

# TRIBUNE

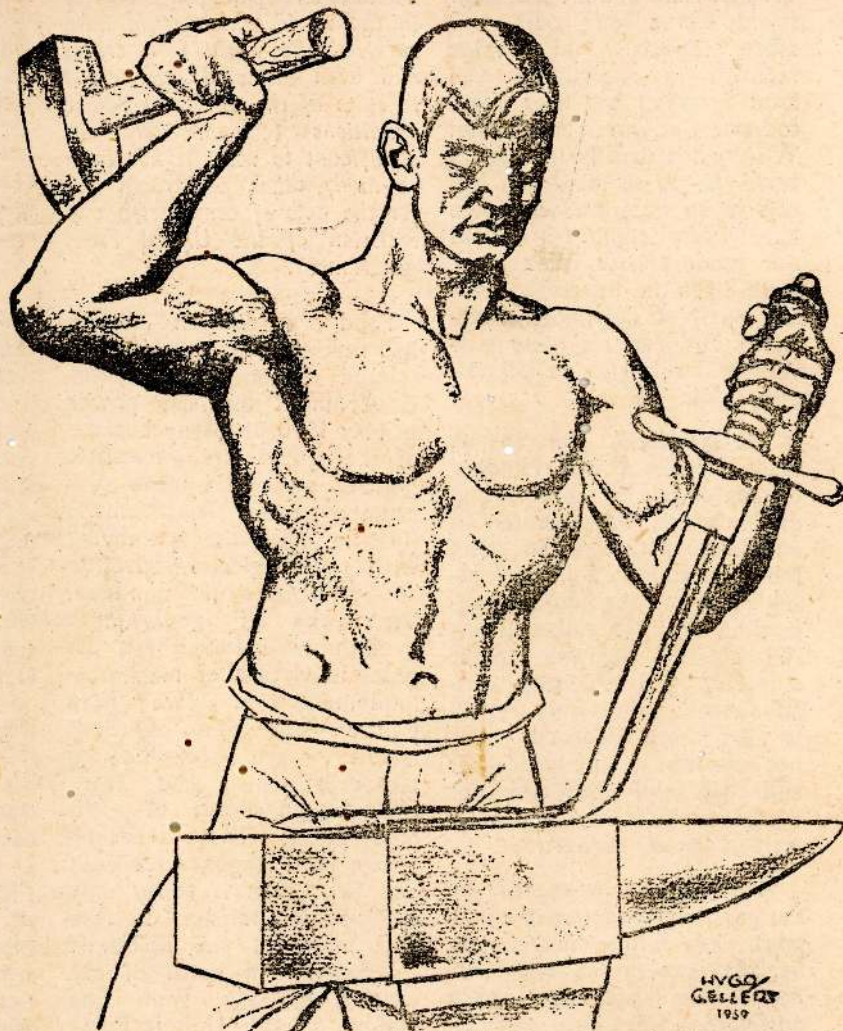
CEYLON NEWS REVIEW

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“... and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.”

# Tribunania

## War On The Food Front

WHAT THIS PAPER has been saying for a long time, and more especially in recent months, in regard to the food situation has now come to pass. But worse is to come. We do not usually indulge in I-told-you- so sermonising, but this is an occasion when we have every right to remind our readers how correct we have been in our evaluations and analyses defying the statistics and reports (now proved to be bogus) of officials and other VIPs.

We welcome the speech made by the Prime Minister on September 20 to a meeting of Ministers, Parliamentarians and Administrators to start food production on a 'war footing' and also the radio broadcast made on September 29 on the occasion that the current austerity food measures were announced. Our only regret is that these measures were not announced one year ago, and that food production on a serious basis had not been started even earlier.

Whatever the propaganda of the government-controlled newspaper and radio media may be, the man in the street will not believe that the current misfortune was due only to adverse weather conditions and the world wide food shortages. They know that Sri

*Lanka is one of the few countries in the world which could have survived the world food crisis, and even exported food crops in spite of the adverse weather conditions (comparatively insignificant to what it has been in many other countries), but for the acts of commission and omission of the United Front government.*

Food production which had reached a peak in 1969-70 started slipping after this Government assumed power in May 1970 primarily because of the stupid and unrealistic policies pursued by the government under anachronistic (in the present fastmoving world) ideological motivation and doctrinaire punditry. What the UF government even now believes are its greatest virtues of manifesto-implementation, we have pointed out times without number, are self-defeating measures which had sown the dragon seeds of self-destruction. These seeds already have begun to sprout and Sri Lanka is today only feeling the impact of the first fruits of the holocaust to come. In spite of the writing on the wall, the pundits of the United Front continue to indulge in the customary blah blah that we are on the threshold of a

brave new world of socialism. What this government has created is only a paved road to mass pauperisation and suicidal self-destruction.

It is pity that Government continues to think that the first priority is still to effect an egalitarian distribution of existing asset and not promote measures to ensure production and increased production at that. And the manner and spirit in which legislation for the distribution of existing assets, with property and the means of production were brought to the Statute Book—a far cry from socialism—destroyed the existing fabric and structure of production.

And the alternatives contemplated to induce production are visionary and unrealistic, based on the half-baked and impractical mental exercises-on-paper of self-opinionated politicians and bureaucrats—whom history will mercifully consign to the appropriate psychiatric institutionalised counterparts to which dissidents are sent for treatment in the Soviet Union.

IN THIS SETTING AND CONTEXT, the Prime Minister's call for increased production starts under many major handicaps. Nevertheless, we in Sri Lanka have to contend with realities. We cannot sit back and refuse to do anything until many stupid measures that have been enacted are repealed and many things done have been undone. This will be childish and will only be a stupid reaction to the stupidity of the Govern-

ment which has deluded itself on emotional slogans. We have to meet the situation squarely and produce the food the country needs and in the process show and demonstrate that any sane and sensible government must undo a great deal of the harm this idealistically utopian government has done in the name of socialism.

If the fetters on production, imposed by this government unwittingly perhaps, were not there Sri Lanka could have easily began exporting food crops within a year, but with all the current restraints there will be no difficulty in making this country self-sufficient within a short time, if the ordinary producers of food crops are not frustrated by over-zealous officials or driven to despair by corrupt politicians.

On the cover we have a symbolic drawing illustrating an old adage that a nation in distress should beat its swords into plowshares (ploughshares) and spears into pruning hooks. The old saying that it was necessary to do this so that no "nation shall lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore" may be thought irrelevant to the internal situation within Sri Lanka. But, it must be realised that this piece of "advice" is most appropriate to many people within this country itself—only for the term "nation" must substitute terms like *community, group, caste* and even *class*.

It may seem heretical to doctrinaire pundits,

who believe that they are the sole strategists of contemporary "class war", but there are Marxists who will insist that under the present circumstances a truce in the class war was essential if the battle for food is to be won. We cannot let thousands, nay lakhs, of people perish in this island for the lack of food—and this can very well happen if we fanatically and dogmatically insist on waging the class struggle.

One thing which must be realised that even this Government (with its many gold brains) cannot wage a war on several fronts: it can't win the war on the food front if it wants to fight a class war at the same time. Dogmatists and ultras may argue that the war on the food front could be only won if the class war is fought unrelentlessly, and if the Prime Minister and the Government are misguided enough to listen to such counsel, then the people of this country must resign themselves to the worst.

WE CAN only hope for the best: that people with a realistic appreciation of the current situation will assert themselves and put the doctrinaire dogmatists and the ultras into a veritable doghouse, at least until the war on the food front has been won.

It is not merely necessary to call a truce on the class war front, but what is even more important is that a solution must be found to

end the frustrated animosity and hostility presently engendered among the Tamil population of this island by the new pro-Sihnala biased Constitution brought into effect in May 1972. There are very nearly three million Tamil-speaking people in the island—both citizens and stateless. They can by themselves produce all the food this country needs if they are given the opportunities and facili-



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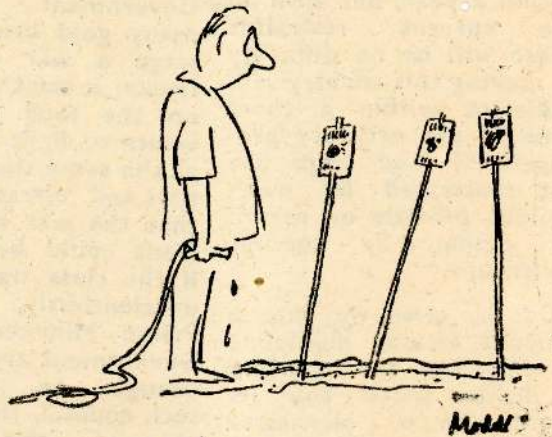
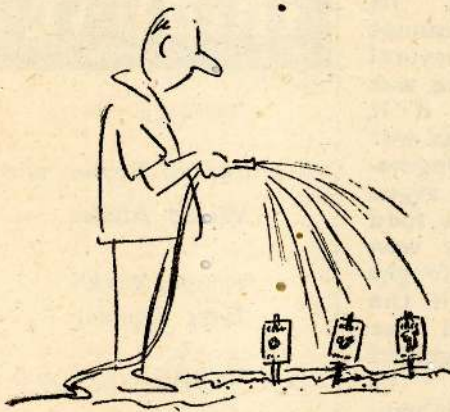
ties for such production. The stateless problem will solve itself under the aegis of the Shastri-Sirimavo agreement, but as long as the stateless are with us, it would prudent on our part to permit them to produce food on the basis of the utilisation of land without being concerned with ownership—Tribune has always held the view that our Land Rrform Law was a classic instance of a horse being thrust in front of cart with the emphasis placed on ownership and not utilisation.

The political imperatives before the Prime Minister are clear—if she and the Government want to win the war on the food front: they must declare a truce on the class war they have, so amateurishly carried on for three years, and also come to a political understanding with the Tamils.

On September 20, the Prime Minister held a conference of Ministers and officials at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Con-

longer possible to go with the begging bowl. It was not possible to buy food from loan funds. Besides the food shortage was a grave problem in Asia and Africa.

“Mrs. Bandaranaike said that she was not ready to utter lies to cover up the seriousness of the situation. The situation was most critical and drastic action has to be taken to meet the challenge. It was imperative that all citizens of Sri Lanka sink their political differences and



With acknowledgement to 'New Yorker.'

If the Tamil question is not solved without delay through negotiation and conciliation on basis of concessions on legitimate and reasonable demands (by any international standards), then the entire Tamil population in this country will slowly become infused with dangerous separatist ideologies in spite of the heroic efforts of Kumarasuriers and Thuraiappahs who have long ago ceased to inspire confidence even in the Tamils for whom they have got small crumbs from the United Front table.

ference Hall and announced her plans to launch a production war to make his country self-sufficient in food. We reproduce below a report of this meeting from the state controlled newspaper, the Observer, for the record. “The Prime Minister asked all Ministers, Deputy Ministers, MPs, Government Agents, AGAs, DROs, to assume the role of commanders to wage the war to increase food production, to make the country self-sufficient in food. It was no

join hands in this critical juncture to cultivate every inch of land. It was also not possible for people to gulp down the free rice and grumble without contributing their mite towards attaining self-sufficiency in food. In the past it was the practice to look to countries with surplus food stocks and even buy on loan funds obtained from the World Bank, IMF or other agencies. Now, however, with droughts affecting a number of food producing countries too, there has been

a price hike due to the heavy demand made. Very recently, the government after much pleading managed to obtain some 90,000 tons of wheat flour from France. This was not done because foreign exchange was freely available. Under the existing situation Sri Lanka could not afford this luxury any more .

"The time has come for each and every citizen to undergo some form of sacrifice to help the country to raise its food requirements. Each day we hesitated was a day wasted in this exercise. There were some who say that people are dying of hunger in the country. This is gross exaggeration since these deaths are due to other causes. However if immediate and urgent action was not initiated it might be possible for people to die of starvation. It was to avert such a calamity that the government was determined to give top priority to food production. We have the fertile soil and the climate. No one can predict droughts or floods. But it is possible to conserve every drop of water by restoring the tanks, and irrigation channels. This job had to be done immediately. The army, navy and air force could keep guns aside for the time being and get down to using the heavy equipment and their manpower also to assist in this food drive. The three services also could help the police to prevent the theft of food grown by cultivator and from vandals.

"The Prime Minister asked the government officials to give of their best instead of taking the could-not-care-less

attitude of the past. If everyone pulled his weight it would be possible for the country to produce all the food required by the time Sinhala New Year is celebrated. Mrs. Bandaranaike warned any one who dared to disrupt the food production campaign with dire consequences. If it was necessary she would not hesitate to promulgate the necessary legislation to mete out the suitable punishment for any treacherous acts. Action will be taken immediately to save the cattle and buffaloes required for food production too. Farmers

who are harassed by droves of wild animals consequent on the withdrawal of their guns will soon have these weapons restored after suitable security.

"The Prime Minister asked the police to take swift action when persons lodged complaints and not to harass the complainants by keeping them waiting for hours on end. As for the Army, Navy and Air Force, the Prime Minister commended the use of the katty, mamoty and sickle as a priority job. In the overall context the Prime

### NEW MOSQUITO CONTROL METHOD

A method of destroying mosquito larvae which could have far-reaching success in the control of mosquitoes, is described in the latest annual report of Britain's Medical Research Council. Research at Bath University, in south-western England, has shown that natural oils called lecithins can be used to kill mosquito larvae and pupae, and unlike other oils they do not cause pollution problems.

Earlier work on the idea of oiling stagnant water to eliminate mosquito larvae proved impracticable. The oil prevented oxygen reaching the larvae and the larvae died when they could not penetrate the oil layer on the water surface. However thick layers of oil caused pollution and thin layers did not work properly. At Bath University researchers have discovered that lecithins will form layers that stop larvae and pupae getting their oxygen, but these natural oils are safe and only a relatively few grammes per acre of water surface are required to do the trick.

Trials in Kenyan rice fields with fairly heavy mosquito populations proved that in only four to six hours all fourth-stage larvae and pupae were killed. In two weeks of watching after treating the water with lecithins, no mosquitoes reappeared. Researchers found that the natural lecithins could safely be applied to water used for consumption and irrigation. Other flora and fauna were not affected by the lecithins, and extensive laboratory tests have demonstrated that even very large amounts of lecithin do not give rise to pollution or crop hazard.

Minister said that once every citizen got down to cultivating every inch of land it would be possible for the country to save the millions of rupees in foreign exchange now being paid to foreign farms for their produce. In return the foreign exchange saved would help the country to make itself economically sound in the future. Extending the call to school-children. Mrs. Bandaranaike said that it may even be necessary for some of the children in the higher grades to get down to weeding and other jobs in fields. It was

also necessary for government officials to expend more of their time in helping the work done to grow more food. This was a national effort and every one was obliged to play their part. On her part, the Prime Minister assured that she was ready to put off her engagements for a month or two to give a hand to the massive task of growing the food we need. She was willing to go to each electorate to do what she can, she added. Mrs. Bandaranaike also said that the budgetary proposals in the future will be linked to food produc-

tion and appealed to every citizen of Sri Lanka to go forward undaunted irrespective of race, creed, colour or politics in this massive task of nation building."

**She said all the correct things, but in the background of what the United Front has done in the last three years and more, this appeal is not likely to evoke much enthusiasm from large numbers of people who are in a position to produce food and have the know-how to do so.**

The *Daily Mirror* summed up the speech in a box under the title **MEASURES TO WIN THE WAR** and stated that the Prime Minister had also announced the following measures to win the economic war. "(i) Budget will be decentralised; (ii) Suspension of all work on new buildings for schools hospitals, roads, etc. (iii) mobilisation of school children and university students to help in the food production campaign; (iv) Rs. 200 million will be channelled for agricultural development; (v) Financial restrictions will be relaxed to help peasants and farmers; (vi) unemployed people will be mobilised for increasing food production and they would be given a subsistence allowance; (vii) Private land owner's would be compelled to cultivate their lands; (viii) Armed Services and Police will play a big role and their vehicles and equipment would be used to increase production; (ix) saboteurs will be dealt with severely.

**Everything the Prime Minister said has a touch**

### BRITISH BLADES FOR RUSSIA

Britain's Wilkinson Sword Group hopes to change the face of shaving for millions of Russians.

Under a £ 3,750,000 contract the company is to supply equipment, training and know-how for two Russian factories which will manufacture double-edged stainless steel razor blades.

The first factory, in Leningrad, will be capable of producing some 400 million blades a year. The second, in Moscow, will have a capacity of 600 million blades.

This is the second order Wilkinson has gained from Eastern Europe. In 1968 Poland signed a similar contract and to date it has brought about £ 1 million worth of business back to Britain.

The new Leningrad plant will take about 18 months to construct. After that work will start on the Moscow factory, which is expected to take 34 months.

Much of the machinery, designed by Wilkinson, will be assembled in Britain. About 30 Russian engineers will shortly be going to the company's factory at Cramlington, Newcastle, north-east England, for training.

According to Wilkinson's managing director, Mr. Christopher Lewinton, this latest contract was "one of the largest of its type ever signed by the Russians with a western country."

of the "war" mood and "compulsion" seems to be the dominant tone. But the Prime Minister must realise that more than compulsion, it is persuasion through inducements (not necessarily monetary) which will produce fruitful results. Compulsion, even in war, is self-defeating. It is persuasion and consensus, based on patriotism, that wins wars—not compulsion. It must be realised it is the private cultivator who can produce the food—not the state farms and the abortive cooperative-farms—and it is foolish to threaten the private cultivators.

FINALLY, on September 28 the PM made the fateful announcement about the austerity measures and we reprint below the report on this from the Government controlled newspaper the *Ceylon Daily News*. In this column next week we will analyse the implications of this announcement taken in conjunction with the radio broadcast the Prime Minister made on September 29.

"The Prime Minister yesterday announced changes in the rice and sugar rations and price increases in flour and bread to bring them more in line with world market trends. These changes will be effective from October 1. Simultaneously Mrs. Bandaranaike announced an increase of Rs. 7 per bushel in the guaranteed price of paddy and a wage increase of 10 per cent for salaried classes drawing Rs. 400 and below consolidated per month in the public sector, corpora-

tions, statutory boards, local government and co-operative sector. This will however be subject to a ceiling with nobody drawing more than an additional Rs. 20 per month. Daily paid workers and pensioners will also be given corresponding increases.

"The wage increase is also likely to be extended to certain categories of the private sector perhaps by emergency regulations. Mrs. Bandaranaike told the special Government Parliamentary Group meeting yesterday morning that the rice ration would be reduced to half a measure (one pound). This would be available free to non-income tax payers while income tax payers would have to pay one rupee for it. This is all that would be available on the ration. The price of flour was raised by 22 cents per pound to consumers. Flour will be available on the ration at one pound per person per week. The price of bread will go up by 30 cents a pound to 76 cts. Price of flour issued to bakers has been raised by 36 cents to 84 cts. a pound. Bakers will have to use the flour issued to them for baking only bread and unsweetened buns and not for cakes and sweetmeats. The sugar ration has been reduced to three quarter pound per person per month. There will be no price change for this sugar on the ration. Off-ration sugar, however, will be available at Rs. 2 per pound for brown and Rs. 2.10 per pound for white.

"The Prime Minister, who addressed the Parliamentary Group meeting which lasted

three hours, told MPs that no government was keen on imposing price increases. But the world market situation and the foreign exchange problems facing the country made it absolutely necessary for the government to impose realistic prices so that they reflected international market conditions. Mrs. Bandaranaike explained in great detail to the Government Parliamentary Group the economic situation facing the country and especially the world food crisis. She said that the country had to gear itself to face this situation. She pointed out that it was essential that the country should make a strong bid to grow its food requirements, especially in the basic food items. For this purpose the government will increase the guaranteed price of paddy from Rs. 18 per bushel to Rs. 25. This was aimed at giving the farmers an incentive to produce more. In order to cushion the difficulties that the masses might face as a result of a food situation which was beyond the immediate control of this country it was decided to grant some wage increases."

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**TRIBUNE**

SHAMBA

## ON WATERING PLANTS

by ANATORY BUKOBA

JULY 4 - JULY 11

July 4.

My companions continued digging the lavatory for a short while this morning. One of them had arrived with two sores on his feet; he now has three. My three have grown to five, and one I had for months. I hear the only real cure is rest. A packet of money has gone on food these last few days. My companions, who are friends, and arrived together, now want to leave. As is usually the case, I shall have to pay their fare home and give them something extra for the journey.

This evening I watered all the vegetables again and enjoyed it. Those that looked dying are picking up again. The secret is not watering but adequate watering. Skimpy watering everyday does no good. At one stage of their growth they need watering everyday. But once they are a few days or weeks old the watering must be done adequately if it is to have any effect at all, and the older vegetables do not need to be done every day.

The bread-fruit tree looks as if it is dying, but the passion fruit is doing well. Hares seem to have eaten the tops off the smaller vegetable plants. Our sole bittergourd plant looks as if it is going the same way as the others of its kind. I carry an enormous

bucket of water up from the river. It is doing me good. There was rain last night, and there was ample evidence of it this morning. At about 2 p.m. today there was a fierce gusts of wind and rain. Unless the sun is very hot tomorrow, the good effects of the rain should last a day or two more.

The two coconuts I planted do not seem to be doing well. In fact they were well on their way to going some way as the bread fruit tree and all the jak I have planted. The jak, which were doing well, are now just stalks without leaves. Their demise was fairly quick, first one and then the other. I think they were just starved of water. The bread fruit was planted in such a way, the earth around it could not have absorbed the water that was poured on it, would have just run off.

The people I have had to help me knew in a way as much gardening as I. It is really not possible for a Ceylon Youth not to know something about gardening and farming. My very first companion was fairly good about clearing. The next was clever about extracting seed from the vegetables we were going to eat—tomato, chilli and so on. The third was good about preparing beds for vegetables. But

they all failed when it came to after care, to seeing that whatever work they did was not for nothing. I attribute this to the fact that they were on the face of it penniless people who, if they had money, and some seem to have had money who had said that they had vitruaily none, were not prepared to spend it regularly on their daily fare. In other words they were like hired people when it came to money and their heart was not really in their work. They liked the sort of pioneering life and that was why they stayed; ultimately it really was a question of each man for himself, but companionship they needed and each clung desperately to a friend. Each turned his friend away from what I hoped would be the true spirit of this place.

At last I have planted some bamboo, two shoots of them. These shoots are really knobs cut off bamboos, or, I should really say shoots with knobs, carefully chosen for the "roots" which a few knobs had. I also planted cuttings of two kinds of trees. I am unable to give their names, as I was told only the Sinhalese version which I cannot remember.

July 7,

It was an inactive day; I ought to preserve my strength. Some wonderful things happened. Two complete strangers stopped and cooked my meal. So I had lunch, and enough left over for a good dinner, too. Then the roof of the room blew off. I do not know when it happened, for it was off when



I first saw it. It looked as if it could have rained at any time, and as the middle of the roof was off, making quite a sizable gap, everything could have got wet. Even if I could have got on to the roof, I did not fancy the jump down in my present state of health. A passer-by was cajoled into fixing it, at least his companion did, and made a good job of it too.

Perhaps the new seed beds could have done with some watering. I planted five jak seeds yesterday, straight in the places where I want them to grow. Two were planted alongside the jak plants that appear to have died. One in the old mango beds. This way it will be easier for me, and which is more important for others, to identify the places, and they are more certain of being watered where I put them.

Everything looks as well as they can be after the three days good watering I gave them, and the day and the night of rain. I was even out with the V. C. *Katha*. This I found had either been damaged, or had just disintegrated on its own. I used the half-inch, that was left of it effectively.

July 8,

It rained again last night, quite enough to make watering this evening unnecessary but a friend I took round with a torch tonight thought that one of the cadju plants could have done with some. He will be looking after the place tomorrow and will do it no doubt. I have got used to staying here alone, at least at night, and I write

or read quite happily until quite late. I feel that I have got used to the neighbourhood, and the neighbourhood to me. My problem is during the day that is when I need to get about, and I cannot leave the house unattended.

When I realise how very alone I am during the day, and how nonetheless what really has to be always gets done. I have brought home to me the fact of the fatherhood of God. I think that that expression alone explains all I want to say. I cannot understand how the Catholic Students Federation, or what they call themselves, do not understand such an elementary thing. I would like to see anyone of those lads putting up with the hardships that I am putting up with. They want everything handed to them on a platter, and successive Ceylon Governments right upto the election manifesto of the Coalition government, have led them to expect this. They have no real concept, I think, of what a free society is. We in Ceylon have really much to be thankful for. The socialists and the Communist-oriented people would destroy all this.

July 11,

Most people are still living mentally at a time, as is still more or less the case in England, when the working class through their unions, were a terror, social above all else, an anti-social force that could disrupt much by the strike, and throw others out of work too. It is no longer so at least in Ceylon.—April 1971 changed all that.

Many of the social workers in the church have failed to see this light. They all are still mesmerized by the old division in society, the working class and the masters the members of parliament and the masses, the conservatives and the makers of revolution. This division no longer exists, thanks to the youth but even they, when it comes to intellectual concepts, fall back on the old ones, the old words and ideas such as socialism and capitalism. Let us grow up.

Some more chillies have been transplanted, this time into vacant places in one of the vegetable beds. One coconut plant looks awful, all dead leaves. The other, which used to be the weaker of the two, looks better. The tomato is coming on apace, and so is some of the lady's fingers. The two *lalu* plants are really big and ought to be transplanted. I must wait for a day to do this, when I can really give them the attention they will need and the watering. Inadequate watering would be useless and missing a day after a succession of inadequate watering would be fatal.

#### Frog exhibition

All sport of frogs — live and ceramic toy and depicted on stamps are on display at a special frog exhibition at Westzaan, a little town near Amsterdam. The guides tell visitors about their life and demonstrate models. The frog exhibition is held in a local church.

## Daniel Poor Ends His Stewardship

by James T. Rutnam

Poor, as we have seen, was no ordinary educationist. His experiments in pedagogy were interesting. For instance, he had the monitor system to overcome the enforced shortage of staff. The monitors were students from the upper classes. They were supervised by class superintendents "who had a general oversight of the conduct and studies of the boys," and who were responsible in some measure "for the fidelity of the teachers."

Poor's revolutionary objectives with regard to the general education of "Tamul and other youth" have been described in detail in the prospectus that preceded the establishment of the Seminary. Few are aware that he endeavoured to adapt the "native system of arithmetic", which was "thought well worth the attention of students", for it contained "many useful rules both of integers and fractions and some important formular of Mensuration, Geometry and Trigonometry, expressed in a laconic poetical manner purposes."

Poor also saw to it that the Seminary was not isolated from the life of the community. One of the functions of the Seminary was to influence the intellectual life of the people of the area. The Seminary was the centre which radiated goodwill, stimulated a spirit of enquiry and extended knowledge beyond its walls, reaching the homes and families of its students and their friends.

Poor was an enthusiastic student of Astronomy. It was a subject of study at the Semi-

nary, covering both the Hindu and European systems. The students particularly had a partiality, according to poor, for mathematical and astronomical studies. Poor found an opportunity to correct the *Hindu Almanac* (hitherto treated as infallible) that was prepared by a "learned Brahmin" named Vivanandan at Vaddukodai. Poor noticed some fundamental errors in the calculations made in the Almanac regarding the eclipse of the moon on the 20th March 1829. Poor was vindicated when he demonstrated his position before a large gathering on the day of the eclipse. "No single occurrence", says a Report, "in connection with the Seminary had had as obvious an effect as this, upon different classes of people in the vicinity, in awakening their attention in the comparative merits of the very different systems now taught in the districts."

ALTHOUGH the newspaper of the Mission (which is still continuing) known as the *Morning Star*, was inaugurated in 1841, some years after

This is the eighth article in the series on Batticotta Seminary which was founded by American missionaries, one hundred and fifty years ago, in Jaffna, on July 22, 1823. This institution later became Jaffna College.

Poor's term at the Seminary. Poor's views on the project which was begun by him under the editorship of two graduates of the Seminary, Henry Martyn and Seth Payson, are worthy of record. "Of the means", Poor is reported to have declared, "through which the civilized man acquires knowledge, the newspaper stands foremost."

There were some constitutional changes at the Seminary in 1835. Chelliah states, "The constitution of the Seminary was adopted in February 1835. According to it the Seminary was to be under the direction of a Board of Trustees consisting of the American missionaries in Jaffna and subject to the control of the Board in America.

An Executive Committee consisting of the faculty and two of the Trustees was constituted to have immediate supervision of the Seminary, and a Faculty consisting of the Principal and Professors to look after the Government and discipline of the Seminary. Besides Professors it was resolved that there should be Tutors in various subjects. The term of study was fixed at six years, with a few exceptions, the students were required to be boarders".

Poor closed twelve years of devoted service at the

Seminary at the end of 1835. A Report summarising the "numerical results of the period" state:

"The whole number received into the Seminary, from its commencement is two hundred and ninety, of whom one hundred and forty-three now remain. Of the one hundred and forty seven who have left, fifty-seven are employed by the American Missions of Jaffna and Madura, twenty two are in the service of the Government, ten in that of other Missions in the Island, seven, as tutors in European families and ten have died. Of the forty-one remaining, eighteen were members of the classes now under instruction and were dismissed, as unworthy of a gratuitous support, or left from ill health or some other cause; and others not known to be on employment as the result of their educations, were, a large proportion of them, dismissed for improper conduct, or for want of a capacity to learn.

"Only two of the number finished their studies; they were for a time employed by the mission, but subsequently were dismissed from employment, and from the church. Those in the service of the American Missions are two of them Native Preachers, forty-four are Catechists, English and Tamil teachers, and Superintendents of schools, two are Tamil school masters in common village schools, and nine are in the Printing establishment or engaged in other manual labour. Of the ten who have died, five were in mission service at the time of their decease. Of the whole

WILD LIFE .....

## Magic (Black & White) of Wild Life '73

By  
CANAX.

I don't know what it is about shows like *Wild Life '73* that disturb me so, but my wife thinks it's their obvious excellence that unsettles me. She is as likely as not to be wrong in her opinion, and I don't see how she is qualified to pronounce on the matter, considering that she's only been around for just over a decade; and any wife who thinks she can spot a husband's inferiority complex in a mere ten years of marital confinement is suffering from a complex of another sort. Stripped of the jargon that goes with the pseudo-science, I think it's called a swollen head.

The naked truth, which I expose shamelessly, is that I've never had any doubts whatsoever about my own exceptional photographic ability. (Does that, I ask any sane man who may be reading this, smack of an inferiority complex?)

And yet, the times I tried capturing wild life on film, the results always looked like the early pictures of the lunar surface, which would

number who have left the Seminary, only twenty-two continued their studies until the classes to which they belonged finished their course, and were regularly dismissed."

(To be Concluded)

be okay if the animals, or even something that looked vaguely like them, were also there. As I remember it, the leopards and the elephants I chanced to meet at close quarters left a deep impression on me but, alas, not on my film.

The studio hand who regularly processes my rolls and prints the pictures couldn't finally contain his curiosity, possibly because in all his years in the profession he hadn't seen anything like them before. Forgetting that I was paying for his professional services and not for his ability to embarrass a valued customer, he once wanted to know—out loud too—what the pictures were of, and where I had taken them. I mumbled something about having gone on a trip and he offered his opinion, unasked, that they looked like the Moon shots. Looking back, though, I doubt he meant to be funny, for he kept a straight face throughout. I was embarrassed all the same.

*Wild Life '73*, then, convinced me more than ever that both Nihal Fernando and Pat Decker are up to some hanky-panky when it comes to recording—once more, with feeling—the life and hard times of the animal world. I suspect they have, again, had recourse

to magic (black & white, no less), just as they did last year with *Wild Life* '72.

If I haven't said this before it is only because I don't by nature jump to conclusions. I arrive at them by a slow process of wild deduction. In this case, I wanted to be quite sure in my own mind that there was no other way the two could produce stuff so breathtaking in composition and content when I, possessing as much ability as the two of them put together, could not. Last year could have been plain luck, I was willing to grant, but whoever heard of being twice lucky, consecutively? Ask any gambler. Better still, ask me,

As I was saying, *Wild Life*'73 disturbs me but I understand it infuriates some others. There was this guy who was heard to grumble as he left the show that the whole thing was a fraud and was tame enough even for kids. He had been taken in by the title and had paid his buck to see orgies galore,

### Change of Mind

Brigitte Bardot, the famous French movie star, has announced her retirement from the screen several times. Some newspapermen do not take her words seriously. And quite rightly, it seems. At any rate, she recently declared in a radio interview that she might change her mind. "Only imbeciles do not change their mind," she said.

and all they had that was even remotely wild was one solitary shot of two grasshoppers mating. In short, whatever it was he was expecting, it wasn't there.

The accent this time is on 'motion' shots duly and beautifully 'arrested', of course. And they make it seem so darned easy. The object, be it a bird in flight, a deer on the run (for deer life?), a monkey up to pranks (doing his own thing, I suppose), or a herd of jumbos on a stampede, is always right there in the centre of the frame, and caught in the act, so to speak. The times I tried it, I was left with only a memory and little else to show, at least not in my pictures, which had nothing if a series of blurs can be called nothing.

This may be a little difficult for you to imagine, but what I think they are doing is somehow hypnotising the animals, calling out "hold it!" at just the right moment, then clicking away all they want while the animals oblige with a superb if involuntary display of suspended animation. It's easier done that way, I guess, than the way I've been trying to, which is so uncertain from first to last and terribly expensive. The suspense, besides, is as unbearable as the expense, not knowing if you've got the shot or not—until it's too late, anyway.

My suspicions about their modus operandi were confirmed by no less a person than Nihal's wife, Dodo. Without quite realising it, she provided the proof the other day the way she sat gazing

fixedly and, I thought, longingly, at her hubby, listening as though mesmerised by his soft, purring voice. If Nihal has such a profound effect on his wife, without even trying, the animals are an obvious push-over for him.

Favoured as I am with a suspicious mind, I figured Nihal could not surely cast his hypnotic spell over all the animals. Some, yes, but not all of them. And only then did I begin to suspect the obvious, even see it maybe, for the first time. So that's where Pat came into the picture in a manner of speaking, which explained why the two always worked as a team. Those inhabitants of the wild unmoved by Nihal no doubt succumb to Pat. One look at his large, piercing eyes or one listen (if there is such a thing) to his deep-throated voice and you'll know what I mean.

But, of course, it was only a suspicion and, like in Nihal's case, I looked again for clear proof. It came, believe it or not, from an unexpected source, a source named Dorothy. Said she, "Pat certainly has a way about him. He can stare a tiger into submission." I was inclined to disregard this as being proof enough because, for one thing, we don't have any tigers, and because girls as a rule can't resist saying nice things about boys all the time, anyway. What convinced me, though, was the discovery that she was saying it in fact about her husband. That makes all the difference, for when it comes to talking well of husbands,

## From The Easy Chair

every wife knows what she is talking about.

So the mystery of how Nihal and Pat keep doing the impossible is solved for good and always, thanks to their wives.

Doing the impossible, I understand, calls for monumental patience. And if one is to do the impossible in the jungle, that is where one has to be, I am told. But from what the two wives say it appears that Nihal and Pat are not in the jungle all the time, and have actually been away from it for as much as three full months in all during the past year, even staying away and at home for a whole week once.

Said Dodo: "What will the animals think if they ever found out the two were absconding from the jungle so much merely to be with their wives at home?"

Added Dorothy: "It's shocking, but true. Pat hasn't forgotten me, yet."

Such understanding wives, the two of them.

Nihal and Pat may be reaping the rewards of their patience and dedication in the form of superb photographs, but they can't match me when it comes to producing great stories from inside the jungle. There was the time when my wife and I came unexpectedly upon a sleek specimen of a leopard crouching in the shrub close by, as if ready to spring. On sensing our presence, the big cat growled and stared menacingly at us.

My wife, who gets scared even when I growl at her

started to shake with fright. "What's he saying?" she stammered in a whisper, tightening her grip on my arm.

"He says, 'Excuse me, I'm trying to rustle up some dinner,'" I whispered back, interpreting the growl as best as I could.

"I'm sure he means us," she said, starting to cry and hugging me for all she was worth. As it happened, he didn't mean us but an unsuspecting deer some distance away. The deer's loss was our gain, my wife insists.

The best story, though, was not from the jungle proper but from the show at the

Wendt. I had taken my wife and little daughter for it and observed that the kid was simply fascinated by what she saw. As we left my daughter looked up adoringly at me and asked sweetly, "You took all those pictures, Dadda?"

I couldn't say yes, and I didn't say no. I merely smiled and let it go at that, for it made me feel ten feet tall. My wife says I'm a cheat, though I haven't said or done anything to deserve that.

Come to think of it, I should really thank Nihal and Pat. And thank heaven for little girls, too.



### AND FOR THE OLD, FREE TRAVEL

By a scheme to give old age pensioners free travel on its famous red buses, the Greater London Council claims that London will lead the world. The plan will come into operation from early September, and will apply to all people of pensionable age whether working or not.

Announcing the scheme, the GLC leader, Sir Reinald Goodwin, said: "For the first time in the capital's history the elderly of London need only produce a pass to allow them to ride to any part of London for nothing during off-peak periods.

"The loneliness and isolation which threatens the elderly will never again be the problem it is now. Pensioners will be able to visit their relatives and friends without worrying about the cost of the fare.

"With this new attitude to public transport, London will lead the cities of the world."

At present the 32 London boroughs operate in varying degrees a scheme which allows for cut-price fares outside peak hours for men over 65 and women over 60 who are not in full-time employment. The 670,000 concessionary permits in use represent about half of London's 1,223,515 pensioners.

## THE INDIAN OCEAN

## British Bases

by J. P. Anand

Institute for Defence Studies & Analyses  
New Delhi

The Labour Government in Britain decided in February 1966 to substantially reduce British forces east of Suez when Indonesia's "confrontation" with Malaysia came to an end. Later that year, the rundown of British forces initially to pre-confrontation level began. Following a further review dictated by economic pressures, Britain announced on 18 July 1967 its decision to reduce and redeploy its forces and bases in the Indian Ocean area by mid 1970s. Later the Wilson government announced on 16 June 1968 the withdrawal of British forces from the area by the end of 1971, four years earlier than envisaged.

The Aden base was vacated by the end of November 1967. Mauritius achieved independence on 12 March 1968 and the British garrison had departed earlier from the island. British forces were progressively withdrawn from Singapore and Malaysia accompanied by a corresponding reduction in base facilities. The British Far East Command with Head Quarters at Singapore was wound up on 31 October 1971 after an existence of over 155 years since 1816. In 1965, it had over 70,000 troops with supporting aircraft carriers and escort vessels. In the Persian Gulf, Britain synchronised withdrawal of its forces with the formation of the Union of Arab Emirates (UAE) in the fall of 1971. The Bahrain naval base and the Sharjah airbase were vacated in December 1971.

British military presence—direct, indirect and 'intermittent', East of Suez in early 1973—is discussed below

under the following regions of the Indian Ocean: (i) Singapore-Malaysia region; (ii) British Staging Posts and other outposts; (iii) British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) (iv) Persian Gulf and the Arabian Sea; and (v) Cape Route.

**SINGAPORE - MALAYSIA REGION.** Defence thinking underwent a change when the conservatives regained power in June 1970. The British Foreign Secretary, Sir Alec Douglas-Home, in his first policy statement in the House of Commons on 6 July 1970 said that the former Labour Government's plans for military withdrawal from east of Suez were "too hasty". He added that his Government planned to join Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia and Singapore in setting up "a modest military presence" to build confidence in South East Asia. The British Defence Secretary, Lord Carrington, gave four main reasons why Britain was determined

Although the British are no longer the power they were in the Indian Ocean, they still have a considerable presence in the region. This article details the British bases still in active use. The concluding part will appear next week.

to keep a military presence in South East Asia.

These were: (i) to carry out treaty obligations to Singapore, Malaysia, Australia and New Zealand; (ii) for providing stability in the region where Britain had trading interests; (iii) to protect British investments; and (iv) to carry out Britain's world wide commitment to safeguard the Free World.

**FIVE - NATION DEFENCE ARRANGEMENT.** In the course of a twelve-day visit to the four Commonwealth countries in July-August 1970, Lord Carrington had talks on the new defence structure in the region and Britain's future defence contributions. It was announced that Britain would be an equal partner in the new defence arrangement. The British presence would be modest but useful and comparatively cheap.

A high level conference of five Commonwealth countries was held in London on 15 and 16 April 1971. It was attended by the Prime Ministers of Malaysia and New Zealand and Defence Ministers of Australia, Britain and Singapore. The conference approved the framework of a new defence arrangement for

the region emphasising consultation instead of commitment. The new arrangement came into force from 1 November 1971 and replaced the 14-year old Anglo-Malaysian Defence Agreement of 1957. A key paragraph in the communique issued at the end of the conference on 16 April, said, "In the event of any form of armed attack against Malaysia and Singapore, their governments would immediately consult together for the purpose of deciding what measures should be taken jointly or separately in retaliation to such attack or threat."

The broader objectives of the new defence arrangement were stated to be to preserve a sense of confidence in the region and to counter Soviet activity in the region.

The UK White Paper on Defence (16 February, 1972) stated that a force of six warships-destroyers and frigates will be on station east of Suez contributing to the five-power defence arrangement, visiting the Persian Gulf, maintaining the Beira Patrol against Rhodesia and the guard at Hong Kong and providing a presence in the Indian Ocean. Large ships, such as cruisers, will also visit the area occasionally.

**ANZUK FORCE.** Rundown of British forces continued as planned by the Labour Government. The ANZUK force took over on 1 November 1971. The combined force totals some 7,000 men—3,300 Australians, 2,550 Britons and 1,150 New Zealanders-ashore and afloat. Australia is the largest contributor to the

force. Britain is no longer the dominant partner in the new defence framework. Britain's contribution involves a battalion group with ancillary units—two field artillery batteries, engineers, signals, and aviation support, a squadron of *Whirlwind* heli-

copters, a detachment of *Nimrod* long-range maritime aircraft and two frigates or destroyers. It is stationed at Sembawang (Singapore).

Besides resident forces, other combat units of the three British services will constantly visit the theatre

### U.S. CROP FORECAST ABOVE 1972 YIELDS

Washington Sept. 11—The U.S. crop outlook has improved over the past month and record yields are forecast for the 1973 season by the Department of Agriculture for soyabeans, corn (maize), feed grains sorghum grain oilseeds and peanuts. The cotton crop however is expected to be six percent smaller than the 1972 yield. The latest forecasts released on September 11 are mostly between one and four percent higher than the previous forecast released on August 9. Following are forecasts for individual commodities:

*Soyabeans*—a record 1,599 million bushels, up 25 percent from last year. The latest estimate is four percent higher than last month's. Acreage is 23 percent greater than in 1972. *All Wheat*—1,727 million bushels, 12 percent higher than last year's production of 1,544 million bushels. This estimate is one percent higher than last month's forecast. Acreage is 14 percent more than last year. *Corn (Maize)*—a record 5,768 million bushels, four percent higher than in 1972, and a two percent increase from last month's estimate. Acreage is seven percent larger than last year. *Rice*—98.4 million hundredweight, 16 percent above the 1972 crop. (Forecast does not reflect losses that might have occurred after September 1 due to tropical storm Delia in the states of Texas and Louisiana.) *Cotton*—12,938 million bales, down six percent from 1972 when 610,000 more acres were cultivated. However, the September forecast is two percent better than the forecast made in early August. *Sorghum Grain*—a record 975 million bushels, up 19 percent above the 1972 crop. *Oats*—702 million bushels, one percent above last year's crop. *Barley*—429 million bushels, one percent above 1972 production. *Oilseeds*—A record 55 million tons, 10 percent above 1972 and four percent above the month earlier forecast. *Peanuts*—a record 1.6 million tons, three percent higher than the 1972 crop.

Overall U.S. farm production is at an all-time high, the Agriculture Department reported. Using 1967 as the base year with an index of 100, the 1972 crop year was 113 and this year is 120.

for training, to learn how to operate in the tropics and to test their reinforcement capability. Britain would also send its troops periodically for training at the Jungle Welfare School at Kota Tinggi in southern Malasia.

The ANZUK Force is considered to be a modest force. The stationing of the force in the area is believed to provide 'a defence umbrella' while Singapore and Malaysia develop their own naval and air capability. Britain's continued presence, it is said, would mean added safety and security in the region. According to some observers, what matters is not so much the size of the force but the psychological effect of a British presence rather than a general capability exercised from thousands of miles away from Britain as planned by the Labour Government earlier. The UK Defence White Paper, issued on 16 February 1972, emphasised the need for a continuing British maritime presence in the Indian Ocean to help maintain vigilance in an area of strategic importance. Queen Elizabeth, in the course of her South Asian tour, said in Singapore on 18 February 1972 that the current defence arrangement would help to assure the stability of the area.

The structure of the ANZUK Force is likely to undergo a substantial change when the Australian contingent's tour of duty expires at the end of 1973. Speaking on Radio Australia on 23 December 1972, the new Australian Prime Minister, Gough Whitlam, emphasised that the idea of keeping a permanent garri-

son in Singapore belonged to the past.

*Brunei and Hongkong.* One Gorkha battalion is stationed in Brunei while five infantry battalions, one artillery regiment and support units are located in Hongkong.

*RAF Staging Post and other outposts.* The Labour Government's decision to retain the staging posts in the Indian Ocean despite their intention to withdraw from east of Suez emphasises their strategic intentions and the role of these posts. Gan and Masirah are considered most vital for the maintenance of communications between Britain and Australia and the Far East. Britain also retains observation posts in Mauritius and the Seychelles Group.

*Gan Island.* Under an agreement signed on 26 July 1965, the government of the Maldives agreed to provide certain defence facilities to the UK upto 15 December 1986. The UK has set up an airfield on Gan Island and a communication Station on the Hittadu island and have unrestricted access by sea and air to the "agreed areas" and adjacent territorial waters. The UK could also utilise the lagoons of the Addu Atoll.

Military facilities available in the Island include: (i) an airfield with a good runway and advanced navigational aids. The airfield provides much needed staging facilities between Europe/Africa and the Far East; (ii) Radio Communication Station; (iii) a lagoon in the Addu Atoll serving as a natural harbour. It once stationed the liner "Queen

Mary" (iv) an earth station for the British Military Communications system, called Skynet, between the UK and the Far East; (v) Accommodation available at the Staging Post is said to be sufficient for a battalion at a time.

The post is maintained by a staff of 800 British servicemen and civilians. About 850 civilian workers are employed in defence installations in the area.

The present republican government does not appear to be happy about the agreement reported to have been signed by the Sultan under pressure. Referring to the agreement, Foreign Minister Ahmed Zaki said in September 1970, "I am certain that after the expiry of this period, there will never again be an agreement of this kind concerning Maldivian territory."

The RAF base in Gan was temporarily closed for a period of about six weeks commencing 16 February 1973 to permit some urgent repairs to the runway. Sri Lanka provided facilities to the RAF at the Bandaranaike international airport.

—Foreign News & Features.

(To be Concluded)

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## CHRONICLE

# JULY 19-23

*A Diary of Events in Sri Lanka and the World compiled from English-language dailies published in Colombo.*

**THURSDAY, JULY 19:** The National State Assembly passed the ANCL Bill by 111 votes to 21 amidst angry cross talk that held up the debate for nearly half-an-hour: the independent Member for Habaraduwa, Mr. Prins Gunesekera, voted for the Bill while the independent Member for Galle, Dr. W. Dahanayake, voted against the Bill along with the Federal Party and the UNP. Higher prices were registered for several varieties of rubber at last week's auctions. The ANCL Board published a statement in the *Daily News* over the Government's diffusion of ownership. Eighty five per cent of the public servants who sat for the Sinhala proficiency examination last February, failed to secure passes. The Army, has been called in to transport drugs from the Civil Medical Stores to hospitals throughout the island: this is being done after the Ministry of Health failed to get sufficient vehicles for the transportation. According to *Reuters*, thousands of Libyans are expected to march into Cairo urging an immediate merger of Libya and Egypt. President Nixon recovering from viral pneumonia will leave hospital tomorrow: Nixon has barred any member of the Secret Service testifying before the Senate Watergate Committee. The French navy has ordered the New Zealand protest yacht to leave the nuclear testing zone.

**FRIDAY, JULY 20:** For the period February 12 to May 31 1973 an amount of Rs. 13.3 million is lying to the credit of all convertible rupee account holders. This was revealed at a press conference held at the Ministry of Finance yesterday. Out of this, gem exporters alone had credits worth 12 million rupees: tax relief will be given to income tax payers by the Minister of Finance from the ceiling on income and the compulsory savings scheme on the reco-

mmendation of the Commissioner of Inland Revenue. The ANCL Board of directors vacated office yesterday preparing the way for the new five-member board appointed by the Public Trustee. Lionel Bopage, a suspect in the case arising out of the April 71 Insurrection told the CJC inquiry yesterday that there was no discussion about toppling the Government at the Conference held at Urubokka. Government has restricted the issue of import licences only to bare essentials, due to adverse foreign exchange conditions. Due to a "procedural irregularity" the 451st draw of the National Lotteries Sweep has been invalidated. Mr. Mahammed Daud Khan, who successfully led the coup in Afghanistan, had been proclaimed President of that country.

**SATURDAY, JULY 21:** The first issues of the *Lake House* newspapers under the new management were out today: the *Daily News* published the National Food Plan of the Government as its front page lead. The State Pharmaceutical Corporation becomes monopoly importer of Sri Lanka's entire requirements of drugs from January 1974. Charges against 12 suspects ordered to appear before the CJC inquiring the April 71 insurrection have been withdrawn: originally 108 suspects were ordered to appear before the Commission. Messrs. A. K. Premadasa (Chairman), M. A. A. de Abrew, W. Siriwardena, C. H. Hulugalle, Mervyn de Silva have been appointed Board of Directors of Lake House. The 451st Sweep Draw of the National Lotteries Board which was to be held yesterday was however not held following a court order. According to the *Daily Mirror* lead story Sri Lanka will receive the first 'united' commodity loan from Japan amounting to 13 million US dollars. Doctors and other members of the staff attached to the Galle and Udugama hospitals and of the Angoda and Mulleriyawa mental hospitals came out on a token strike yesterday over the alleged assault by policemen on Dr. Conrad Wickremasinghe, D M O, Udugama. The UNP's boycott campaign against the Government —controlled Lake House Newspapers will be launched on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd of August. President Nixon

has not agreed to release clandestine White House tapes of his conversation with John Dean and other aides relating to the Water-gate case. Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton were reunited after a month's separation.

**SUNDAY, JULY 22:** Sixty nine suspects pleaded guilty before the CJC (Insurgency): nine suspects wanted time to consult lawyers and six suspects pleaded not guilty. Fifty eight out of the sixty nine who pleaded guilty were released conditionally: Mr. Felix Dias Bandaranaike, Minister of Justice was present when the suspects were released: he spoke individually to each suspect and to their parents: the Minister told the other 11 suspects that he wanted at least a week's time to consider the question of their release. The UNP Working Committee has called for a Select Committee of Members of Parliament to be appointed to inquire into the conduct of the Dedigama by-election; the UNP's resolution stressed the need to investigate the conduct of the police. According to the *Weekend*, leaders of political parties will shortly make a final decision on whether the public should know their assets or not. According to the *Times Weekender*, Sri Lanka has almost lost her tea market in New Zealand owing to sabotage and now Indonesia has obtained this market. The American *Skylab* is scheduled to go into space on July 28. India repatriated another 200 POW's—all women and children.

**MONDAY, JULY 23:** The Minister of Public Administration, Mr. Felix Dias Bandaranaike, has asked the Ministry of Finance for information on all public officials who have travelled abroad on pre-paid tickets: the Central Bank at the instance of the Ministry of Finance has prepared a mammoth dossier on this subject running into over 11,000 names: this information, if it is understood, will enable the Government to study whether those who went abroad on public business were in any way obliged to foreign organisations, business firms or individuals. The JCTUO yesterday unanimously ratified its 28 demands and decided to forward them to the Government, and private sector employers in two weeks. The GMOA's general membership will meet on Saturday to discuss the alleged assault on the DMO, Udugama, Dr. Conrad Wickremasinghe, by certain police personnel. Labour Minister Mr. Michael Siriwardane, who fell ill in Geneva while attending an ILO conference, returned to the island yesterday. The Minister of Finance Dr. N. M. Perera, is scheduled to leave for Washington toay for discussions about Sri Lanka's application for a stand by credit of 25 million dollars. Ten more areas have been brought under the purview of the new Rent Act. On the instructions of their leaders, several thousand Libyans marching towards Cairo called off their march. France has exploded her first nuclear device in the South Pacific; but the French authorities maintained a news blackout about the explosion.



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# *Inania* Of This, That and The Other

## On Multi-National Corporations

by INNA

PURSuing our idea of focussing attention on the opening of the left to the Right, and the right to the Left, we hope to see 'beauty in a wild flower and eternity in an hour'. There is a lot of good and truth going around everywhere, and like a candle that is enhanced in the darkness, the prevalence of falsehood and corruption only tend to highlight the presence of the good and the true.

The leader of the catholic church, the Pope in a now-famous letter to Monsieur Cardinal Roy (it is strange to see that the epithet 'Eminence' has been dropped by him for the first time, and he has called the Cardinal, "Mister") speaks most appositely of multi-national Corporations: "we can see new economic powers emerging, the multinational enterprises, which by the concentration and flexibility of their means can conduct autonomous strategies which are largely independent of the national political powers and therefore not subject to control from the point of view of the common good" (LR, no. 44).

"On all the continents." goes on this Letter, "among all races, nations and cultures... there are authentic apostles of the Gospel". Perhaps it is from one of these places where such 'apostles' do work and exist that a truly remarkable Commentary (cyclostyled in modest form) has come forth:

*"How can Asian countries have opportunities of creating employment specially in dis-*

*tricts and villages when a few companies (Sanyo, Sony, Shell, Caltex, Coca Cola, Pepsi, 7-up, Bayer, Pfizer, Mitsubishi, Dunlop, Liptons, Chase Manhattan Bank, Rist American, National Cash R., Olivetti, Hertz, IC, etc) can supply all the needs of the people in these lines? Every Asian village helps the big corporations by buying their goods. In return, the poor villagers get unemployment, destruction of their traditional skills, non-use of local raw materials, false standards of value, and creation of artificial democracy and all these lead to the impoverishment of the village. Are not multi-national firms a major obstacle to employment generation in the rural areas and outstation districts of Asian countries?" (Tissa Balasuriya, Multi-National Corporations Dossier Seven, July 1973, 271, Deans Road, Col. 10)*

DOESN'T your blood boil when you see people "aping the American way of life" or saying wantonly, "I am an American at heart", or for that matter pretending that

"all Americans are equally bad". The British economist, Robin Jenkins narrowed it all down when he said truthfully: "the centralization of power and wealth in a few hands has continued to make the rich richer. According to the *Fortune* magazine "the hard financial core of capitalism is composed of not more than 60 firms, partnerships or corporations, owned or controlled by 1000 men... in fact, recent forecasts claim that in twenty-five years, 200 multi-national firms will completely dominate production and trade for over 73% of the total corporate assets of the capitalist world" (*Exploitation*, p. 214, 1972)

But murder will out.

The little "assassination" game, the slow genocide is having the veil drawn off it. Military might cannot last long. The 1951 Pacific security treaty between USA, Australia and New Zealand (ANZUS pact): signed also Article Four: "an armed attack in the Pacific area on any of the other parties would be dangerous to its own peace and safety, and the US declares that it would act to meet the common danger according to constitutional processes. How absurd, that an armed attack on N. Zealand can be regarded as an armed attack on USA.

"It goes to show the measure of US financial interests in Australasia" (Robin Jenkins, *ibid*, p. 184.) And this from a nation that vaunts: "In God we trust."

How puerile and this—worldly (for all their pretensions of another world)!

## SAFARI

## A ROUND TRIP

by ALKARDI MUGANA

July 26 - August 1

BEFORE I had even started out, I stumbled on what seemed a clear case of arson. Some people in a shop had for once last night left the shop for their house which was well within sight, and looking at the shop half an hour later they saw the whole roof ablaze. This roof came low at the back of the shop, and a person would have only to light a match and touch the roof with the flame to set it ablaze. I only learnt about it by going out to the road to find the time. It was 1 a.m. I at once went over to see the people and I saw the shop as well. So back to bed till I got up again ridiculously early. It was Epawala before I really got my sense alert.

The paddy fields were dry and did not have even any stubble. What grass the fields had were like a well-cut, or well-mown lawn, but burnt to the colour of straw. Then I saw fields of growing paddy, green, and contrasting with the fields I have just described. The green and sun-burnt fields lay side by side like the sunny and the dark sides of the moon.

We saw large tanks with ribbon of water in the distance by the land. Sometimes even this could not be seen. There was a large extent of marshy-looking land that we saw, and there was *nelun* growing on it. *Nelun* is a

flower that grows in tanks, and a part of the plant is edible. The flower is popular among people as flower offerings in temples.

The Maha Illuppallama Government farm is a famous one, and it can be seen from the Epawala - Kekirawa road. The part of the farm adjoining the road had a ribbon of mango trees.

Our agricultural land is not tidy, and does not present a pretty picture like that in England. An English farm yard might be untidy as mud seeps in from the adjoining fields through the gateways. An English farmyard certainly a place where you get your shoes dirty, unless it is summer, when the fields are drier, and all the cattle are out, except the very young calves. Tractors bring in much mud, and cart can do so, too, but nothing ever as much as a tractor. It is only our hill country that looks tidy. Nobody expects the hill country to have the tidiness of a garden, and there is always something beautiful about the ruggedness of the hill. You begin to get among the hills about the township of Naula. Before that is Dambulla rock, massive, one half naked rock, and the other half not so. I cannot remember the place where the

cave temples are from the road.

Somewhere along this road there was a new bridge being built, which, as far as I could see, followed the example of other new bridges that I have seen, in straightening a bend in the road. It was going to be a fine bridge, like the one at *Miris Goni Handiya* at Dambulla.

There have been changes at Kandy. The place in front of the Market, near the Ampitiya bus stand, a wide open place, with a line of booths, has been smartened up. I am beginning to spot these changes all over Ceylon.

AFTER THREE DAYS, I am in the road again, and marooned by the rain. The road along which I walked was treacherous and slippery, as if oil had been spilled on it, which was probably the case. The oil would have come, I think, from passing vehicles, and not from a leaking tanker. Even the driver of a car told me he found it bad. Coming to think of it, this is an old complaint about this place; because, about a mile away, I have seen lorries, buses, and I think, even a milk wagon, jammed against the banks, cut-away banks.

It is still raining, well on into the night, and I am writing this in a *kadday* while waiting for a bus. People around here are rather conscious about growing more food. It is becoming an end in itself. It is a pity, and I say this, who was all for growing more food in other days. We should have higher aim than just filling our bellies, important though this is.

## A Round Trip

There are people who anticipate a famine. They may be right. The cause of the world famine, if it comes, will not be excess of population. It is more likely to be because there are so many babies being murdered. I do not know if it is true, but I have heard of aborted babies crying while they have been waiting to die. Sometimes, of course, they are killed at the time they are removed from the womb. At other times they are just left to die, thrown away or put aside. It is all pathetic. A society that tolerates this deserves a famine. We are a very blind age falling for that lie that the world cannot grow more food to feed a bigger population. It is a world lie. Wherever, I look about me, even in Ceylon I just cannot see it. It is the rhythm of our life which is wrong. There may well be a place for machines in our society but it is a big mistake to lean too much on them.

A french Government publication I read the other day said that one third of the total acreage of France is forest, and one-fifth of this only is state owned or managed. This is magnificent. Some of the forest road sides, in France, in the hills, are a riot of flowers.

Between Divulapitiya and Mirigama, I think it was, I saw paddy fields that had been harvested and threshed, and fields that had yet to be sown, if indeed that had not already been done, for they were ready for sowing, and yet other fields with paddy

growing in them, and most was this, all rain watered.

By Kurunegala the rain had stopped. It had rained then, for the bus stand was full of large puddles in places, rather like the present Pettah bus stand when it was first put into commission about five or six years ago. Bad work, I call it.

The Galewela - Dambulla stretch is said to have been remade. This was constantly being repaired a few years ago, but it was always back in its old state not many weeks or months after. This time it was said to be all right. It might well have been so, and felt like it, but I could see nothing in the dark from my seat over the rear axle of the bus.

No sooner, back, I was committed to another journey, which involved a six mile walk along a road I knew, the haunt of elephants in the wet season. This is the dry season around Mihintale, but there has been four days of rain. It has made no difference to the tanks but there are pools of water everywhere, along the road on the sides.

People warned me there were elephants around these days. I was a bit incredulous, and as it was still day-light, I set off. I soon found heaps of old elephant dung on the road. I found dung in the most unlikely places, by the sides of old paddy fields, just outside occupied gardens; and close to villages. It was not reassuring, even though the dung was very old. I wondered why no one had carted the elephant dung away for

manure. Perhaps it is because no one does any vegetable cultivation around here. In one village they could not even get hold of any chillies or their seed. Perhaps they were too poor to buy any. Anyway, there was an elephant around, so I was told by someone who had cycled along the road after me. He said he had seen it. I was rather glad that I had not.

A tourist gave me a lift. He comes from a country of six million inhabitants, of which one million are foreigners. It is a hilly country with much snow. There is now resentment again to many foreigners, inspite of there being a shortage of workers. I told him that Ceylonese are very versatile and they can soon pick up any skill or trade. I said that I thought they might cause less resentment among their countrymen than the other foreigners, Europeans though they were. He thought that a more satisfactory solution would be to more factories about rather than men, and to site those factories abroad.

When I expressed doubts, not about the wisdom, but about the much larger question of if it should be a good thing for us to have these factories here, he was rather surprised and asked me, why? I said that factories might change the character of our people. They were free and independent now and the introduction of factories might make them more like machines. I told him about a few nice places that a tourist guide would not mention and he wrote them down. One was the Kala Wewa.

TO TAP GROUND WATER

# A NEW PUMP

— to answer India's water needs —

RAMSAY TAINSH

*The author of this article spent many years in India and Burma and knows our agricultural conditions at first hand. Now in Sweden, he has invented a medium-lift pump—which is portable—and one pump can service many wells.*

IN INDIA it requires 4000 metric tonnes of water to grow one metric tonne of wheat, barley, maize or millet and about three times as much water to grow one metric tonne of paddy. The average for all grains is 10,000 metric tonnes.

Good storage at domestic and village level, where birds, rodents, insects, mites, bacteria and fungi do most damage, is therefore of vital importance, as it saves both food and water.

THE GRAIN wastage during the Bihar drought cost 30 times as much as the great Bhakra project, including the dam and the electrification scheme. The volume of water lost was equal to 66 times the live capacity of the Bhakra reservoir.

The high-dam and vast irrigation schemes have failed to stop flooding and to provide water when needed.

The large silos and warehouses have also failed because the new wheats have a high moisture-content and do not store well unless thoroughly dried before storage in silos. When stored in bags in warehouses this grain absorbs moisture from the atmosphere and provides ideal conditions for the storage pests and fungi to multiply and do maximum damage.

THE CHEAPEST way to store grain at domestic and village level is to use four

gallon cans and 40 gallon drums. The grain should be thoroughly cleaned and dried and the cans and drums filled and packed tight. They should then be sealed and stored in a cool place and kept sealed. In about three months all the pests in the grain are suffocated. In this way the grain will store well for many years. The reduction in waste pays for the cost of the containers within a few months. With a little paint the containers will last a life-time.

When the rains fail the grass and fodder are soon consumed and the draught animals become too weak to raise the water in the countless open wells. In north India, Orissa and West Bengal many thousands of tube-well pumps have been electrified. On paper these schemes look fine. But as most of the power is derived from hydro-electric sources, in times of

drought—when farmers are in most urgent need of water—there is not sufficient power. There are fluctuations in the voltage and these may cause the electric motors of the tube-well pumps to fail.

IN THE spring of 1972, 80,000 tube-well motors were burnt out in West Bengal and Orissa. The repair of these damaged motors takes a long time and cost a great deal of money—not to speak of the agricultural disaster overtaking thousands of people.

In my childhood Bihari peasants used to say that what they wanted was to have water in the right place, in the right quantity and at the right time. They wanted to have complete control of their water.

**This has now been made possible by the development of the Medium Lift Pump, which can raise water from 6 to 20 metres and provide sufficient water to irrigate 10 to 20 hectares.**

The Medium Lift Pump or MLP I is a diesel-driven submersible pump linked by a hydrostatic transmission. It is mobile and portable. When water is needed the submersible pump is lifted off the unit and lowered into the well or river. The water-hose is directed into a field and the engine is started. This pump can raise 1250 litres per minute from 10 metres and 1000 litres per minute from 20 metres.

The submersible pump weighs 17 kg and can be lowered into a well by one

man. One pumping set could serve five to ten wells. When irrigation is not needed these pumps can be used for draining open wells while they are being deepened. The submersible pump can handle sandy water without loss of efficiency.

The MLP unit could do the job of the shallow tube-well pump: the Union and State Governments are planning to install. The shallow tube-well pump would cost Sw. Kr. 2000 (about Rs. 3400) and would irrigate about 2 acres. The MLP I would cost about Sw. Kr. 15,000 (about Rs. 25,500) and could irrigate 25 to 50 acres. But if a shallow tube-well pump is used to raise water from an open well its multi-stages will be damaged by sand and it will last for at the most one or two seasons. This pump is also stationary, and when the water in an open well is exhausted the unit

falls idle. The Medium-Lift Pump, on the other hand, can be moved from well to well or along a river bank and be usefully employed throughout the year.

ABOUT two to three MLP units are needed per village. The MLP is especially useful in times of drought, as it enables farmers to make use of even small quantities of water in their open wells.

The MLP can be used by the Public Works Department and the famine relief organisations engaged in deepening wells, and thus provide useful work. It can also be used to pump water from rivers to irrigate grass for cattle.

A small number of these units are available in Sweden and are light enough to be flown to India. For the future these units can be assembled in India, because a number of firms manufacture

suitable diesel engines. The high-and low-pressure oil-hoses and 4-inch water-hoses are also manufactured in India. In fact, within a year it will only be necessary to import the submersible pump and the hydrostatic transmission.

These pumps were designed for India and can be used by anyone who can handle a diesel engine. What is more, if correctly used, they will pay for their entire cost, including air-freight several times over within a year.

The pump needs oil and fuel, and the empty cans and drums provide the perfect storage needed at domestic level. Taken together, the Medium-Lift Pumps and the oil-cans and drums may become the foundation for India's economic pyramid.

— Himmat, 24/8/73

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TRIBUNE, October 6, 1973

# IS IT TRUE?

## Sherlock Holmes

### \* CPC AGRO-CHEMICALS LAKE HOUSE

IS IT NOT TRUE that the communist daily *Aththa* had recently raised serious doubts about the quality of the insecticides and weedicides supplied to the farmers by the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC)? That it stated that the CPC had imported insecticides and weedicides to the tune of over Rs. 15 million? That it was found that these agro-chemicals were of poor quality and they did not serve the purpose for which they were imported? That these chemicals were said to be sub-standard in chemical concentration when compared to those imported and distributed by private dealers? That when complaints were received from the Agricultural Department, samples were sent to the CISIR for analysis? That it was found, according to the *Aththa*, that these agro-chemicals imported by the CPC contained only a 2% concentration of the stipulated chemicals whereas it should have had at least a concentration of 88%? That the *Aththa* went on to say that this year, so far, the Government had imported over Rs. 25 million worth of insecticides and weedicides and of this amount the CPC

had imported 60% and that the private sector had been allowed to import only 40%? That the *Aththa* had asked the question whether this sub-standard stuff had been imported because some individuals who dealt with matter had axes to grind? That investigations carried out by Sherlock Holmes tends to support the *Aththa* story? That although Sherlock Holmes has not had access to the CISIR report, he has talked to a great many cultivators who have used the CPC stuff? That what they say is that the agro-chemicals supplied by the private sector were more effective? That the money paid for private sector agro chemicals were worth the money? That they were compelled to use CPC agro-chemicals because they were pushed out by the Co-ops as part of the agricultural loans they got and credit extended to farmers? That it was time that serious attention was paid to agro-chemicals marketed by the CPC?

\* \* \*

IS IT NOT A FACT that there seems to be something cur-

ious (in this *Alice-In-Wonderland* country of ours) seems to be going on in the new governmental setup in Lake House? That parliamentarians had told Sherlock Holmes that photographers from Lake House had taken a large number of shots of the faces of MPs when the austerity measures were announced on September 28? That these were grim pictures? That various editions of the same paper on the same day had published different pictures of this episode? That the gossip in journalistic circles is that a large number of blocks made of the pictures so taken had been destroyed? That this had been done because anyone looking at the pictures of our MPs on September 28 would become depressed and gloomy?

IS IT ALSO NOT A FACT that all the Directors of the new Lake House take an active role in running the place? That if this were so, Chairman Premadasa would have his hands full in seeing that the publications do not suffer from strains and stresses pulling in different directions? That journalistic gossip in the pubs of the Fort refer to a speech made by the Leader of the Opposition recently in a town on the coast down south had created a major storm (not merely in a tea cup)? That it will be interesting to see where all this will end? That cutting down the pages of the English and the Tamil papers may be a blessing in disguise? That it is only fitting that emphasis should be placed on the needs of Sinhala readers?