

TRIBUNE

CEYLON NEWS REVIEW

50 Cts.

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October 20, 1973

TRIBUNE & FOOD PRODUCTION

FOOD PRODUCTION is not a new found fad of *Tribune*. Those who have read the paper ever since its inception in 1954 and those who have cared to go through the old files of the paper will know that we have always emphasised the need to make this country self-sufficient in food by intensive agricultural development. In the 1950's the so called "progressives" of that period had howled their heads off against the World Bank for insisting in a Special Report that agriculture should have top priority in any plan for economic development in Ceylon. It was said that the imperialist West wanted to keep Ceylon a backward agricultural country without giving it a chance to become rich as an industrialised country. The successors to these early progressives and leftists, until a few weeks back, consciously or unconsciously, wittingly or unwittingly, and knowingly or unknowingly, denigrated the importance of agriculture. Only a short time ago, when the food crisis descended upon this country with uncontrollable fury, did important people in the so-called progressive camp think it fit to proclaim the importance of agriculture.

Right from the fifties, when there were blood and thunder slogans against the World Bank's suggestion that special attention must be paid to agriculture, *Tribune* has taken the independent view that even if World Bank advice was motivated by selfish capitalist ideology, agriculture must be developed and extended in every way possible if Ceylon was to increase its wealth and thereby qualify to become a country which can make a success of socialism. From that time onwards *Tribune* has taken the position that agricultural development, as any other form of economic development, should be outside the narrow party politics which the British Parliamentary system had, artificially but successfully, grafted into the contemporary body politic of this country. That is why, in 1967, especially after the first devaluation of the rupee at the behest of the IMF and the World Bank, *Tribune* in spite of its many differences with the UNP (which had discriminated and persecuted it in many ways), had enthusiastically but critically supported the Grow More Food campaign launched by Dudley Senanayake. This stand taken by *Tribune* was misunderstood by many anti-UNP friends of this paper who felt that a reactionary party, like the UNP, could not do any good for the nation. But, we held steadfastly to the view that food production should be kept above party politics, and most of the friends who had then criticised *Tribune*, are now appealing to the people, to UNPers, FPers and all others to respond to the current food production drive irrespective of party, caste, creed, language or race. This is what *Tribune* has always said. And our support for the current food production drive is, as always, critical, but nevertheless constructive and enthusiastic.

● PARTY
SECTARIANISM
OR NATIONAL
UNITY?

● CREDIT CARD

● INANIA

● CPC—AGRO
CHEMICALS—
A REFUTATION

● TUBE WELLS

● FOOD FRONT

● ARAB—ISRAELI
WAR

Tribunania

* CPC Agro-Chemicals

* Party Sectarianism or National Unity?

THE MANAGEMENT of the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation seems to be extra prompt in reacting to criticism levelled at this state organisation. In our issue of October 6, Sherlock Holmes had picked on a story which had appeared in the *Aththa* of August 14 about the agro-chemicals marketed by the CPC. In using this information for this column, Sherlock Holmes seems to have overlooked the fact that, on August 21, the *Aththa* had carried a "correction" furnished by the CPC, but for reasons best known to the paper it had not carried the full text of the statement of the CPC. It was, no doubt, a grievous error on the part of the Sherlock Holmes to have missed this "correction" and this paper must necessarily express its regret for this sad default.

The management had in a letter, dated October 8, to the Editor of this paper pointed out the error and had sent the text of the full statement sent to the *Aththa* and also a copy of the "correction" which had appeared in the *Aththa* of August 21. The full text of the statement by the CPC is published elsewhere in this paper, but *Tribune* will con-

tinue to investigate, on its own, on the validity of the claims made by the CPC.

It would be pertinent to note that the CPC, immediately after the *Aththa* story and the correction which had appeared in the paper, had written to the Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture and Lands and to the Director of Agriculture "setting out the facts of this campaign and asking them for particulars of the alleged deficiencies of our products..." It would seem that the CPC had received no reply to these letters until October 8, and it was therefore presumed by the CPC that the officials had no answer to give the CPC. Copies of the letters sent to these officials were also sent to this paper as annexures to the letter of October 8.

The main burden of the CPC letter to the editor was that there was a "campaign to denigrate the agro-chemicals marketed by the CPC by the private companies and Agricultural Department Bureaucrats," and it was stressed these obviously anti-national elements "had pressed your newspaper also into their service in their unholy

campaign against our Agro-chemicals". *Tribune* was reminded that "this campaign is similar to the campaign against our petrol and kerosene by the Oil Companies ten years ago" when *Tribune* had helped the CPC to fight the oil companies at that time. (At that time *Tribune* was the only paper which had stood up for the the CPC).

One easy and facile way which persons in authority have found to side-track criticism is to attribute a sinister motive to the critic in order to whittle away the criticism. To allege that *Tribune* was a tool in the hands of private companies and the bureaucrats, is, to say the least, a pitifully ungracious manner of meeting a criticism. It is one thing to point out a mistake, and if we had failed to make the necessary corrections it would be time enough to look for hidden motives and secret ties with "private companies and agricultural department bureaucrats."

There is nothing in the record of *Tribune* to justify a charge that we have become tools in the hands of vicious campaigners against the CPC. The fact that we have been critical, justifiably as events have shown, of many acts of commission and omission of the United Front government is no reason to question *bona fides* on a matter like this. It is not necessary to say anything more at this stage, but it is significant that the management of many public sector undertakings, dizzy with power after the eph-

meral parliamentary victory of the UF in 1970, have lost rapport with papers like the *Tribune*.

IN THE MIDST OF OUR FOOD CRISIS, there are powerful elements in the United Front and the Government which still seem to think that a class war must be carried on furiously and ferociously if the battle on the food front is to be won. The *Janawegaya* of October 6 carried an editorial which set out this "line". The editorial stressed that the nation's number one enemy was the UNP and that it was attempting, together with all other reactionary forces, to incite the innocent masses of the country against the progress of the country: that at a time when the Prime Minister and her Government were doing their best to save the nation from the food crisis which the whole world was experiencing, the reactionaries were seeking to mislead the people and thereby create disturbances in the country: that from one side the reactionary Tamil United Front was preparing to start a satyagraha and on the other side the UNP too was mobilising support for a satyagraha.

The *Janawegaya* then went on to say that it was its duty to tell the people that the UNP under the leadership of J. R. Jayewardene was endeavouring to point out that the present food crisis had arisen owing to the mistakes of the UF government and that the UNP in this process was trying to hide all the anti-national activities in

which it was involved: that with Chelvanayakam from the North, Thondaman from the Hill country, and Prince Gunasekera and Dahanayake, as henchmen, the UNP was doing everything to make capital out of the situation and that all of them would soon realise their mistakes.

The *Janawegaya* editorial further went on to state that the *Dawasa* papers had become the latest enemies of the people and that JR and his men were exploiting these papers fully for their activities: that when reactionaries found curbs on their activities, they united to save themselves: and that the role of a watchdog was now being played by the *Dawasa* which was a disgrace to journalism as well as to all journalists: that the whole nation knew that the UNP had made the people expect everything from abroad and that the UNP had also pawned this country to the capitalists to obtain our food and other requirements: that JR and his men were now going round the country seeking to mislead the people about the present situation and undermine the efforts now being made to make this country self-sufficient: that when reactionaries were doing everything to safeguard their class, their henchmen were increasing the difficulties of the people by closing hotels and bakeries.

The *Janawegaya* appealed to the people to protest against this kind of action. It also pointed out that the UNP-Thondaman-Federal coalition was seeking to sabotage the attempt of the people of Sri Lanka to strengthen

their freedom and that for this JR was talking about a National Government; that this country could be more easily developed and improved without JR's support: that when the whole nation was engaged in cultivation to save the country from the present crisis, the UNP was seeking to sabotage this effort and get back to the seats of power: that these ageing reactionaries would make

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every attempt to attain their goal: that such attempts were made in January 1962 and December 1964: that attempts would be made to buy over government MPs—but stressed the *Janawehaya* that all Government MPs would be loyal to the PM. The paper went on to assert that reactionaries always failed and that in this instance too they would fail. The editorial concluded on the note that the people had a duty to strengthen unity within the United Front and to also mobilise all the progressive forces outside the United Front; that the problem facing the country now* was not confined to one party; that the nation was facing a decisive national struggle and that all forces had to be harnessed to liquidate the saboteurs and win the war before the nation.

Such is the gist of the editorial.

The *Janawegaya* seems to believe that the only way of winning the war on the food front was by fighting all the reactionaries, the UNP, the TUF, the CWC and independents like Prince Gunese-kera and Dahanayake. There is not even a hint that an attempt would be made to find common ground with the UNP, TUF, CWC and other Opposition groups in order to unitedly wage the war of food production. The *Jana-wegaya* wants the United Front and its allies (it is difficult to name allies now) to fight the war on the food front alone because all others in the country were reactionaries, and because of their "class interests" they would

only sabotage the efforts of the progressive United Front government.

In the present food crisis, and even at normal times of economic stagnation such as has enveloped this island for many decades now, this analysis of the class forces is based more on parochial party distinctions and loyalties than on an objective breakdown of the true class forces and alignments in this country. Are there no reactionaries within the SLFP and the UF? Are there no reactionaries in the LSSP and the CP? And, on the other hand, are there no patriotic and even progressive elements within the UNP, the TUF and the CWC?

British parliamentarianism has divided this nation on party lines which now, more than ever, cuts across class and ideological lines, and unless this fact is recognised and appropriate action taken immediately, the Government and the United Front will soon find itself in a *cul-de-sac* of its own creation. The demand for a National Government is premature and unrealistic at this juncture, but it would be political wisdom of the highest magnitude to drop the kind of class war the UF has been carrying on (along party lines) against all those who have been deemed reactionaries and thereafter on the basis of a new *detente* and rapprochement in the cold war among political parties in this country, organise the war to end the food crisis.

This country can be made self-sufficient within one year.

In two years we can export surplus foodstuffs. But this cannot be achieved except by a united effort of the entire people, and since vast sections of the common people are loyal to the UNP, TUF, CWC and even certain Independents, it would be statesmanlike on the part of the Government to enter into a dialogue with these parties and individuals to find common ground on which the food problem can be solved.

It would be imprudent on the part of the United Front Government to seek to win the war on the food front single handed whilst at the same time seeking to liquidate politically mass-supported organisations like the UNP, TUF and the CWC.

FOR

NEWS

BEHIND

THE

NEWS

Read

TRIBUNE

Regularly

THE CREDIT CARD

The Answer to Our Problems

by Canax

THIS MAY seem a little late in the day, what with the Budget hardly ten days away, but at the risk of his calling me a lot of names I'm going to tell NM all I know, little though that may be, about an invention that should provide instant solutions to his constant problems.

As everybody knows, NM is the last person I would wilfully keep anything away from. Not that I can, especially when it comes to taxes, for instance; he has such taking ways. I have yet to see anyone charm so much out of people, not just me alone, with a mere Gazette notice. Sort of gets people to put their best buck forward, whether they like it or not, and whether they have it or not.

So if I didn't tell him before it was only because I didn't know before. Had I known earlier I would certainly have told him about this new invention which makes a mockery of money. It would also have saved him his recent African safari where he contributed his two cent's worth to the gathering of great minds but, with one thought: monetary reform. The final outcome of the pow-wow was only to put the problem away for another year in the hope it will simply go away in the meantime, like most problems do if given sufficient time.

Don't tell me problems won't simply go away; maybe they don't in your case, but they do in mine. The few that once stubbornly refused found themselves high and dry, discovering too late that when they don't go, I do. So now when I say go, they go. There is, of course, the case of my wife but, then, exceptions only prove the rule.

I ADMIT to knowing very little about what I want to tell NM, and even that little I picked up from a friend. He says the invention is called a *Credit Card*, and seems to think it's the best thing we've thought up ever since Adam dreamed up Eve. He probably means it's useful, if I understand him right, which is rarely.

Now that I know something about the invention I won't have to endure situations like when my wife recently refused to stand in queues, like everybody else is doing, to keep body and soul together. The impression I had was that she could well do without the added exercise.

When I pressed her, saying, "You want to starve us to death?", she came up with the most ridiculous reason for not standing in queues I've heard in all my life. She did not wish to be humiliated, she said.

"That's a silly thing to say," I shouted. "If I didn't have to go to office I wouldn't feel humiliated to go stand in queues."

"Famous last words," she sniggered. "You like making a fool of yourself, but I don't."

"Don't dare me," I said angrily. "I'll gladly stand in a queue a mile long and slowly work my way up even if it takes all day."

"And then?" she asked, clearly taunting me.

"And then I'll buy what I have to buy," I yelled.

"Without any money?" she asked in mock surprise. "That I'd love to see."

As that exchange clearly shows, women can get downright technical when it suits them. As it also shows, money is at the bottom of all our troubles, and the sooner we are rid of it the better.

Whoever it was who said necessity is the mother of invention obviously knew what he was talking about. The crazy way the world of money is spinning right now, the *Credit Card* just had to come. I am only surprised NM failed to invent it himself. Maybe he was too busy; inventing Budgets year after year is no joke.

From what my friend tells me, a *Credit Card* has numerous advantages, though even just one would do the way we are with our backs to the wall financially.

I HAVE only my friend's word for this, but apparently the great advantage a *Credit Card* has over money is that

when buying anything you have only to show your Card; if it's money you're dealing with, however, we know from bitter experience that merely showing it is not enough, for they make you part with it, too.

With a Card, then, you can show and go away, and live to show another day. (Unlike money, it's not transferable, but we won't worry about that.)

Seems this revolutionary invention was first tried out on tourists and proved an immediate success, if using it to get yourself anything from an airline ticket to a brand new car can be called that. Spurred on by the success, the inventors began experimenting on the wider use of the Card and found that people could use it not only on their travels abroad but also to make their day-to-day purchases at home. I am told the claim has indeed been already made that Credit Card users have got so hooked they can't even remember what money looks like.

The Card was, I understand first tried out on 'affluent' tourists, but that doesn't mean a thing because affluence is not the monopoly of tourists alone. It is, like happiness, a state of mind, and if we in Sri Lanka could have taught ourselves to be happy all this while, making ourselves feel affluent is not an impossible task.

I hope NM can see what I see. The Credit Card holds a lot of promise for us here, has a lot of potential for us abroad, and is the all-in-one

answer to NM's problems both here and abroad.

So if he wants to do something really worthwhile for his country, he should make it one of his Budget Prosposals that every Ceylonese leaving the island be issued with a Credit Card. He'll hear no more complaints about not being given even the measly £3.10 on passports. With a Credit Card in the pocket, who'll want filthy money, anyway?

THE SORRY spectacle of Ceylonese abroad bumming everything from a fag to a meal from each other (which is bad) and from foreigners (which is worse) will then become a thing of the past. From then on Ceylonese abroad will start living like kings, since they have been living only like dukes so far. The switch may not be easy, but trust our boys to make the effort.

Back at home, however, I suggest NM be a bit more selective in his choice of people to give Credit Cards to. We Ceylonese are a suspicious lot and will begin to see what cannot meet the eye if he starts giving Credit Cards freely to all and sundry. Old customs die hard and we have, after all, got used to money. So Credit Cards are bound to appear strange to many people.

Chances are nobody will believe that Credit Cards instantly wipe out the age-old distinction between the haves and the have-nots. It will take time to educate the general public that with the advent of the Card, the saying

that you get nothing for nothing has truly lost its validity. You get something and more, for nothing.

The way I see it, NM should popularise Credit Cards by choosing the real have-nots as the initial recipients. Once Ministers start using it openly the public will first watch, and then want it too. That happens all the time. You give people the luxury of a transport network exclusively for themselves, and yet they want to suffer along with their Ministers—all because they can't bear to see them undergoing untold hardships commuting in their individual Benzes.

A word of warning before I sign off. NM had better watch his bureaucrats in the Central Bank. All they can think of is money, so it should come as no surprise that they'll try to talk him out of doing away with money altogether. They might even suggest, making it sound like a compromise, that Credit Cards be linked with money. That's even worse.

So don't fall for that, NM. Credit Cards and money simply cannot co-exist happily any more than Socialism and Capitalism can. Or the LSSP and CP can, in case you'd forgotten.

Singing Stamp

The Kingdom of Bhutan has issued stamps made of metal foil. This unusual material was chosen to record national songs on the stamps.

Inania Of This, That and The Other

Journalists, Here We Are

By INNA

I am reminded of a curious story. In fact it happened to me when on a mission, I had to pass through Rome, city sacred to tourists and to many christians.

It was Pope John who, looking at two images of two saints, I think it was Peter and Paul (one statue had a finger pointing down, the other one had a finger pointing away) with a pointed hand exclaimed: "These statues are like our church: we make the laws here in Rome; other countries are expected to keep them!"

The crowd roared with laughter, but the irony of it was not lost on the coloured people present in the Square.

WHEN one sees a catholic paper one expects to see the fulfilment of at least some of these injunctions given below. They make good reading; better "meditation", still better practice. Our pursuit of a policy of openness does not mean that we accept every word of what is said. Yet there is great deal of truth in these words and they have appeal:

"Yours, journalists, is a fascinating and difficult task: —to give information or reports that correspond to the truth as closely as possible;

—to supply your readers with material that can broaden their outlook; widen their heart; strengthen their solidarity;

—to bear witness before every one to "the christian faith that animates you and to your trust in the church."

At a moment when an unhealthy suspicion often creeps into the hearts of catholics themselves, a certain courage is necessary; great love of the church is called for.."
(Oss. Rom., July 19, 1973)

IN VERY many countries this passion for truth is found, also in catholic journals, but there might be some countries where the news is slanted, the material chosen puerile and often infantile; where risks are feared, and where dialogue is taboo; where communism has nothing to do with communion; where the pretence is that Christ never spoke to the sinner.

This kind of journalism is a gross lie in the face of growing unity and openness. Pious platitudes in editorials —if the cap fits you put it on, some would say —cannot make up for so-called 'sins' of omission, where editors are playthings of the powerful.

Is it not incumbent upon anyone to try, at least try sincerely, to edify their readers, edify here, meaning to build up hearts, minds, community more than mere society (for society sounds drab and dull, and community is society with a fixed destiny)?

Isn't this asked of every paper?

And wouldn't one want to see fearlessness, boldness, passion for truth and sincerity in any paper, catholic or otherwise? Where is the broadening of the outlook? the widening of their heart? the strengthening of solidarity?

O Communications Media! what crimes are committed in thy name!

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A REFUTATION

CPC AGRO-CHEMICALS

This is the full text of the CPC statement sent to the *Aththa* in regard to a front page article on Agro-Chemicals which appeared in the paper on August 14. (Also vide *Tribunania*). We publish this statement reserving our comment for a later date after we have investigated the matter further.

We emphatically refute the facts and baseless insinuations contained in the said Article and request you to publish this correction of the erroneous statements contained herein with the same prominence as that given to the Article referred to.

The following statements in the Article are factually incorrect. (1) That the Corporation has imported Agro-Chemicals to the value of fifteen million rupees. The total value of the eight licences issued to us since we entered the Market is eight point 2 (8.2) Million rupees. (2) That our imported Agro-chemicals have been adulterated and do not contain the correct strength in active ingredients. The simple reply is that we do not blend or formulate Agro-chemicals.

We merely decant formulated drum stocks into appropriate consumer packings. These retail packings are secured in theft-proof caps to prevent any tampering until purchased by the customer. Further, as licenses are given on half-yearly basis, our stocks are completely viable under the manufacturer's guarantee of quality and storage; (3) That there have been complaints from farmers to the Ministry of Agriculture, as a result of

which the C.I.S.I.R. had carried out tests which showed that there is only two per cent of active ingredients in the formulations imported by the Corporation, whereas it should be 88 per cent.

This vague statement is totally untrue. No one imports products of two per cent strength and we challenge anyone to substantiate this statement. The Corporation called for world-wide quotations from accredited sources of supply and manufacturers, who also supply the private sector. Up to date, we have not received any serious complaint from either the Department of Agriculture or individual farmers as to the quality or efficacy of our products. It appears that the misguided informant has generalised on all our Agro-chemicals by reference to a report regarding a consignment of wettable sulphur 95% imported by us. We called for 80% water wettable sulphur. A supplier from Holland quoted for 95% sulphur. Complying with all the specifications but at a cheaper price. According to C.I.S.I.R. reports, the 95% sulphur was not mixing as well as the 80% sulphur, since it had 2.1% suspensibility whereas the 80% sulphur had 72% suspen-

sibility. This was because we had more sulphur and less mixing agent. It was corrected by mixing with a wetting agent. It caused problems because the locally manufactured sprayers did not have an agitating device and therefore the suspension of the product was not maintained. On 13th June, 1973, we received a letter dated 2nd June, 1973 from the Ministry of Agriculture to withdraw this product because of this low suspensibility and high sedimentation. We complied immediately. Therefore the statement that there is only two per cent of active ingredient in our formulations and even in this particular sample, is both incorrect and misleading.

(4) That the value of Agro-chemicals imported by us this year is 60 per cent of a total of 25 million rupees. The total value of the licences issued to us for the first half of 1973 is only rupees one point seven eight million (Rs. 1.78); (5) That there is a possibility of someone earning a commission on the Agro-chemicals imported by the Corporation, because they are said to be inferior. We first challenge anyone to show that our Agro-chemicals are inferior to those of the private sector or less effective by giving us details.

In fact we can prove that certain quantities of our Agro-chemicals are purchased by the private Companies and sold to the farmers under their brand name and no complaint has been received regarding these products. This propaganda reminds us of the

baseless charges made against the quality of our Soviet petrol and kerosene by interested parties and by the competitor oil companies in 1962 and 1963 in Sri Lanka while the same Companies were writing to their London offices that our products were superior.

We emphatically deny the charge regarding Commissions, which may perhaps be second nature to your informant. We generally deal directly with the principal sources of supply. But some suppliers have locally accredited agents. For example, Shell International, from whom we purchase certain products, have Lankem (Ceylon) Ltd. as their local agents, and Shell owns about half the shares of Lankem.

We would also mention the following facts:— (1) Our entry into the Agro-Chemical market stabilised prices

and the companies had to reduce prices. The Meda Palatha MPCS of the Gal Oya Valley in February, 1973 passed a resolution thanking the Corporation for the services tendered by supplying Agro-chemicals for a cheaper price when the private dealers were increasing their prices. (2) We have for some years won open tenders of the Agricultural Department and the Kantalai Sugar Corporation as the lowest tenders and they have sent us repeat orders and there have been no complaints whatsoever about products supplied to them; (3) Our sales of Agro-chemicals doubled in 1972 from 1971 and in the first six months of 1973 we have sold more than in the whole of 1972 which clearly shows that the false propaganda by certain persons for diverse considerations that the farmers prefer Company Agro-chemicals is a myth sponsored

by interested parties, like the information given to your paper. In fact, in view of the limited allocations of foreign exchange allowed to us by having to compete with the Companies, we are unable to cope with the demand for our Agro-chemicals, particularly from the Northern and North-Central Provinces.

The above facts will convince you that the information given to you is an effort by some interested parties, who are alarmed at our rapid progress, to mislead the farmer and thereby help the private companies and discredit the Corporation. The Employees Council of our Head Office at Kollupitiya has, after reading the Article, informed me in writing that in their opinion, this is an attempt made to cripple the endeavours of the Corporation to obtain a monopoly of the import of Agro-chemicals.

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BATTICOTTA SEMINARY-9

AFTER DR. DANIEL POOR

BY

JAMES T. RUTNAM

On the sixth January 1836 Rev. Daniel Poor D.D. submitted his formal resignation when he wrote, "Believing that the time has arrived in the Providence of God, in which it is consistent with the best interests of the Seminary for me to withdraw my services as Principal of the Institution; and believing that there is an urgent demand for direct Mission labours in Jaffna, but more especially on the Country Continent; and having a decided preference for devoting the remnant of my days to this service, I beg leave to request that the Trustees will accept my resignation as Principal of Seminary."

This is the ninth article in the series on the 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.

The Trustees in reply resolved "that sensible of the great services rendered the Seminary from its commencement in 1823, till the present time, by their highly esteemed associate, Rev. Daniel Poor, they accept the resignation as Principal only from the conviction that God is calling him to another service".

James H. Martyn in his book *The Life and Times of C. W. Kathiravetpillai* speaks of these events as follows, "Of the excellent work of Dr. Poor, as the first and foremost educational pioneer, the best evidence was afforded by his

own pupils, of whom or rather of the more brilliant of whom, it was truly remarked that they would not suffer by comparison with the young men of their age in any other country?

His resignation was accepted with a high sense of his invaluable services and in response to his earnest desire to proceed to Madura where he established and conducted a new mission, with the assistance of some of the pupils he had trained at Batticaloa, such as J. S. Tappan (father of the late Messrs. Chelliah and Muttiah, the well known Colombo brokers) Francis Asbury of Sandilipay (father of the late R.O.D. Asbury), Nathan Strong of Manipay, afterwards connected with the well known firm of printers, under the name and style of Ripley and Strong, Eli. F. Cooly, of Putoor (father of Mr. P.C. Chellappah sub-Inspector of Schools) and Thomas Spencer, father of Mr. L. P. Spencer,

B.A. of the Wesleyan Central College)."

H.R. Hoisington, a scholar of unusual ability and attainments succeeded Poor and was Principal from 1836-1849 with a short break of three years during 1841-1844. Dr. Nathan Ward who arrived in 1833 was attached to the Seminary from that time as Professor of Medicine, Chemistry and Geology. Ward acted as principal during the absence of Hoisington. Edward Cope was Professor of English Literature from 1840-1847; Robert Wyman was Professor of Social Literature and Biblical Interpretation from 1843 until his death in 1845. S.G. Whittlesey took his place, but he died in 1847.

HASTINGS became Principal in May 1849 with Mills as his assistant. In February 1850 Mills succeeded Hastings on the latter's resignation. In 1851 owing to the illness of Mrs. Mills, W.W. Scudder and Hastings acted for the Principal at different times for short periods. Towards the end of 1852 and during the first part of 1853 a committee composed of John C. Smith and W.W. Howland were appointed to conduct the business of the Seminary with M.D. Sanders as a Professor. Mills finally resigned in October 1853, and until the beginning of 1854 Sanders was in charge. Hastings relieved Sanders and he was the last of the Principals of the Seminary for in 1855 the Seminary was closed.

Among the Tamil members of the staff were those who were designated Tutors such

as Henry Martyn who taught Mathematics and Natural Philosophy and George Daniel who taught Sanskrit, Native Arithmetic and Hindu Astronomy. Other Tamil teachers at the Seminary were the following graduates of the Seminary: E. Warren, Wiseborn Volk (Geography, Chronology, and History), P.K. Haseltine (Tamil, Native Arithmetic), William Tennent, J. Grégorie (English Language, Grammar etc), Elisha Rockwood (Mathematics) Daniel Carroll, Jeremiah Evarts, William Nevins, Asa Lyman, D.H. Clark, B.H. Rice, R. Breckenridge Cathiravellipillay Wyman and Solomon Williams. The Seminary which was officially known as the American Mission Seminary from 1827 was formally declared in 1846 as the Batticotta Seminary.

XXIII

HOISINGTON was a worthy successor to Poor who was of course a born organiser. The Seminary had been very fortunate to have had during the first twenty six years of its thirty two years of existence two exceptional men to direct it. Both were diligent students of the culture of the people among whom their lot was cast. They were earnest and profound scholars of the language and philosophy of the Tamils; indeed they much appreciated and admired them, although when it came to defending their own vital religious convictions they never yielded. They were good men, learned men; they held fast to what they had thought to be the truth, but they were charitable men too, not in the

sense of expending money (which of course they did not stint when it was found necessary and to good purpose), but of being lavish with a true love for their fellow-men.

Chelliah pays a handsome tribute to Hoisington, "Like Dr. Poor," he states, "Dr. Hoisington took great interest in the study of Astronomy. When on furlough in America he collected funds for building an observatory for the Seminary. The idea was at first approved by the Mission, which voted for the observatory the £200/- given to it by the legislative council for educational purposes. Mr. Dyke, the then Government Agent offered his services to purchase for the Mission a piece of land lying south of the mission premises. The idea, however, was relinquished, and it was resolved instead to build a tower for observatory purposes in the middle of the Ottley Hall. This plan, too, was dropped for some reason or other.

"Dr. Hoisington's interest in Astronomy was shown by his book on Hindu Astronomy, which has been a text-book prescribed by the Calcutta University for the M.A. Examination in Mathematics. Dr. Hoisington was also deeply learned in Hindu Philosophical and religious works, and translated the three leading Tamil treatises on Siva Siddhanta Philosophy: Sivagnana Botham, Sivapragasam and Tatwa Kattalei. In speaking of scientific studies we ought not to

omit mention of the great interest taken by Mr. Dyke in it. In addition to his offer to help in the building of the observatory, he presented the seminary valuable books on Botany and apparatus necessary for teaching the subject".

James H. Martyn in his book referred to earlier, describes Hoisington as being held by his pupils Samuel Mervin and George Champion as "the ablest scholar among the American Missionaries who have come to the island during the last eight-years. He knew Latin, Greek and Hebrew well, and his linguistic attainments on his arrival were already so extensive that he soon mastered the Tamil and Sanskrit languages well enough to be able to do into English, in almost creditable manner, some of the standard work in those languages on Saivism and Hindu Astronomy."

To Be Concluded

Will it help?

A new method of preventing books being stolen from libraries is being tested in Saint Paul, Minnesota (U.S.A.) according to the West German weekly *Illustrierte Wochenzeitung*. Every book will have a minute electromagnetic device that will produce a certain sound as soon as the book is taken outside the library premises.

DETAILS OF

LOW COST TUBE WELLS

—easily sunk in many areas—

BY

A. DENNIS N. FERNANDO

President, National Rural Conference, Ceylon

What you see before you today in this demonstration at our Experimental Farm at Daluwakotuwa is how water could be extracted from the ground using tube wells made of:— (1) Bamboo; (2) Hollowed Arecanut Trunk; (3) Clay Pipes; (4) P. V. C. Pipes.

BAMBOO TUBE WELLS.

Basically a bamboo tube well is constructed by binding strips of bamboo round iron rings of specific diameter. The Bamboo strips are then tied together as close as possible to form a continuous pipe to the length desired. Thereafter a single layer of coir rope is tied round the bamboo as close as possible like the string tied round the handle of a cricket bat. The bottom is then sealed. Thereafter a hole is made in the ground to the desired depth (this operation would be described later), the bamboo introduced to the hole with about 2 ft. protruding from the ground. The space between the bamboo and the excavated hole is then filled with coarse sand up to about two feet from the surface of the ground. An old car or lorry tube is cut across in two then passed over the bamboo and one end is tied two feet below the ground and hermetically sealed and

then covered with sand to the level of the ground.

A hose pipe is then lowered through the bamboo to a level below the water, the car tube at the upper end is tied round the hose a pump attached to the other end of the hose and the water is then pumped out.

Cost:—

Two 25 ft. Bamboo Rs. 5/-
Iron rings Rs. 10/-
Labour Rs. 5/-
Coir rope Rs. 5/-
Cost per ft. Re. 1/-

HOLLOWED ARECANUT TRUNK TUBE WELL.

In this case we split the Arecanut Trunk into two and the centre pulp was removed. The bottom part of the two halves was split again. Thereafter the two halves were brought together and were tied with coir rope almost at every one and a half foot interval. The trunk was further split to correspond to the areas from which the water flows from the side with the help of a knife. In order to keep a spacing of about 1/10 th of an inch between a wedge of wood is inserted to the slit. The bottom of this was then sealed.

Then like in the previous case a hole was made in the ground to the desired depth, the Arecanut Trunk inserted to the hole, the space between covered with coarse sand and the car tube appropriately placed. The hose is then inserted to the hollow of the Arecanut Trunk and as before the water is pumped out.

Cost:—

30ft. tree Rs. 5/-
Clearing & preparation Rs. 5/-
Coir rope Rs. 2/-
Cost per ft. -/40 cts.

CLAY PIPE TUBE WELL. In this case the perforated clay pipe has to be specially made. In this instance the clay pipes are 3 1/2 inches in diameter and 1 1/2 feet in length with longitudinal perforation about 4 inches long and about 1/10th of an inch broad and spaced along the clay pipe. The clay pipes are also so made that there is a socket arrangement where one pipe fits into another with the inner side continuous with no interference inside. The clay pipes so made are then baked.

Once the hole is made in the ground to the desired depth the introduction of the clay pipe to the ground is a simple operation. About 3 clay pipes are in the first instance put together and three strips of bamboo or arecanut are tied round these three clay pipes with the bamboo strips protruding to a length equivalent to the depth of the hole. The first three clay pipes are lowered and then the other clay pipes

Tube Wells

are progressively fitted, tied to the three strips of bamboo and lowered to the desired depths. The top 4 clay pipes need not be perforated. Then as before a cut car tube is sent over the clay pipes fastened two feet below the ground, the space between the clay pipe and the ground then filled with coarse sand.

The hose pipe is lowered into the clay pipe and as before the water is pumped out.

Cost:—

1½ ft. tube Rs. 2.50
30 ft. strips Rs. 6/-
(-20 cts per ft.)
Coir rope for 30 ft. Rs. 2/-
Cost per ft. Rs. 2/-

P. V. C. TUBE WELL. In this instance we need 3 inch diameter down pipe (thickness 1/10 inch) normally used for draining out the water from the gutter of modern day houses. The bottom 12 ft. of the pipe was perforated with a saw (about 1/10" wide) at an angle of about 45° when the pipe is vertical and cut about an inch apart to lengths about 1½ inches. The top pipes were unperforated and joined to the lower pipe made on the ground and the pipe inserted, the car tube attached and the space around the pipe filled with coarse sand. The hose is then inserted into the pipe and the water pumped.

Cost:—

Rs. 4/- per ft.
Cost of perforation Rs. 1/-
(per ft.)
Joining Rs. 1/-
Cost per foot nearly
Rs. 5.50.

Nearly 90% of this cost is Foreign Exchange and hence will have to be discouraged.

DRILLING BORE HOLES IN SAND AND SOFT ROCK. The method adopted was a simple manual method. The bore hole would naturally depend on the diameter of the tube well. In this instance the tube wells had an average of 3½ inches in diameter, the bore hole was 8 inches in diameter.

The device called an Auger was used to remove the soil. The Auger is like a big spoon, cylindrical in shape and catches the soil which is removed to the surface. This gadget could be used till we reach water. When we reach water this cannot be used as the wet soil slips back into the hole. Also when the wet soil is reached the sides of the hole caves in and collapses.

In order to prevent collapsing of the side walls a cylindrical casing 8 inches in diameter is lowered into the hole with provision to lower and raise it to the desired level with a rope or cable arrangement.

This cylinder is progressively lowered and the soil within the cylinder scooped out. By this procedure the cylinder is lowered to water level. At water level the soil is moist and here it is necessary to use another gadget called a bailer, which is a 2" cylinder with a valve arrangement at the bottom to trap the moistened soil and bring it to the surface.

The (8 inch diameter) cylinder is progressively lowered till the upper surface of this cylinder is above water level. The cylinder used in the case was 8 ft. in height. In order to excavate to levels 8 ft. below the water surface it is necessary to lower another cylinder, this time about 7 inches in diameter and 8 ft. in length which is sent through this 8" diameter cylinder. The wet soil from this inner cylinder was then progressively removed with the help of a bailer as before and this 7" diameter cylinder progressively sent down to the next 8 ft.

When it was necessary to go still further then we use the 6" diameter cylinder and proceed as before. Once it is determined that the depth to which the ground was bored was sufficient, the relevant tube well (whether bamboo, Arecanut, Clay or P. V. C.) was lowered and first the lowest casing was removed slowly while the progressively coarse sand was added between the casing and the tube well. All the casings were removed in this manner to the surface.

Approx. cost of Boring in sand and soft rock for well 30 ft. 2 man days.

Skilled workers Rs. 15/-
per day
Hire of equipment Rs. 30/-
per day
Cost per foot approx. 2/-
per foot.

To this cost will also have to be added the cost of the old car tube and coarse sand

which is about Rs. 10/-. The transport of men and materials has also to be added to the cost and could vary with the location. There is no doubt that if the number of tube wells are done in the same area further economies are possible, because the economies of large scale will be in operation. i.e. same transport of men and materials for a number of tube wells reducing thereby the cost of transport of men and materials.

Approx. Cost of 30 ft. tube wells exclusive of Transport.

- (1) Bamboo Rs. 100/-
- (2) Arecanut Rs. 82/-
- (3) Clay pipes Rs. 130/-
- (4) P. V. C. Rs. 235/-

of which Rs. 150/- is in foreign exchange.

Cost per 1000 gallons worked out at neatly 50 cts. at the present price of petrol at Rs. 6.50 per gallon. With diesel or kerosene pumps the cost of water would be very much cheaper.

THE AVERAGE discharge from each of these tube wells in this farm is 15 gallons per minute or 900 gallons per hour at the height of the present drought. This is sufficient to irrigate 1 acre of paddy, 1/2 acres of chillies or 3 acres of onions.

The area of Sri Lanka where these types of tube wells that generally could be installed by manual boring methods comprises nearly 3300 square miles and are located in the accompanying map.

The construction of Bamboo and Arecanut tube wells are not economic in soft rock

areas other than in sandy areas as the cost of boring would be twice as more expensive as the boring and will take twice as long, hence a more permanent tube well like clay pipe would have to be used.

Since drilling in hard rock is very expensive it is important that permanent tube wells using preferably P. V. C. would have to be used since this is less liable to accidental damage and has better lasting qualities. However within the hard rock areas there are areas that contain patches of alluvial and colluvial materials that could be bored using manual procedure and fitting them with bamboo, arecanut or clay tube wells.

The key persons who assisted us in this project are Mr. Jussee Appu and his sons who are our neighbours in this farm, they fabricated the casing and other equipment and did the drilling. Master Potter Mr. Justin Jayakody and his assistant Indurage Dharmasena of Thopputota Kochchikade turned out the special pipes that have been used. The National Rural Conference wishes to place on record the assistance given by these individuals. There is no doubt that the development of our country could be accelerated by harnessing the skills of individuals like Juse Appu and Justin Jayakody who are available all over the country. It is up to us to assist them and encourage these practical and humble village folk who in turn would do a great service to our country. This

is one of the objectives of the National Rural Conference namely to harness the peasant at grass roots level for rural upliftment.

Underground Storm Mirrored in the Sky

Several seconds before the underground tremor which awoke the population of Tashkent at day-break on April 26, 1966, a glow illuminated the sky over the city. The nature of this phenomenon has now been explained: the sky reflected the storm in the depth of the earth.

Scientists discovered that electric currents are generated in the depth of the earth at a time of plastic deformation of mountain rock. These currents heat subterranean rockbeds, decrease their solidity and, to a certain extent, accelerate the rupture. Streams of electrons gush into the atmosphere and produce the glow in the sky.

Will the new discovery help to forecast earthquakes? Since the redistribution of charges in the earth-atmosphere system was registered a few hours before the earthquake, it follows that a short-term forecast is also possible.

CHRONICLE

JULY 24-28

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

TUESDAY, JULY 24: "PAKISTAN HAS TOUGH ASSIGNMENT IN US: CAN WE SATISFY IMF CRITERIA AND RESIST DEVALUATION?", is the title of the lead story the *Daily News* had on its front page. Mr. Felix Dias Bandaranaike, Minister of Public Administration, yesterday inaugurated a scheme to teach English through shramadana. The Minister of Foreign and Internal Trade Mr. T. B. Illangaratne, has issued instructions to all co-operative societies throughout the country that they should invest their "spare monies" to purchase shares that are available at Lake House. The Action Committee of the Tamil United Front has decided to launch a non-violent campaign in the North and East. At the CJC, inquiring into exchange frauds, a statement of Mr. Bhagawandas Hirdaramani was read: according to this statement, Mr. Hirdaramani has told Income Tax authorities that he had paid a sum of Rs. 500,000 as bribes to custom officers for the clearing of goods imported by Hirdaramani Ltd. According to the *Sun*, the import of Polish insulin—the subject of a raging controversy during the past several weeks—is being stopped immediately: in future the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation will switch back to a British product, *Boots* insulin. The first meeting of the boycott campaign against *Lake House* publications was held at the Galle Town Hall premises on Monday. After President Nixon refused the release of secret White House tape-recordings regarding Watergate, the Senate Committee inquiring into this scandal voted unanimously to serve a *subpoena* on the White House. The Libyan Cabinet of Prime Minister Abdel-Salam Jalloud has resigned. Poor weather conditions prevented France from holding her second Nuclear test in the 1973 series.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 25: The Prime Minister, Mrs. Bandaranaike leaves on Satur-

day for Ottawa to attend the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference, the first to be held since Britain's entry into the ECM. The Prime Minister, who is also Chairman of the National Planning Council, has assigned duties to various Ministers in the eight sectoral committees of the council. The Controller of Imports has released Rs. 25 million to the Sri Lanka State Trading Corporation for the import of a wide range of consumer items. An air service agreement between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany was signed in Colombo yesterday. A recently opened hall of residence at the Peradeniya campus has been officially named as Lenin Hall. Two officials from the World Bank and the IMF have arrived in Sri Lanka for talks with the Government. The price of seed paddy has been increased by Rs. 3/- the new price is Rs. 25/- a bushel. A Japan airlines plane which was seized by the pro-Palestinian guerillas on Friday was blown up shortly after it landed at Benghazi. The members of the crew and 140 passengers of the hijacked Jumbo jet are reported to be safe.

THURSDAY, JULY 26: Exports of Industrial products to Western Europe, the Middle-East and Asian countries have shot up by over Rs. 10 million in the first half of this year. The OPEC has raised the prices of crude oil by a further 25 per cent from July 24, according to the Chairman of the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation. The Action Committee of the Tamil United Front, in a statement has said that there was no alternative to launching a civil disobedience campaign to solve their problems. Mr. A. Amirthalingam, former MP for Vaddukodai, was unanimously elected President of the Federal Party. All proposals by Ministers will in future be examined by both the Ministry of Plan Implementation and the Ministry of Planning. According to a front page lead story in the *Sun*, Sri Lanka has sounded China about alternative imports in exchange for rubber, following moves to stop rice imports from next year. At a news conference held this morning, the Chairman of the State Film Corporation, Mr. L. Piyasena, has informed that from August 2, no person will be able to import, sell, distribute or supply any films or accessories necessary for the production

or exhibition of films without the written authority from the Chairman. The Palestine commando movement denounced the hijackers of the Japanese Boeing 747 airliner and pledged to uncover their identity.

FRIDAY, JULY 27: The Government Medical Officers' Association (GMOA) requested the Prime Minister for an inquiry to find out whether the DIG's orders in connection with the alleged assault on Dr. Conrad Wickramasinghe, DMO, Udugama hospital, had not been carried out. According to Housing Minister Mr. Pieter Keuneman's apartment ownership legislation, business houses can be divided into small units and sold. Instructions have been sent by the UNP to MPs and electoral organisers to recruit at least 5000 fee-paying members in each electorate. The JCTUO has decided to launch a counter campaign against the UNP's present move to boycott Lake House papers. The CTB has paid a total of Rs. 2,250,845 to 55 officers of the Board whose services were terminated after the General Elections of May, 1970. An ASP testifying before the CJC (Exchange) explained the discovery of one million rupees in a pillow case at the INGRA office at Polgolla work-site. UNP's Municipal Councillors representing five wards in Colombo North have submitted a joint memorandum to party leader, Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, urging him to pick the UNP nominee for the forthcoming by-election from the electorate itself. The Central Bank has announced that a new 50 rupee currency note bearing the portrait of Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike would be issued shortly. President Nixon again refused to furnish the tape recordings of secret White House conversations in response to a Senate subpoena. The hijackers of the Japan Airlines jumbo jet has told the pilot they had acted against American and Japanese imperialism, West German fascism and Israeli Zionism.

SATURDAY, JULY 28: The Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike leaves for Ottawa tonight to attend the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference. The Commissioner of Inland Revenue, Mr. C. Sivaprakasam, announced at a press conference yesterday that the Capital Levy announced in the first budget of the UF Government will be implemented from the third week of August. The CFTU,

the Trade Union Federation affiliated to the Communist Party, condemned the UNP's boycott campaign against Lake House papers in a press statement issued yesterday. France has ousted West Germany as the country which sent the largest number of tourists to Sri Lanka during the first six months of this year. The State Film Corporation will shortly purchase one hundred films from Western and East European countries for screening in the local theatre circuits. Hundred youths from Sri Lanka left for GDR to participate in the Tenth World Youth and Students' Festival which opened in East Berlin yesterday. The State Gem Corporation expects to earn over Rs. 135 million in foreign exchange during the gem amnesty period—August 1 to October 31. The Soviet Union and Bangladesh signed an agreement in Dacca, under which the Russians will supply 200,000 tons of wheat to help overcome Bangladesh's food crisis. President Nixon will comply with any Supreme Court ruling regarding his refusal to handover White House tapes and documents relating to the Watergate scandal. An Indonesian official has been sent a on rice buying mission to Europe Asia, and the US in the face of a possible food shortage. Pakistani President Bhutto called on India to join Pakistan in settling problems of the sub-continent on the basis of principles of friendship and justice.

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

BY ARIEL

✱ Middle East

✱ Cambodia

✱ Indian Subcontinent

*ARAB-ISRAELI WAR. These notes are being written on the 10th day of the conflict. The Egyptians have consolidated their positions on the eastern side of the Suez canal and they seem to be in a position to launch major offensives into the Sinai peninsula. According to the latest reports, the Egyptians are said to have made an advance of about 15 kilometres on the whole front, and have repeatedly launched fierce offensives, presumably to relieve the Israeli pressure on the Syrian front, where the Israelis have broken through the Golan Heights ceasefire line and had advanced sufficiently on a fanned-out 60 mile front to threaten the city of Damascus itself. There are varying reports as to how close the Israeli forces are to Damascus, but there is no doubt that the Israeli threat to the Syrian capital is real, and that is probably the reason why Jordan, Iraq, Morocco and even Saudi Arabia have committed their troops to the Syrian front. King Feisal of Saudi Arabia has promised to give Syria \$1,000 million to make good

the damage done by Israeli bombing and the fighting.

The fear which the Israelis had of a war with a combination of all the Arab countries has become a fact; and the hawks in Israel who refused to negotiate a compromise settlement, returning the territory captured in 1967 consistent with national integrity and security, are probably the chief culprits for this war. It must be also remembered that the hawks in Israeli would not have been able to prevail if the ultras among the Arabs had not proclaimed that Israel should be liquidated as a state and that all Jews and Zionists should be driven into the sea. Between the hawks in Israel and the ultras in the Arab countries, no negotiated political settlement had been achieved in the last six years after the six-day war of June 1967.

The USA as well as the USSR are proceeding most cautiously although each side has begun to despatch a supply of arms to Israel and the Arab countries respectively. The danger is that such involvement may tend to escalate the war. Before that should happen, it will be in the interests of humanity if a ceasefire is achieved to enable a negotiated political settlement to be arrived at. The hawks in Israel can no longer have their own way, although the ultras among the Arabs may now want to get their pound of flesh, but men like King Feisal, Bourguiba and others will probably provide a sobering influence on the Arab ultras.

If the current Arab-Israelis conflict does not end soon, the danger of an escalated war will grow, but what is even more certain is that oil supplies from this region will be disrupted and this will cause immense difficulties to production and life in practically all advanced, developing and even under-developed countries of the world.

*THE SIHANOUK PUZZLE. In the third week of September, Prince Sihanouk confirmed in a press interview in Peking what he had proclaimed to newspaper correspondents at Algiers during the summit conference: that China and North Vietnam had stopped all military aid to the "patriotic forces" in Cambodia and that as a result they were not able to take Phnom Penh immediately. He also said certain political groups inside Cambodia wanted him to return to head a coalition government, but he was not willing to agree to such a compromise which was favoured by the USA, USSR and France.

He had told the AFP correspondent in Peking: "I do not criticise China. I do not criticise North Vietnam. I understand perfectly the motivations of each of them. Now, peace is more or less in fashion, so we are somewhat outmoded, but to sign a peace is impossible, for that would be to sign the division of Cambodia."

He had said that "after a small delivery of ammunition several weeks ago, North Vietnam had again halted its

deliveries which already had been interrupted following the signature of the Vietnam Peace Agreements in January. It was because of a lack of ammunition that the popular forces had to evacuate Kompong Cham after having taken "three quarters of the city" He had gone on to say that "if supplies are continually denied to us, we will not be able to take Phnom Penh." But, he consoled himself: "...but you will see that we will still not disappear just like that. We occupy more than 90 percent of Cambodia, and you will see that they are incapable of recapturing any zone which we have already liberated."

The *Far Eastern Economic Review* of October 1 deals fairly exhaustively with this matter. The following is a comment in its *Intelligence* column with the heading *Sihanouk's Calculated Indiscretion*: "Prince Sihanouk has denounced North Vietnam and China for cutting back their aid for his bid to regain power. However, the word from official Chinese circles is that this indiscretion was a calculated move. The Chinese should have been outraged by Sihanouk sounding off in Algeria about China's lack of enthusiasm for his cause as Peking is using the same charge to beat the Soviet Union over the head. That Peking was quite unfazed by the affair was demonstrated when Chou En-lai and virtually every notable in Peking (apart from Mao Tse-tung himself) turned out to welcome the Prince on his return from Algeria. The Chinese are aware that after

his long sojourn in Peking, Sihanouk can easily be accused of having become a Chinese puppet. Criticism of China means that he has re-established his independent status, a matter of considerable importance in Cambodian politics."

The same issue of the *Far Eastern Economic Review* had a full-length article entitled, "Sihanouk: Victim of Detente". The editorial note introducing the article shows the trend of thinking about the latest Sihanouk gimmick. This is what the note said: "He was always known for the spontaneous comment, the unexpected demarche. It was nevertheless unusual for Norodom Sihanouk in exile to accuse China and North Vietnam of virtual betrayal and worse, of collusion with America. The bluntness with which he spoke to the press in Algiers and in Peking itself raised the question of whether Indochina's revolutionary forces had begun pulling in different directions with the first light of peace. But nothing is that simple when it comes to Sihanouk, or the master diplomats of Peking and Hanoi for that matter. For some time it was generally believed that the communists' decision not to take Phnom Penh was a sensible political one, that the policy of encirclement from the countryside was being carried out effectively by the Khmer guerillas. Why then was Sihanouk suddenly bemoaning the inability of the guerillas to defeat Cambodia's ragtag army—especially when American air action had ceased and Lon Nol was still pleading for

negotiations. Was Sihanouk encouraged to do so by his allies whose aim was to strengthen their bargaining position vis a vis the US by proving their commitment to peace? Sihanouk answered many questions He raised some new ones. At the end of the exercise, it was far from clear that the Khmer communists were as weak or helpless as he claimed. All that was clear was that the new peace game in Indochina was becoming more curious and complex than most observers had thought."

* THE INDIAN SUB-CONTINENT. The growing detente and relaxation of tension on the Indian sub continent is something to be greatly welcomed. The agreement concluded in New Delhi in August has already been put into operation. The three-way repatriation programme has already got under way.

The Delhi agreement provides for the repatriation of all the Bengalis in Pakistan, estimated around 150,000. But many of them, especially self-employed people and their families, who account for two-thirds of the total, may choose to remain in Pakistan rather than face an uncertain future in Bangladesh. Sheik Mujib is offering repatriated Bengalis very little to get started on: a grant of about Rs. 100 and a few days free hospitality in transit camps in Dacca, Chittagong and Jessore, and free transport to their homes, if they have any homes. Government officials will get a month's salary in advance, plus a month's leave.

Pakistan is expected to act liberally towards the Bengalis who chose not to go to Bangladesh in the hope of using this as an argument against having to accept too many non-Bengalis from Bangladesh. It is known that Mr. Bhutto has privately indicated that he would be able to take back about 80,000 non-Bengalis (mainly from divided families, federal employees, those resident formerly in the western region now Pakistan and "hardship cases" meaning, those politically unacceptable to Sheik Mujib because of their role in the civil war.) This will leave some 500,000 non-Bengalis in Bangladesh-half of whom have declared they want to leave. It is expected that the selection of the first 20,000 Biharis will not be difficult because they are of indisputable west Pakistan origin, but after that, selection will be difficult.

This repatriation exercise will take many months. Ships have to be arranged for the bulk of the transfers, and money has to be raised to finance the operation. In the meantime, the problems within Bangladesh, mainly stirred by the ultras and naxalite-minded maoist forces under the leadership of ageing pro-China Moulana Bashani have become a headache not only to Sheik Mujibur but also to Mrs. Indira Gandhi. The same forces, also under maoist inspiration, have begun to create trouble in the north-eastern region and states of India. Reports in the Indian and Bangladesh papers state that these activities are masterminded from abroad

through organisations known as the "Maoist Communist Centre," "Mukti Yuddha" and other centres organised by the Bashani group.

There is a new spurt of maoist naxalite activity in West Bengal, and more especially in the jungles on the India-Bangladesh border and also in the north-eastern hill regions. Additionally, such extreme groups have also begun to function in the forests bordering the junction of the state boundaries of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. This new jungle stronghold is linked to similar extremist maoist strongholds in Bangladesh. Advantage is no doubt taken of the fact that the border regulations between India and Bangladesh are not strict.

In India, the leadership of the loyal Maoist elements has passed on to Suren Bose after the death of Charu Mazumdar, but there has been a great deal of confusion among Mazumdar's followers and in order to bring some kind of ideological cohesion a new magazine called *Liberation* is being published in a major attempt to unite all Maoist groups in India, on the one hand, and in Bangladesh, on the other. The Indian government, naturally enough, has begun to take police action against these extremist groups in the jungles of West Bengal, the North-east region and in other parts. These groups, on the run, take refuge in the vast unpoliced areas of Bangladesh.

India has experienced very great trouble in the past from the terrorist underground movement in Naga-

land, many of whose leaders are said to have received military training in China. Reports have appeared in Indian papers that a new insurgent force of about 1000 trained men has emerged on the frontiers ready to take orders from Phizop's revolutionary Naga Federal Government. This "underground government" has already instructed its supporters "to activise armed conflicts."

These are among the many problems which face India at this juncture. Apart from internal matters, India has the problem of securing the goodwill of its smaller neighbours, Nepal, Burma, Sri Lanka and even client states like Sikkim and Bhutan. Some of these smaller countries have tended to tilt towards Pakistan because, like them, Pakistan is smaller than India. India, therefore, to allay these fears, has to adopt a generous attitude towards Pakistan, because many of these smaller countries seem to judge India's intentions on the basis of how India treats Pakistan.

All this must be viewed in the new phase where bilateral competition between India and Pakistan has been replaced by a more complex game in which an attempt is being made to get the smaller nations of South Asia to "gang up" against India. Pakistan will certainly, with the help of China, try to exploit this situation, but for sometime, Pakistan will not be in a position to challenge India on the battlefield.

ON THE FOOD FRONT

What LSSP Said Twenty Years Ago

By KUBERA

With the slashing of the rice ration and other drastic measures taken by the Government, the battle for achieving self-sufficiency in the matter of our food is on in real earnest.

A number of Government MPs, it is reported, have pressed for a review of the tough measures now in operation in regard to rice, flour and bread. These MPs have been pacified with the assurance that their sentiments would be taken into consideration at the next Cabinet meeting.

THE UNP in a resolution adopted by its Working Committee, has stated that "none of these measures would have become necessary if after the General Election this Government had not dismantled the food drive inaugurated by the UNP Government of Mr. Dudley Senanayake from 1965-70. Among the accusations it has levelled against the Government on this score are:

- (1) failure to prepare food production plans at village levels
- (2) removal of specially selected officers and transfer of village cultivation officers
- (3) taking away from peasant cultivators the incentive to cultivate
- (4) disbandment of the Land Army, etc. etc.

But, let it be noted, the UNP has called upon the people "to cultivate such crops as they can to avoid the danger of famine for themselves and their children."

Mr. W. Dahanayake first called for the formation of a

National Government to tide over the crisis. Then, apparently, he changed his mind and called for the resignation of the Government and the conferment of full power on Mr. J. R. Jayewardene as the only man capable of delivering the goods in the present situation.

The latter too, at a meeting in the Hiriyala electorate, blamed the Government for the present crisis and added that "it would not be a difficult task to build up a happy and healthy nation if the UNP was voted back to power." (Sun, 3/10)

THE UNP and other Opposition parties have moved a vote of no-confidence on the Government for its recent measures. In this debate Government spokesmen had justified the present harsh measures on the ground that there was a world shortage of foodstuffs, while Opposition speakers had pooh-poohed the idea and argued that there was no serious food crisis in the world. The no-confidence motion has been lost, as expected, by a big majority - only 19 members

voting for it while 105 had voted against.

The new measures of the Government have figured in a big way at the election campaign meetings held in the Colombo North electorate. T. B. Subasinghe, Minister of Industries and Scientific Affairs, has told a meeting that the fact that the Government was holding this by-election at a time when it had taken these drastic, unpopular measures showed its true dedication to democracy.

But the most interesting statement in Colombo North has been made by Leslie Goonewardene, Minister of Transport, who has said: "When the UNP Government increased the bus fares and the price of rice we objected to it and pointed out as to what measures should be adopted to bring in revenue without increasing the bus fares and the price of rice. As they did not pay any heed to our suggestions we staged a hartal in protest and also ousted the Government."

It is interesting to recall what the LSSP's proposed measures were to tide over the food crisis that loomed over the island 20 years ago and see for ourselves whether even the present Government in which the LSSP is represented has put into effect what it prescribed when in the Opposition.

THE LSSP suggestions were published in a booklet entitled *The Fight on the Food Front*. It is said: "The first principal way which we pro-

pose is to cut down all wasteful expenditure and cut down all expenditure which is not urgent." Can it be said that action along these lines has been taken by the present Government? Many would say "No."

"The second principal way which we propose for finding the necessary money to prevent any raising of the price of ration - rice is to increase the income tax on the really big profit-makers." Concretely, the LSSP suggested raising the rate of taxation from 30 per cent to 50 per cent on all company profits exceeding one lakh, and steeply grading the taxation rates on individual incomes above Rs. 25,000,

In this regard, of course, the United Front Government has done even better than it promised, for it has not only raised the rates of taxation as promised, it has even imposed a capital levy and the ceiling on individual incomes, not to speak of the land ceiling and the ceiling on the ownership of houses.

The two principal method mentioned above were proposed, the LSSP booklet said, "solely as a means of preventing any immediate increase in the price of ration-rice. They do not, of course, solve the problems of an adequate supply of rice. This requires other and different measures." These measures were, described in, a section entitled "For war measures in the food war."

It was stated here: "The first point to carry in mind here is that the problem of an adequate rice supply is urgent and immediate. We

cannot wait for long-term measures to bring distant results. We require immediate measures which will bring quick results. The situation we face is one of emergency and not mere difficulty.

"Emergency situations demand emergency measures. The first step to be taken therefore is to restore the war-time emergency food regulations. After all, the war on the food front is also a war for existence. We cannot conduct this war with any less severity than the last alleged war for our existence."

THE LSSP wanted the Government to compel every plantation-owner to grow food crops on a specified proportion of his acreage. This the present Government has already done. The LSSP also wanted to ensure that all food produced goes to the public use and not into the hands of private profiteers. The Government has still to issue emergency regulations to ensure the attainment of this laudable object.

Among the other measures suggested by the LSSP was one to take over for public cultivation "all fields which their owners fail to cultivate without sufficient reason. The present Government has armed itself with such powers. But to what extent it has used it for the purpose of increasing food production, we do not know.

The LSSP booklet went on; "But Government must help the private food producer too. No owner can be blamed

if Government fails to do its own job in providing necessary irrigation facilities etc. or if he is too poor to get the maximum crop from his land. Government must therefore, in the first place, supply free seed paddy and manure to cultivators as it did during the war. Further Government must help private owners to bring back into cultivation lands which have gone out of production."

Elaborating on this last point, the LSSP said that thousands of acres of food-producing lands in populated areas have been allowed to go out of cultivation as a result of clogged channels, salt water seepage, weeds, and the like. These lands were not in contiguous stretches but in a multitude of scattered little extents which would require only little sums of money to restore. Concentrating on these lands would help increase, food production quickly. This a good piece of advice that the present Government would do well to take and implement.

The last point referred to Government prosecution of people cultivating Crown lands without permission. The booklet said: "Government can not only stop press prosecutions; it can also encourage peasants to cultivate available Crown lands which can be brought under food production. After all, we did this during the war; and this too is a war on the food front."



RAMBLING NOTES

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

✱ Middle East War

ON THE TENTH DAY of the current Arab-Israeli war, which had erupted on October 6, ten Arab states had formally declared war on Israel and joined the troops of Egypt and Syria in the fighting. Except for the troops of Jordan and Iraq which are fighting the Israelis on the Syrian front in numbers, the military support from the other states is so far only symbolic. It is also significant that Jordan is fighting the Israelis on Syrian soil and that it has not yet opened a front along its own frontier with Israel.

On the tenth day of the fighting a number of significant factors have emerged. *First*, this war is not likely to reach finality within a short time on the battlefield. It is not another six day war. *Second*, for the first time the Arabs have shown strength and competence on the battlefield. In all the Arab-Israeli wars before, 1948, 1956 and 1967, the Egyptians, Syrians and Jordanians proved to be poor soldiers who did not show competence in the use of sophisticated equipment. In the ten days of fighting so far, the Arabs have shown that they are the equals of the Israelis on the battlefield. In fact, they took the Israelis

by surprise with a pre-emptive strike and put them on the defensive on both the Sinai and Golan Heights front. Though the Israelis were able to take the counter-offensive on the Golan Heights front and stage a much published drive on Damascus, they have not been able to contain the Egyptian drive into Sinai after the Egyptians had crossed the Suez Canal. *Third*, though the Israeli air force still dominates the air, both the Egyptians and Syrians have shown great competence in bringing down a sizable number of Israeli planes using sophisticated Russian missiles. The number of planes brought down have been large enough for the US to rush replacements.

Fourth, Russia was reported to have airlifted military supplies to Syria and Egypt to replace what had been destroyed by Israeli bombing and the US thereafter announced that it had begun sending replacements to Israel mainly ammunition and planes. *Fifth*, for the first time, all Arab states have come together and a unity which Nasser was never able to achieve has been successfully forged by Sadat. Furthermore Sadat has created a better fighting machine, no

doubt with Russian equipment and advisers, than Nasser was able to put together either in 1956 or 1967. With the ten days of fighting, Sadat's prestige has skyrocketed, and even if there is a ceasefire within a few days on a new line, Sadat's stock will be very high. *Sixth*, Israel stands isolated in the Middle East, and Arab states which had earlier been favourable to Israel (like Jordan, Tunisia and Saudi Arabia) have now joined the Arab unity front. *Seventh*, the United States, as the big power which had backed and still backs Israel shares in the same isolation, and oil rich Arab states have even threatened to increase the oil squeeze on the US. *Eighth*, West European nations have taken a cautiously neutral stand and some have even tilted a little in favour of the Arabs in spite of the powerful Jewish lobbies in some of those countries.

Ninth, Jews in the United States are said to have collected over \$ 1,000 million for Israel within a week, and King Feisal has sought to match this with a similar contribution to Syria which suffered immense damage in the fighting. *Tenth*, the Arab Unity League's economic unit, an off-shoot of the Arab League, has recommended that all Arab states should give 15% of their military budget to Egypt and Syria which have so far borne the brunt of the fighting.

THIS SUGGESTION of a 15% contribution is reminiscent of the USSR's proposal in the recent UN As-

sembly sessions that all states should reduce their military budgets by 10% and use this amount to help the economic development plans of developing and under-developed countries. This proposal by the Soviet Union has been welcomed by nearly all Third World countries in the non-aligned bloc. Some of the bigger powers have received this proposal with scepticism stating that the real value of the Soviet military budget was not known. No US comment has yet been forthcoming, but China has denounced this as another piece of Soviet revisionism.

In the meantime, the US has taken the initiative in the Security Council to bring about a cease-fire in the Middle East War. In the first ten days, no headway was made, and no sponsors could be found to propose a ceasefire plan.

But ten days after the fighting, and after the Arabs had established the fact they were capable of successfully fighting a war and had demolished the myth of Israeli invincibility (based on their beating the Arabs in a lightning six-day war), there are hints, at the time of writing, that the US and the USSR may jointly sponsor a ceasefire plan or a *stay-where-you-are-basis*. This may not suit the hawks in Israel, including Moshe Dayan, who want the Arabs driven back to the 1967 lines. This ceasefire plan may also not be successful until the Arabs push the Israelis back to the 1967 Golan Heights line, but even a new line in Syria will not be disadvantageous to Arabs

if on the Sinai the new line is fixed twenty or thirty kilometres east of the Canal well behind the Bar-Lev "maginot" line.

It would be to the advantage of the Arabs to negotiate from a vantage point of military strength without undergoing the costly experience of a long war of attrition. This has been very clearly brought out in comments of competent observers all over the world.

One of the very best of analytical articles on the Arab-Israeli appeared in the *Daily News* on October 8. It was written by editor-in-chief Mervyn de Silva. In a readable and fluent article, he summed up the basic points relevant to the conflict. It was perhaps the only objectively written and exhaustively informative article on the Arab-Israeli war in the daily press in Sri Lanka.

The *Daily News* was cautious in its news reporting of the war, but the Islamic Socialist Front of Sri Lanka seems to have taken umbrage at what it called the "pro-Israeli" stance of the *Daily News*. The *Janawegaya* has, in its latest issue, slated the *Daily News* about its pro-Israeli stand.

Though the Government of Sri Lanka has taken a pro-Arab stand, it was cautious in the use of words. There has been no abuse of the the Israeli aggressors, and the support for the Arab cause was couched in very diplomatic language.

IN THAILAND, the tyrannical military dictatorship of

Field Marshal Kittikachorn and his military colleagues has been overthrown as a result of a week-long student upheaval. The military and the police were not able to contain the student revolt which seemed to have popular support. Kittikachorn and his closest colleagues are reported to have secretly fled the country. The students want a new democratic constitution to be put into operation and a University Rector has been appointed the new Prime Minister.

In Chile, the military junta which overthrew Allende has gone on the rampage. It has already covered Chile with a bloodbath which has shocked even diehard conservatives in the USA. The *Newsweek* in a recent article has shown the depth and extent of the depravity of the ruthless massacres committed by the junta. The US has been officially at pains to point out that it had no hand in the coup and the US Congress has threatened to cut off all aid to the new military junta unless it stopped its blood-thirsty political witch hunts.

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IS IT TRUE?

Sherlock Holmes

* For a Come-Back?

* Lake House * Times

IS IT TRUE that an organisation known as the SRI LANKA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION had suddenly emerged from the shadows and that it had successfully persuaded a European Foundation that it was the only organisation which could competently co-sponsor a comprehensive project in the field of journalism? That a *fait accompli* had very nearly been accomplished? That the unexpected slip between the cup and the lip had given the European sponsors the creeps? That this project has now been called off? That many in the newspaper world are anxious to know the personalities behind the Sri Lanka Newspaper Association? That there is an element of mystery behind it all? That all clues lead to a long forgotten VIP in the newspaper world who had been on top during the fifties and the early sixties? That this personage had later proliferated into the international publishing world? That in retirement, now in the salubrious climate of Colombo, this new Association was a brain child in order to stage a kind of comeback? That this once again shows many people, who have been on top of their world in their day, do not know when to

retire gracefully and make a stately exit?

* * *

IS IT NOT TRUE that a new appointment was made this week to the new hierarchy in Lake House which will inspire some kind of confidence among people who know something about how a newspaper combine should be run? That this is the first appointment since the take over of a person of some maturity who knows the ropes of the newspaper world from the inside as well as from the top? That all earlier appointments were either of people who were totally ignorant of the tricky business of newspaper management or production? That a few appointments of persons who had a journalistic flavouring were persons who were committed political workers with a particular -ism motivating all their thinking and actions? That partisan political journalists committed to a particular school will create many new problems especially in a country of multi-political trends and groups? That a big newspaper combine needs journalists of a kind who are detached from commitments to particular isms? That the

new selectee also knows that governmental information should not obtrude on people if it is to be successful? That his natural affability has infused the spirit of true public relations into his system? That it is to be hoped that he will be able to bring some change in the atmosphere which now prevails in the new Lake House? That it is also to be hoped that the new vested interests, which have already begun to entrench themselves in this semi-state organisation, will not compel the new appointee to quit in disgust? That even before he took his seat in Lake House a whisper campaign was launched in a big way decrying his presence? That some of the new elite have been passing the word around so that it reaches this column through various devious ways? That it will be interesting to see how the dialectical process of change within Lake House will now proceed?

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IS IT NOT TRUE that the battle for the control of the ownership of the *Times of Ceylon Ltd.* is slowly grinding along through legal contests, which even though it may take time, will in the end cause surprises to those who are now on top? That basking in governmental favour through tourism and by stooping to say what governmental papers are shy to proclaim can only provide an ephemeral halo of temporary importance? That people in the know are watching the situation with interest? That there is speculation as to how long shooting stars last in shifting firmaments?