honour is due and help those who help you. How many native agents now in Government service has Siva educated? How many Buddha educated? How many Mohamed educated? How many Catholic educated? I do not ask how many Saivites, Buddhists, Mohamedans or Roman Catholics are in Government Service. But I ask who educated them? Then in all fairness and honesty—help those who really help the government. Are these four classes

friends and helpers or enemies to Protestant Governments and to education? It is surely not necessary to dodge facts, whether here or in India or in Europe."

Even public opinion favoured the establishment of a Government School in Jaffna and the government was almost convinced that it was necessary to put up a school in Jaffna. Though by 1869, the Director was convinced that a model school should be set up, yet nothing came out of it. This was clearly expressed by the following letter which appeared in the Ceylon Overland By Monthly Examiner of 5th May 1869.

"We (the Jaffna Freeman) sincerely hope that the report is true that Mr. Lawrie has resolved upon including the government to establish a Government School in Jaffna to impart education of a higher standard than what can be obtained in the present grants-in-aid schools. Since the shutting up of the American Seminary at Batticotta, the want of a superior school is much felt, and petition after petition was sent to the late School Commission to supply the want: but that unwieldy body was powerless to effect any reform. The generality of parents in Jaffna could not afford the luxury of Colombo education. The expense is enormous. Hence the great rush to India. For the fiftieth time, we warn the Government of Ceylon that Madras is fast draining the flower of the native community from Jaffna and while the really efficient and able do not find sufficient inducement to return to their 'native nook of earth' the riff-raff and refuse will be left behind. When will our government open its eyes to the baneful tendency of this course? When will the sons of Jaffna be trained in their own schools and render service to their own country?"

THUS THE HINDUS could not arrest the forward march of the Christian Schools. In the period 1851-1870 Navalar had been away in India for more than 9 years. When he finally returned to Ceylon in 1870 he must have found to his utter dismay the growth of Christian schools. The Wesleyan Missionaries had 13 Boys' Tamil Schools, 1 Boarding school for Girls, 9 other schools for Girls, and 6 Boy's English schools.

The American Missionaries had 2 Girls' Schools, 1 Training School for Teachers, 1 Medical School and 53 other schools; The Church Missionaries had 2 Boarding Schools—one for the Boys and the other for Girls, 1 Training College and 30 Tamil Schools. The Catholics had 6 English Schools, 2 Mixed Schools and 30 Tamil Schools.

As against this the Saivites had only one recognised school, viz., Navalar's Saiva Prakasa Vidyasalai. And in 1872, when Navalar published his *Yalpana Samaya Nilai* which was a review and reflection of the State of Saivism in Jaffna the American Missionaries alone had 5 Anglo-vernacular and 78 Vernacular schools in the peninsula. As the Christian Missionaries had their schools at every vantage point, the Saivites could not set up their schools as they could not conform to the Government's area rule.

When Navalar found that Saivites of Jaffna were not responding to his call and the Government was unsympathetic he exhorted Saivites to send their children to Madras and Kumbakonam in South India where they could obtain a better education without having to undergo any religious caste embarrassments. For in India, there were a number of schools managed by Indians offering good education. These Missionaries could not insist on the removal of caste or religious symbols. If they insisted the children had no alternative but to choose Hindu or Government schools. In fact, men of means had already started sending their children to India, where they graduated in Madras and Calcutta Universities and found employment in India and Bruma, as High Court Judges, Advocates, Excise Commissioners, Teachers and in hosts of other fields.

The same or almost similar sentiment was expressed by Anagarika Dharmapala nearly a half a century later. In this message to the Sinhala Buddhists in 1922, he advised them to migrate to India to have a good education. Because the education provided in Ceylon was "bastard education without any solid foundation." It made them not men but "ill paid clerks".

SAIVITES OF JAFFNA could have easily obtained qualified teachers from India, as they did in later

times, but could not do so as their finance were poor. The main reason for sending their children to Christian Schools appears to have been that those schools were staffed with qualified teachers—Either Europeans or Ceylonese who had their training in missionary Training Schools. The schools opened at Kopay, Puloly, Colombogam, Kandarmadam and Inuvil due to the initiative taken by Navalar and others were all Vernacular schools.

Navalar attempted to establish an English School by the name of Saiva Angila Vidyasalai. This was a sequel to a dismissal of students in 1871 from a Wesleyan School at Vannarponnai where students refused to remove sacred ashes and other religious symbols from their persons. Their parents and students themselves persuaded Navalar to open an English School. This was again a target of attack as were his Hindu Vernacular Schools. Navalar found it difficult to manage this school without sufficient funds. The Government did not approve this school for a Government grant as there was already a Christian School in the close vicinity. The students themselves left this school lest they may be deprived of the opportunity of appearing for Government Examinations. Thus this school had only a brief existence from 1872-1876.

It will not be inappropriate to mention the contribution of Navalar's publications. Navalar had been an indefatigable writer. He established Printing Presses at Vannarponnai and Madras. He is credited with sixty complete publications and twenty four incomplete works. Most of them concern religious texts and were edited and printed for the first time. Navalar, besides editing them, also wrote commentaries on them.

By rendering them in easy prose he made it possible for the educated people to read and understand them without the help of experts on the subjects. In fact his greatest contribution is that he made them within the reach of all those who were interested. His Catechisms and Bala Padams are really novel attempts in Tamil. Through these works, for the first time, he brought out in simple prose all the truths of Saiva philosophy and religion. Nothing

comparable to these works had ever been attempted even in South India.

To sum up, the Hindu Revival movement of this period i.e. 1840-1880 was led by men who belonged to the traditional Elite. They were very orthodox in their religious and social outlook. Evidence is meagre to say whether they functioned as an organisation. Most of them were vernacular educated, and their emphasis was mostly religious and literary. It is a fact that Navalar tried his best to widen the scope of the curriculum to suit the new requirements but he could not succeed in his attempt. His attention too was divided. He did not concentrate in one place. He had his eyes on Chidamparam and Madras. His pupils and others too followed his example.

Since the Christian Schools catered well for the new requirements, Hindus preferred Christian Schools to Hindu Schools. Those who could afford the luxury of Indian Education sent their children to India to qualify for higher degrees.

Hindu schools were ill-staffed and did not have any well-trained teachers. On the contrary, Christian Schools, had their own Training Colleges to train teachers. Besides, they also could draw teachers from their parent bodies in England and America.

TRINCOMALEE

Sacred Hill Of Koneswara Temple

by M. D. Raghavan

Renowned in traditions and chronicles by diverse names—KONAMALAI, KONAMA MALAI, TIRUKONA MALAI, Trincomalee is unparalleled in all Ceylon as a spot at once sacred and historic.

Trincomalee finds mention in the Mahavamsa, by the names severally of Gokanna, Gona and Gonaka maka. King Panduvas (44414 B-C) landed at the mouth of Mahakandara river, identified to be "none other than Mahaveli Ganga," the river that rises from the hills of Central Ceylon and after a long course flows into the sea at Trincomalee.

The commentary of the Mahavamsa gives Gokanna as the spot where Panduvas landed. The same spot obviously is meant by the name Gonakamaka, where Baddakaccana, the Sakya princess, the consort of King Panduvas landed as the Mahavamsa narrates.

THE SPOTTED DEER. Gona in Sinhalese and Gokanna in Pali both mean, 'deer'—(B. I Perera, 1952). Flocks of this graceful animal have for ages found a sheltered home in the glades and scrub jungle on the slopes of this high hill on the landward side, and has appropriately given its name to this precipitous hill, with the deep sea on one side and land on the other. The spotted deer still roam freely over the hill top accustomed to the stream of people who daily resort to the place whether as pilgrims to the sacred shrine or as sight seers.

THE CLIFFS OF TRINCOMALEE. As you peer down the seaward side and watch the heaving waves beat over crags of the steep rock, you marvel at the combination of the forces of Nature that have contributed not a little to the history of the Island from the Portuguese times to the present day. A sentinel of the seas, the place has a sacredness about it, not second to its importance as a strategic point in the political fortunes and the defences of the Island.

THE KONESWAR TEMPLE. On the summit of the Rock popularly known as the Swami Rock, or the Three Swami Rock, was "the temple of unusual size and splendour renowned through the whole of India," the temple of a Thousand Columis, the Temple which was razed to the ground by the Portuguese under the command of Captain General Constantine de Sa in 1624.

PALLAVA CONNECTIONS. Among the royal dynasties of South India the dynasty with a tradition of friendly relations with Ceylon, was the Pallava. Delving into the legends of Ancient Jaffna, Mudaliyar C. Rasanayagam narrates the story of Tondaiman Ilantirayan "the progenitor of the Pallava dynasty" as a son of a Naga princess of the Island of Muni-pallavam (sung in Manimekalai) regarded "identical with the Jaffna Peninsula, the Nagadipa of the Mahavamsa."

Whatever may be the validity of these inferences, a substantial

reflection of this concord in the historical relations of the Pallavas with Ceylon, is revealed to us in the TIRIYAI rock inscriptions revealed in the course of excavations by the Archaeological Department of Ceylon, in the vicinity of holy Tirukonamalie on the ruins of the ancient Buddhist monastery, the GIRIKANDA CEITYA, in script resembling the Pallava Grantha characters—"one of the few Sanskrit inscriptions found in Ceylon"—That it is to the inspiring religious zeal of the Pallavas that we largely owe the magnificence of the Koneswara Kovil, we may well conclude from the inscriptions at Tiriyaai, correlated to other factors.

To the Tamils, it is "the Kandaswami Mali, the hill of God Skanda" Possibly the Buddhist Shrine, the ruins of which are uncovered at Tiriyaai, is the one built by King Mahasena (808-835 A.D.). "On the site of a Hindu Saivite temple which earlier existed on the spot."

The shrine is sacred to the Buddhists, for within it is believed to have reposed, early relics of the Buddha. Occupying an area of about an acre in extent, the ruins have disclosed to view the standing structure of a *Vatadage*, an architectural type, distinctly Sinhalese.

THE INSCRIPTIONS. Following the precedent of the Pallavas, the Chola and Pandyan Kings extended generous patronage to the Koneswara Kovil. The inscriptions of Jatavarman Vira Pandyan at the archway of Fort Frederick (through which one enters the sacred precincts), with the Pandyan insignia of the double fish, are eloquent of Pandyan connections. The Portuguese, the Dutch and in later days, Codrington and Rasanayagam have given their interpretation of the two inscriptions at the entrance.

The two latter historians of Ceylon interpret the inscriptions in these terms, "O, King the Portuguese shall later break down the holy edifice built by Kulakkodan and it shall be rebuilt nor will future kings think of doing so." Codrington ascribes the inscriptions to Jatavarman Vira Pandya of the thirteenth century.

The legend of Kulakkodan is the theme of a poetical and prose composition, the *Konesar Kalvettu* by Kavirayar, featured in *Yalpana*

Vasipava Malai under the name of Kavi-rasa-varothayan. It relates that "Rama Deva, the son of Manu-nithikanda-Cholan of the solar race visited Trincomalee and after him, his son Kulakkodan came and repaired the temple and its towers, built the terraced halls and made the sin dispelling well. For the continuance of the service of Isvara he brought 51 families from Karai and Marungkar in Chola. These he did on Monday the 10th of Idapan in the year of Kaliyuga 512". Kulakkodan here figured, may probably be one of the princes of the early Cholas, sung in early Tamil literature. Legends connect the temple with Ravana. A cut in the Rock called Ravana Kalvettu, recalls the legend that Ravana worshipped at the shrine. Tirugnana Sambandar (seventh century A.D.) signs of Konama malai and of the peerless God who dwelleth as Konama malai in his devotional hymns. This is the earliest authenticated mention of the Koneswar temple.

THE INSCRIBED DOOR JAMB. A fragment of an inscribed door jamb and a stone image each of VISHNU and Maha Lakshmi were unearthed in the course of diggings inside the Fort by the British Army Service Corps in 1944. Parana-vitana, the Ceylon Archaeological Commissioner, who has a reading of the inscriptions included in his Administration Report for 1946, tells us that the preserved portion of the record contains the first two lines of a Sanskrit verse in Sragdhara metre and beginnings of the third line. It states that in the year Saka 1145 (Sambhu-Pushpa) when the Sun was in the house of Aries, on the day of the constellation Hasta and at a time when the Mesha Lagna was in ascendant, a prince named Codaganga came to Ceylon and had something to do at Gokarna.

The details of the date point to Friday, the 14th of April 1223 A.D.. Codaganga of this inscription cannot be identified with any prince of that name known to us from other historical records of Ceylon or of India. The name suggests that he was a scion of the Eastern Ganga dynasty of Kalinga. Gokarna figuring in the inscription must be the ancient name of Trincomalee."

FORT FREDERICK. The events that led to the occupation of Trincomalee, and its fortifications are

matters of history. A good summary is what is contained in the pages of Tennent, writing in 1850: "In the earlier portion of their career in Ceylon the Portuguese showed the utmost indifference to the possession of Trincomalee; but after the appearance of the Dutch on the coast and the conclusion of an alliance between them and the Emperor of Kandy, Constantine de Sa, in 1622 alarmed at the possibility of these dangerous rivals forming establishment in the Island, took possession of the two ports of Batticaloa and Trincomalee and ruthlessly demolished the "Temple of a Thousand Columns, in order to employ its material in fortifying the heights on which it stood. Some of the idols were rescued from this desecration and conveyed to the Pagoda of Tamblegam, but fragments of curved stonework and slab bearing inscriptions in ancient character, are still to be discovered in the walls of the Fort and on the platform for the guns. The scene of this sacrilege is still held in the profoundest veneration by the Hindus. One is each year a procession attended by crowds of devotees, who bring offerings of fruit and flowers, repairs at sunset to a spot where the rock projects above the Ocean. A series of ceremonies, is performed including the mysterious breaking of a coconut against the cliff; and the officiating Brahmin concludes his invocation by elevating a bronze censer above his head filled with inflammable materials, the light of which, as it burns, is reflected far over the sea."

Fifteen years after the Portuguese occupation, the Dutch captured the Fort, and extended the fortifications along the sea front, encompassing the bottom of the rocky hill. The steep cliff and the great depth of the surrounding ocean protects that part of the Rock which projects far into the sea. The Dutch named it Fort Frederick after Frederick the Great, and built the arched gateway. The inscribed slab which escaped the vandalism of the Portuguese, happened to be worked into the masonry of the gateway.

Except for short interludes during which the Fort was successively held by the French and the British, it remained in the hands of the Dutch until August, 1795, when

the British opened their batteries on Fort Frederick. Despite a valiant defence the Dutch surrendered, and Trincomalee passed into the hands of the British.

In 1812, the British established a large naval base there favoured by the harbour, of which it may truly be said that it is largely today as Nature gifted it, placid and serene, a perfectly sheltered anchorage in all weather. During the anxious days of the Second Great War the Naval Base at Trinco played a worthy part in defence operations, and on August 9, 1942, scared away the Japanese raiders from the shores of Ceylon and incidentally from the shores of Madras.

A ROMANTIC TRAGEDY. An episode of the days of the Dutch occupation is commemorated by a column bearing the story of Francina Vas Reede, who flung herself into the depths of the sea below, as she stood watching the ship which carried her faithless lover, steaming out of sight.

A HISTORICAL REMINISCENCE. Among the reminiscences of TRINCO, is the short stay in Dec. 1800, of the Honourable Arthur Wellesley (later, the Duke of Wellington), inside Fort Frederick the building which has since been known after him, Wellesley House, awaiting embarkation with stores, equipment and reinforcements, against the French in Egypt. Commanding the finest view in all the station are the terraced highlands overlooking the harbour, the site on the eminence of which stands the most commodious and attractive of the hotels of the place, the Welcome Hotel.

RECENT DISCOVERIES AND UNDER SEA EXPLORATIONS. The destruction of the Koneswar Temple by the Portuguese was so overwhelming that objects hurriedly hidden or submerged under debris or consigned to the sea, continue to be revealed from time to time. Among such are the three images discovered in July 1950, Siva as Chandra Sekhara, Siva as Somaskanda and Parvati (Balendra, 1953). These with the four figures discovered earlier, including images of Ganesa and Parvati seated, make a total of seven sacred objects. In the words of Arthur C. Clarke (*Ceylon Today*, August 1957), "quite apart from its natural fea-

tures, the Ceylon sea bed is rich in wrecks, as might be expected of a country which has been a centre of maritime commerce for several thousand years. These are of archaeological interest; we have spent a good deal of time investigating the ruins of the Hindu Temple that lies in the shallow water of Swami Rock, Trincomalee, and there must be similar relics of the past elsewhere." The discoveries of 1956 have revealed one of the sculptured sunken pillars of the temple. One of the latest of these finds recovered by the under sea explorers Arthur C. Clarke, Mike Wilson and Rodney Jonklass, in the *Lingam* reported in the *HINDU* of 26th October 1961.



REVIEW

Mankind—A Neurotic Species

by Jayantha Somasundaram

The Descent of Woman by
Elaine Morgan. Published by
Bantam Books.

OUR ORIGINS as a species are obscured by time, confused by recent developments and misinterpreted according to our preconceived opinions and prejudices. Mrs. Elaine Morgan has delved into the origin and development of the female of the species and come up with her best seller, *The Descent of Woman* a brilliant work that spans millions of years.

She begins the saga of women in what is known as the Miocene period, shortly before the beginning of the Pliocene drought. From the trees she was forced down onto the open savannah; unable to find protection in the rapidly disappearing forests, she turned into a leopard's dinner. Survival was only possible on the sea shore where everything was smaller, slower or more timid. It was here that she laid the basis for civilization by inventing the first human tool, which was a pebble on the sea shore, a pebble that she used to crack the shells of mussels, oysters and lobsters.

Whenever anything pursued her she ran into the water as far as she could, by standing on two legs she was able to go further—thus did we become a unique bipedal species. It was here, in the water that she lost her fur and became the naked ape, for the same reason that the porpoise became a naked cetacean, the hippopotamus turned a naked ungulate, the walrus became a naked pinniped and the manatee a naked sirenian—because fur is a hindrance in water. Like other aquatic creatures we developed a layer of subcutaneous fat to keep us warm in the water, this enables us to stay submerged for considerable periods of time.

We have been intrigued all along by the unusually long hair that the human female possesses. The only satisfactory explanation for this, is that evolution provided an attachment to the human head that would float on water and enable the splashing infant to hang on tight to mother. Millions of years later we have women developing a higher proportion of thick hairs on their head during pregnancy.

Morphological changes occur in order to ensure survival of the species. Baby's feeding which had taken place up on the trees in a

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position familiar to other apes presented problems down on the sea shore.

"What the stupid woman failed to realize is that things have changed. There isn't any fur. If you let your head lie in the crook of her arm, the milk is high up out of reach. You have to hoist your torso into an erect position, and try to balance your head and somehow keep your lips clamped to this chimp-sized nipple of hers, and don't think it's easy. Your arms are too short to go around her waist, and if you scabble around trying to get a purchase on something, there's nothing there but a faintly corrugated surface of slippery wet ribs. So you really need two things: you need the nipple brought down quite a bit lower, and you need a lump of something less bony, something plant and of a convenient size for small hands to grab hold of while you lie on her lap and guide your lips to the right place.

"And since you are what evolution is all about, what you need you ultimately get. You get two lovely pendulous dollopy breasts, as easy to hold on to as a bottle, and you're laughing."

Having established the fact that we as a species spent ten million years in shallow water, Elaine Morgan comes out with the most dramatic feature inherited from our marine adventure.

The pre-hominid we are talking about had already lost her tail when she entered the water. Remember, a quadrupedes bottom isn't at all like ours, her vagina was where her tail would have been if she had one, flush with the surface. Sitting there on the pebbles and the salty shingle and the wet sand and the rocks and barnacles, with a growing infant on her lap must have been hell.

Evolution provided a solution of sorts. Nature's solution was three way. First it lay down posterior hemispheres. In addition the organs tended to withdraw into the body cavity for protection, and finally as Desmond Morris notes in *The Naked Ape*: There is the basic anatomy of the female vaginal passage, the angle of which has swung forward to a marked degree as a passive result of becoming a vertical species.

To cut the long story short, mating from now on could not

be effected as among all other land species through rear mounting but more conveniently by frontal approach. What did this change involve?

Modern man is prevented by cultural taboos from killing his fellows except in exceptional circumstances like war; but in all other species there are no exceptions, they will under no circumstances kill their own kind, because they have an inbuilt safety device to ensure it. This mechanism however broke down in man. Why?

The quadrupedal structure contains all the critical organs in the vulnerable abdomen. Anyone who throws a quadrupedal down on its back will scare the daylight out of it because it will assume that you are going to rip it open. And it will fight for dear life.

One fine day by the Kenyan coast a pioneering anthropoid rolled your great grand mother onto a supine posture to propagate the species. She however thought he was going to have her for dinner and she went berserk; screamed, struggled and fought back. Finally numb with terror she froze into submission waiting for the end.

Now in all species surrender is accepted, it automatically diffuses aggression. This is how intra-species killing is averted. But the human species evolved out of malfunctioning male anthropoids who ignored these signals and went on to preserve the species. This was how sex came to be associated with hostility, fear, violence and guilt.

But neurosis did not end there. The supine posture for sex meant that the ventral surface of the vagina which is backed by sensitized muscular tissue received no stimulation; instead it was the dorsal surface backed by caudal vertebrae that came into play. Net result: no orgasm. Robert D. Knight tells us that "75 percent of all women derive little or no pleasure from the sex act." This is why women became the only female species without estrus—the heat cycle; which became redundant and disappeared when it could make no contribution to the propagation of the species.

"Estrus never returned to the female of *Homo sapiens*. Somewhere in the very bottom layers

of his consciousness is a deeply buried conviction that there is something prissy and phony about the way women carry on, and that if they weren't so damned hypocritical there should be times for every one of them—say one week in four—when she careered round the streets gaily admitting that she was mad for it, soliciting sex from all comers like a young howler monkey, and pursuing her prey until the sun went down and the men were all cowering exhausted in secret male hideouts.

"Alas for *Homo sapiens* we don't behave like that any more. We are not the match for him that we were originally designed to be. We chase after him for love, companionship, excitement, or the joy of being held in his arms. But there still remains a basic imbalance between the urgency of his lust and ours, so that when it comes to the crunch the prostitute is always on a sellers' market.

"It is well known to behaviorists that if you condition a cat to expect that a certain action (e.g., opening a lid) will be rewarded by pleasurable consequences (finding food) and then subject it to conditions where the same action frequently results in unpleasant consequences (a blast of cold air) then you will end up with one hell of a disturbed cat. It will go completely to pieces. It will even take to drink if alcohol is left within reach, and end up on the feline equivalent of Skid Row."

Similarly the human species went emotionally to pieces when it could not adjust itself physiologically and psychologically to this new frightening experience.

* * *

NEXT WEEK

- * PRE-BUDGET PERSPECTIVES
- * RAIN, TREES & ANIMALS

Confidentially

Election And Somersaults

IS IT NOT A FACT that it is generally accepted that the General Elections 1977 is now a certainty? That the only question that is being debated is whether the elections will be in March or April or in August or September of 1977? That Minister T. B. Ilangaratne, who is known to have been one of those who had wanted the elections postponed "until the masses wanted an election" has now changed his tune? That in recent speeches he has stressed that it was necessary to hold the general elections? That it was the *Daily Mirror* which promptly focussed special attention on this change in Mr. Ilangaratne? That the *Daily Mirror* of October 20 in a frontpage box with the heading TRADE MINISTER ILANGARATNE SAYS: NO USE LIVING IN A COUNTRY IF RIGHT TO VOTE HAS BEEN DENIED stated "We should not be afraid to face an election...we should be afraid only if the right of election had been denied to the people...there is no use living in a country where the right to vote has been denied to the people..."? That he went further to stress that that considering the work done by the present government to the country and its people they would face the general elections boldly and win it? That the present government will not deny the citizen his right to vote... however, if the people were misled to vote Mr. J. R. Jayawardene in to power there was a fear of elections being not held by the UNP...this was indicative of the manner in which Mr. Jayawardene handled his party affairs where he had taken the power into his own hands...? That this is a far cry from the reported speeches made by Mr. Ilangaratne not many months ago? That in those speeches he had echoed the line of the local version of the Shanghai Mafia and had stated that the elections should not be held now, that elections should be held only when "the people want it", that elections

(in 1977 as provided for in the 1972 Constitution) would play into the hands of the UNP, that reactionaries should not be given opportunity to come to power through elections, etc., etc.? That it will be recalled that towards the end of 1974 a cry had been started in certain SLFP and UF circles that the elections should be postponed, *sine die*? That this cry had been made into slogans in May Day and other rallies? That certain younger "radical" sections of even the official LSSP had also been tempted to adopt this "no-election" line? (That this ended when the LSSP quit the Government?) That in the SLFP it was known that this slogan had emanated from some very active and fanatic Maoists (who were then on top of the world in China under cover of a sick Mao)? That this cry had received Ministerial blessing when Mr. Ilangaratne had supported it? That a revised and refined version of this no election cry was recently put forward by the Finance Minister who had flown a kite to see if the elections could be postponed until 1980 with a two-thirds majority constitutional amendment? That it was at this stage that other elements in the SLFP and the UF had come out boldly against the idea of postponing the elections? That SLFP Ministers Subasinghe and R. S. Perera were the first to oppose any move to postpone the elections? That thereafter Minister Pieter Keuneman in an oblique sort of way indicated that he was against any talk of postponing the elections? That this was followed by a speech by Minister Kalugalle that he would oppose any attempt to postpone the elections? That it was only after all this that Minister Ilangaratne virtually swallowed the words he had uttered only a few weeks ago to indulge in the profundity that there was no use of living in a country if the right to vote was denied to its citizens? That it is not clear yet whether this "change" (some would call it a somersault) occurred because of any change of heart stemming from purely local considerations or whether it had anything to do with the traumatic and cataclysmic changes which have overtaken China? That it will be recalled that when *Tribune* had made critical remarks that the totally unsupportable demand to postpone the elections "until the mas-

ses wanted an election" was akin to the street corner and sloganising which reminiscent of the Cultural Revolution strategy, there were angry reactions in certain quarters? That *Tribune* had pointed out that the political climate and atmosphere in China would and will change? The these changes have already come to pass? That when local Maoist wrote indignant and highly charged statements supporting the propaganda outbursts of the Shanghai Mafia against Teng Tsiao-ping, *Tribune* had indicated that this was not the end of the story? That one of the most characteristic features of the Chinese Revolution (that had endeared itself to millions all over the world) was the fact that "tolerance and understanding" had enabled the Communists to mobilise many hundreds of millions to fight not only the Japanese but also the US-backed Chiang Kai-shek? That this tolerance and understanding (which had climaxed in the hundred flowers era) was systematically trampled underfoot from the days of the Great Leap Forward of 1958 when some elements-in-a-hurry had pushed China into a mess where economic development was concerned? That though the policy of the Great Leap Forward was reversed, the fanatic intolerance and the haste in which some wanted things done (overhasty communication of the villages, etc) led to the Cultural Revolution of 1966 which earned China more enemies than friends? That the excesses of the Cultural Revolution attracted young unsettled intellectuals in a hurry (either for revolution, hippism or yoga) in every country? That this phase will soon pass into oblivion as the Shanghai Mafia are wiped out in China in the same ruthless way they had destroyed many of the finest minds and human beings modern China has produced? That current events in China is another splendid example that the human yearning for freedom cannot be trampled down for long? That this is now manifest in every part of the world, communist, capitalist and developing? That to come back to our elections, a bird keeps whispering to *Tribune* that the elections will be in August 1977?



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