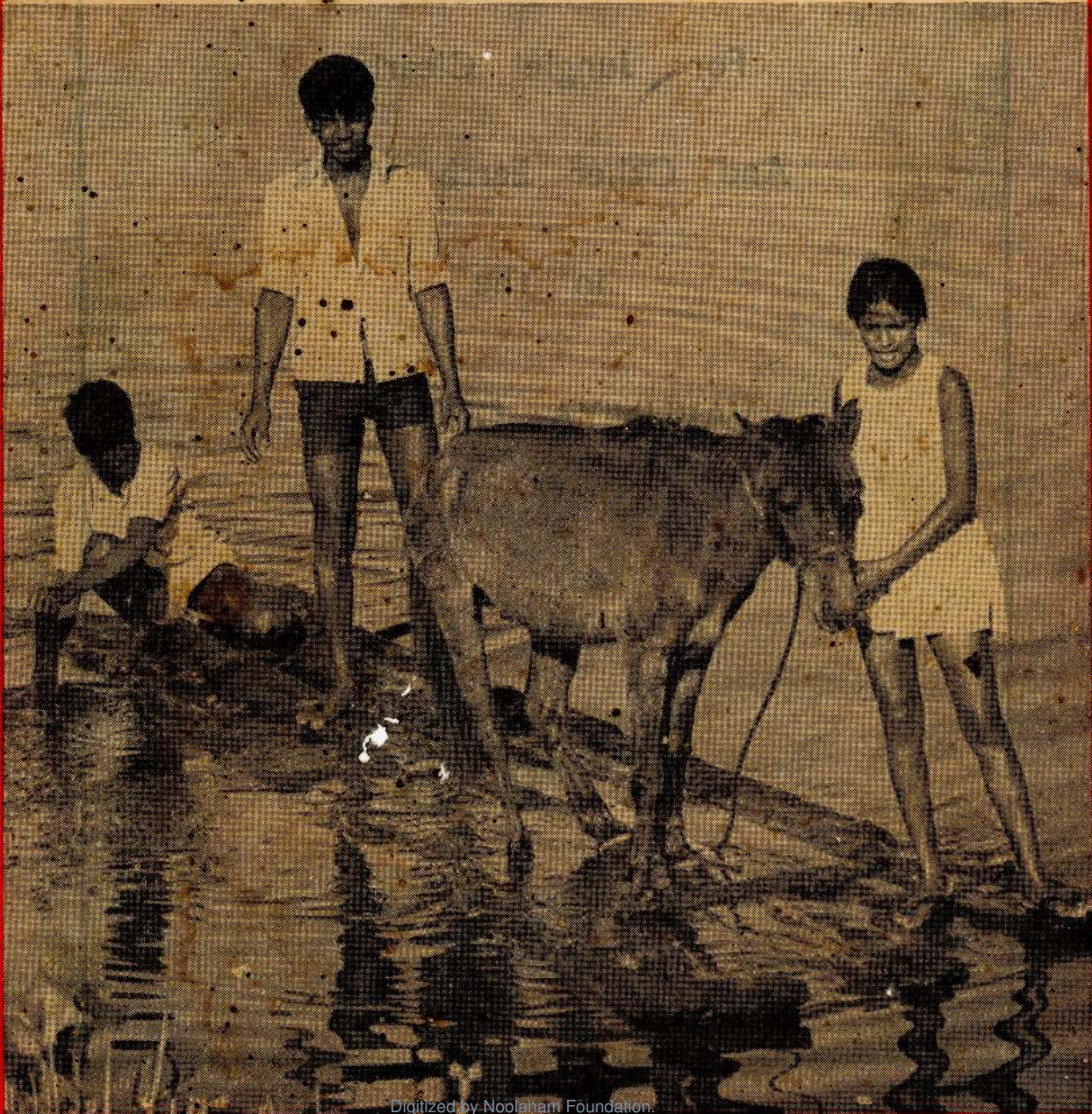


# TRIBUNE



Vol. 20 1/2 October 11, 1973. Cost - 75

REVENUE  
OFFICE

# EARTH MOVERS

For Jungle Clearing  
And Other Earth Work  
in the  
VAVUNIYA DISTRICT

Contact:

**G & S**

128th Mile Kandy - Jaffna Road,  
PULIYANKULAM.

# TRIBUNE

Founded In 1954

A Journal of Ceylon and  
World Affairs

Editor. S. P. Amarasingam

Every Saturday

October 11, 1975

Vol. 20, No. 21

TRIBUNE,

43, DAWSON STREET,

COLOMBO - 2,

Telephone: 33172

## CONTENTS

### EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

—Self-sufficiency In Food ? p. 2

### CHRONICLE

—Sept. 26—Oct. 2 p. 4

### LETTERS

—On Tribune p. 7

### IN TAMIL NADU

—Mango Pests p. 7

### UNITED FRONTS

—In Retrospect p. 8

### CHINESE ASTROLOGY

—Moon Calendar p. 9

### VILLAGE HOUSE—52

—One Year p. 11

### DEATH OF A MONKEY

—Soliloquy p. 13

### KAZI—24

—Kataragama p. 14

### INANIA

—Wanted An Ombudsman p. 15

### WATER RESOURCES

—In Jaffna p. 16

### LIBERATION OF TEA

—Work Project p. 17

### SOCIAL REVOLUTION

—Study Seminar p. 18

### LIONS OF KOTAHENA

—Slum Project p. 18

### AGRICULTURE

—Quality Jak p. 19

### CONFIDENTIALLY

—Minister KBR p. 20

## Letter From The Editor

ON THE COVER this week we have a picture which observant residents in the city of Colombo would recognise as a familiar sight on that part of the Beira Lake which lies between General Lake's Road (now Sir James Peiris Mawatte) and the Galle Face stretch of land. Almost in the middle of this patch of water, almost opposite the entrance to the well-known Colombo Commercial Company, is a small island which for countless years had been regarded as a snake-infested uninhabitable wasteland. Older residents of the city will remember that nearly three decades ago an enterprising Tamil member of the working class, Sinnasamy by name if our memory serves us right, married to a beautiful Sinhalese lady of the proletariat, hit upon a plan to solve his housing problem by reclaiming this tiny fragment of Mother Earth from the snakes and the scorpions. It was hard work which had earned the plaudits of all and sundry at that time and romantic write-ups had appeared in the newspapers from time to time about the way this tiny plot was made a garden with a rammed earth thatched hut around which coconut trees had been planted. Sinnasamy and his wife had settled down on the island and no doubt raised a family. Over the years the coconut palms had grown up to bear nuts. A small raft had provided the transport between the island and the mainland and unnoticed it was found that a few small horses or ponies (probably offspring of Delft stock) were ferried over from time to time for stabling on the island. These ponies were used to provide rides on Galle Face Green and other places for children. It was a new trade launched by young entrepreneurs of Slave Island. Colombo residents will also remember that about ten years, when the UNP was in power (1965-70), rich entrepreneurs from Cinnamon Gardens seeking to ride the crest of the tourist promotion campaign the Government had launched, had sought to induce the UNP-controlled Municipal Council of Colombo to evict Sinnasamy and family from this island on the Beira in order to enable big-time hoteliers to set up a beer garden and a tourist sit-in to earn foreign exchange. It was argued that the island was part of Municipal property and that Sinnasamy was only an unauthorised squatter who could be thrown out at the will and pleasure of the Municipal authorities. Legalists had argued that prescription could never be claimed by Sinnasamy because generally speaking prescription never ran against the Crown (or a Municipality) and even if it did under some systems of law it was only in respect of a period of time far more than what Sinnasamy could claim. The fact that Sinnasamy's wife was Sinhalese and that his children were Ceylonese (or now Sri Lankans) prevented anti-Tamil (or anti-Indian stateless) logic being made a smokescreen to make it possible for the rich entrepreneurs to have the day. Sinnasamy and his friends had argued that they were not squatters and that they could not (and should not) be forcibly evicted from the island to make way for Cinnamon Garden folk. Anti-UNP politicians (since 1970 they are in the seats of power) had taken up the cause of Sinnasamy and family and they had raised a mini-furore which had prevented the Municipal Council from taking over the island. In the meantime, whilst this controversy about the right of the Municipality to extend its jurisdiction over this little island (much more fertile and productive than Kachchativu) went into cold storage after a blaze of newspaper publicity, salvinia (the dreaded water hyacinth) took over, and the waters surrounding this island were covered with a green verdure through which a passage had to be cut to take the raft to and from the island. And today, in another bout of tourist promotion fervour, this stretch of water has been cleared of the salvinia after much labour and expense, and the authorities appear to have decided to convert this lake into a salt water inlet by manipulating the Galle Face spillway in suitable manner. This, it is said, will banish the salvinia for ever and remove an eyesore from the sights (and smells) of the city. But how are the authorities proposing to remove the inhabitants of the island to build a tourist complex on the place? Will they offer such generous and adequate compensation that Sinnasamy (if he is still about), or his family, or his heirs and successors, will move out to other surroundings? Or will a Mayor who is playing ball with the Central Government force the issue and evict the inhabitants in order to build a bar and restaurant for the private sector (or even the public sector) in the tourist business to chase the mirage of foreign exchange (or at least devalued local currency)? In this connection, it will be wise for the Municipality and the Government to keep in mind the troubles which have overtaken the powerful governments of Britain and the United States because they had evicted a thousand residents of the island of Diego Garcia ten years ago to enable the Pentagon to build a naval and air base. There is today a Third World uproar about Diego Garcia.

## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Food  
Production

NOBODY IS HUNGRY today in Sri Lanka thanks to PL 480 wheat flour. But this is not a matter for self-satisfaction. The availability of bread and flour has brought the price of rice down in certain paddy growing areas, but rice still fetches very high prices in deficit-areas like Jaffna where bread and flour have not caught on as much as in other areas. Imports of PL 480 flour certainly prevented a major food crisis in Sri Lanka beginning from March/April this year. But these imports, as we have mentioned on many occasions, have had a most deleterious effect on food production.

Owing to the partial drought of 1973 and the total drought of 1974 in the dry zone paddy bowl of Ceylon, many farmers had switched to subsidiary cereals and yams like sorghum, kurakkan, maize, manioc and battala. The cost of production was very high last year owing to the drought and the farmers had expected a premium price for these products. But, the PL 480 imports had a very depressing effect on the prices of these commodities and it was only late in the day that the Government decided to offer a guaranteed price for them through the PMB. The guaranteed price was, no doubt, better than the throw away prices these products had fetched but they were certainly not prices that were capable of either sustaining old production levels or generating increased production.

Worse than all this is that there seems to have descended a dangerous apathy up on the entire bureaucratic machine responsible for agricultural production in the country. This may be partly a reaction to the sullen distrust of officialdom that has gripped the farming community. It is now difficult to predict what will happen in the field of agricultural production this year. There are open manifestations of hypocritical enthusiasm when Minis-

ters go on circuit, but there is a sense of continuing uncertainty and insecurity among farmers which is against the national interest. Farmers will endeavour to produce just enough for the needs of their families (with a little cash surplus), but there does not seem to be any enthusiasm to plunge into uninhibited total production. In many areas, genuine farmers seem to feel that it would better to earn a little (even if paid in kind, viz PL 480 flour) from Relief Work (unnecessarily widening roads, cutting grass and shrubs besides main roads and the like) rather than enter of the gamble of investing their time, money and energy on cultivating their lands. Bureaucrats, unfortunately, write flattering reports which prevent Ministers and others from knowing the real situation in the countryside. Until political power is able to break through the iron curtain of bureaucratic reports agricultural production will stagnate.

Apart from the regular farming community which alone is today capable of producing food crops, on a profitable and economic basis, we now have a new class of "farmers" brought into being as a result of the Land Reform Law. Whatever is said about the sociopolitical consequences of this change and the new breed of "farmers" who have emerged in the State Farms, Janawasas, Co-operative Farms, Collective Farms, Youth Council Farms, DDC Farms and the like, it is not likely that they will be able to contribute to the productive effort in a manner commensurate to the loss in production (however temporary) as a result of Land Reform.

It is not about Land Reform we complain. It is an essential reform, but our grievance is that Land Reform was implemented as a political exercise without any consideration for economic development. It is not that we opposed (or oppose) Land Reform, but we have always stressed that in this instance the cart was put before the horse. Before land was taken over adequate plans should have been ready to continue the subsisting production without any disruption, but this was not done. And, we have always expressed

fears that exercise of power for purely political purposes often boomerangs on the economy. In Soviet Russia and China land reform was carried out in stages (although there was a general proclamation after the Revolution that all land, like everything else, belonged to the State) in a way that economic considerations played a dominant role.

The Government has a very heavy responsibility in this matter and primarily now it has to pull the chestnuts out of the fire (so far as production is concerned) caused by Land Reform. How this will be done is anybody's guess, but unless it is done, and done soon, agricultural production will lag behind and self-sufficiency will not be attained. In addition to the public and semi-public organisations which have grown up as a result of Land Reform, we also have a new class of "allottees" to whom small parcels of land have been handed out (and who will soon be called upon to buy them). Politicians and officials call them the new small peasantry. This would be true of those who have come from the class of landless peasants or agricultural labourers. But there is an even larger group of persons who have been given land for political considerations—in the hope that the ownership of land would induce them to plunge into agricultural production. How the Government hopes to train these disparate elements in the techniques of agricultural production is yet to be seen, but these complex problems will not be easy of solution for this or any other Government.

IN THE MEANTIME, when the imports of PL 480 flour slow down or stop, the question of hunger will loom large on the horizon of Sri Lanka—unless the Government, through a superhuman effort, is able to induce unparalleled enthusiasm for agriculture that would make this country self-sufficient. Admittedly, the problem of food production is a worldwide one. The problem of hunger is global. That is why leading international experts in the fields of agriculture, food science and technology and human nutrition had met in a five-day conference in Tokyo in the last week of September under the auspices of the newly established United Nations University. This Conference of

## Bureaucratic Stranglehold

experts was called upon to recommend strategies the University should follow to help in finding solutions to the critical problems of world hunger.

The opening of this important conference also marked the formal inauguration of the United Nations University as an institution in its quest to find solutions to pressing problems of human survival, development and welfare. The meeting on world hunger is the first of three meetings to be held in pursuance of priorities set by the University's council. The other priority areas set by the Council in addition to world hunger are human and social development and the management and use of natural resources. The meeting on human and social development will be held at the University's headquarters here next November and the one on natural resources also at the University in December.

It is a happy augury that the United Nations University, well endowed by the member states of the UN, should place global hunger as priority number one among the matters it hopes to investigate immediately with a view to making recommendations to help nations, peoples and governments to overcome basic problems of hunger.

Below we publish a report from an agency in Tokyo about the highlights of this Conference:

*Inaugurating the conference Mr. James M. Hester, Rector of the University, said that it was the University's business to establish itself as a world-wide network of research and training institute that could stretch as far as the problems themselves extend. Mr. Hester added "the University is intended to become the instrument for the next great intellectual efforts to find compassionate and practical solutions to humanity's deepest problems."*

*The experts attending the current meeting will advise the University in several areas including identification of appropriate research activities that will help provide practical solutions on world hunger, problems and on how it can best train urgently needed personnel. The problems which they will discuss include the development, adaptation and or transfer of appropriate food technologies that*

*can substantially reduce post harvest losses, the development of new consumer acceptable foods, made from legumes and oil seeds, the development of infant food formula and weaning foods within the economic reach of nutritionally vulnerable groups, the design and implementation of periodic systematic monitoring of the nutritional status and food supplies of populations, the exploration and methods of implementation of more effective uses of nutrition, education and assessment of nutritional aspects of agricultural policy alternatives.*

**THERE IS NO DOUBT** that bureaucrats, experts and specialists in Sri Lanka will have the findings of the different Committees the UN University will set to investigate various aspects of the problem. Our bureaucratic specialists have such information on their finger tips, but the problem is that in implementing policies and programmes they are not able to achieve concrete results on a scale that will ensure a breakthrough into self-sufficiency. We have big talkers. We have excellent report-writers. We have impressarios who can charm political power and lead Ministers up the garden path.

Our politicians and bureaucrats are so concerned about the political importance, significance and consequences of the current land policies that they have little or no time to worry about production or productivity—except to pay lip-service. And mere lip-service, however impressive, cannot bring about fundamental changes. Early in August this year there was a Congress on Nutrition held in Kyobo in Japan, where the question that was stressed was the need to increase farm production. We publish a report that had appeared in the *Hindu* from its correspondent in Japan.

Dr. M. S. Swaminathan, Director-General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, told the tenth International Congress on Nutrition here that in order to eliminate hunger and malnutrition by 1985, as resolved by the World Food Conference in Rome last year, the average annual growth rate in agricultural production should be 3.6 per cent as against the current growth rate of only 2.4 per cent. Dr. Swaminathan,

who was speaking on "Future food production", said the calculations about the growth rate in agricultural production implied the equitable distribution of the Food Produced which, however, was unlikely unless the system of global food security, envisaged by the World Food Conference, became a reality. Therefore, the actual growth rate should be much higher than 3.6 per cent.

However, striking an optimistic note, Dr. Swaminathan said considerable advances had taken place in recent years in agricultural technology which had opened up new possibilities of improving production under different agro-ecological conditions. In South Asia, where, according to most experts, the most serious imbalance between population and food supply occurred, the immediate prospects of improving food availability lay in enhancing the yield of rice. The rice yields could go up, provided concerted attention was paid to water management, pest control and post-harvest technology. Thus the developing countries should give the highest priority to all aspects of agricultural and rural development. At the same time, Dr. Swaminathan appealed to the developed countries to play a significant role in improving food availability by reducing the consumption of animal products. He said a concerted global attempt in the field of agricultural development, particularly irrigation and water management, would help to ensure adequate food in the next 10 to 15 years, by which time the population control programmes would start yielding more effective results.

It is time that Government wakes up to the realities of the situation. The complexities and polemics of the SLFP-LSSP crisis within the Government must be considered secondary to ensuring guaranteed food production. Bureaucrats will have reports galore about the amount of loans handed out, the seed paddy sold, the fertiliser distributed—and the acreage sown. But political power must go beyond these reports and have independent means of checking on these reports to see whether the acreage claimed has really been sown. The loans given may be used for purposes other

than growing paddy, the seed paddy sold may be used for consumption, the fertiliser distributed may be sold on the blackmarket—and the area claimed to be sown may be fiction.

It has been shown that the paddy production statistics in recent years were more fiction than fact—and the only reality

was the paddy purchased by the PMB (not taking into consideration the chaff bought by corrupt officials, the excess diriage claimed to cover defalcations, and the amount written off on account of rats and other four-legged pests).

The first thing that must be done before a production

drive can be undertaken is to separate fact from fiction in the mountain of reports our bureaucrats have piled up. The test of increased production will be free market availability of food crops at prices which tend to deflate the inflationary pressures that presently make living difficult.

## CHRONICLE

# Sept. 26—Oct. 2

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

CDN—Ceylon Daily News; CDM—Ceylon Daily Mirror; CO—Ceylon Observer; TOCL—Times of Ceylon Illustrated MD—Dnamina; LD—Lankadipa; JD—Janadina; VK—Virakesari; ATH—Aththa; SM—Silumina; SLD—Sri Lankadipa; JS—Janasathiya.

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26:** The main commemoration of the sixteenth death anniversary of the late Prime Minister, Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, will be held today at the Bandaranaike Samadhi at Horagolla: country-wide religious ceremonies will also take place—CDN. On the invitation of the Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, is expected to make a visit to Sri Lanka in December—CDN. The Central Committee of the LSSP meets today for the first time since the party was expelled from the United Front—CDN. The *Janadina* published extracts from the speech made by Dr. N. M. Perera on the condolence motion of the late Prime Minister Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike on October 29, 1959: in his speech Dr. Perera has accused the then Government on the delay in presenting the motion in Parliament. The Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs over-ruled a decision by Mr. P. B. Karandawela when he was Chairman CTB to stop imports of forty bus chassis ordered by the former Chairman, Mr. Anil Moonesinghe, from Hungary: after the trade unions protested against the decision of Mr. Karandawela the Ministry ordered the import of these buses—JD. Mr. Felix Dias Bandaranaike, Minister of Finance, appointed a three man committee to assess the value of all gems held by the State Gem Corporation: the Committee will be headed by Mr. S. Nalliah, valuer of gems in the Customs—ATH. The Committee headed by Housing Minister, Mr. Pieter Keuneman, will decide on October 1 the basis on which students who qualified in the GCE A Level Examination will be admitted to the University—VK. Mass poverty in Asia will be the main topic of discussion at the regional conference of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) which begins at the BMICH on September 30: the conference will be opened by the Prime Minister and nearly 300 delegates from 28 countries are expected to participate CDN. At broad daylight yesterday a gang of three men held up a co-operative vehicle opposite the Peoples Bank at Peliyagoda and got away with cash Rs. 96,000—CDN. Mr. Hector Kobbekaduwa, Minister of Agriculture

and Lands, will preside at a ceremony at Hiniduma tomorrow, in which for the first time compensation under the Crop Insurance Scheme will be paid to farmers—DM. At the 13-nation Oil Exporting Countries Ministers' meeting held in Vienna Saudi Arabia's Oil Minister, Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani ruled out for a continuing freeze on oil prices but said he would be against any increase above five per cent. The Ministerial Council of the SEATO at the United Nations decided to scrap the eight member alliance founded in 1954 to resist communist aggression.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27:** Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike, addressing a biggest ever Bandaranaike commemorative rally held yesterday at the Colombo Town Hall Premises, said that the unprecedented number of people from all parts of the island was clear proof that the people had risen against the attempts to besmirch the image of the late Premier, Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike: she said that the Bandaranaike image cannot be erased: the procession that started from Galle Face at 1.50 P.M. continued to flow to the Town Hall premises till 6 p.m.—CDN. The statue of Mr. Bandaranaike at the premises of the NSA was garlanded by a harbour worker before the Bandaranaike procession started—CDM. When the NSA meets on October 8th, the Former Minister of Finance and MP for Yatiyantota, Dr. N. M. Perera, will ask the Minister of Finance, Mr. Felix Dias Bandaranaike, questions pertaining to the signing of the Letter of Intent with the International Monetary Fund for the year 1975—CDM. According to the *Daily Mirror*, the exploratory oil production test well at Pesalai has been dug to a depth of nearly 7,000 feet but there are no signs of oil being available in large quantities: the drilling operations are expected to be shifted to Delft Island which is 50 miles away—CDM. The Planters' Association of Ceylon has written to the Prime Minister requesting her to exclude locally owned company estates in the taking over of estates: if the Prime Minister agrees to this request of the Planters' Association the nationalisation of estates will only be half done—JD. The *Janadina* editorially commented that the UNP and Mr. J. R. Jayewardene have become very silent since the expulsion of the LSSP from the Cabinet and further said it was because the son of the Prime Minister, Mr. Anura Bandaranaike, was doing for Mr. Jayewardene what Mr. Jayewardene himself wanted to do: it further said Mr. Anura Bandaranaike's friendship with the national capitalists and Mr. Jayewardene is not good for the future of the country. The Government is expected to review the cancellation of holidays of Hindus, Muslims and Christians for 1976—VK. At yesterday's Central Committee meeting of the LSSP held at the residence of Dr. N. M. Perera it was decided to form a Leftist United Front of progressive forces to

safeguard the people from the capitalist and imperialist forces—VK. American President Ford yesterday warned Congressional leaders that continuing delay in approving the use of African monitors in the Sinai could jeopardise the Egypt-Israel interim peace. At the 13-nation OPEC conference held in Vienna the United Arab Emirates posed a compromise of 12 percent increase in oil prices hoping to bridge serious difference between Saudi Arabia and other major exporting countries.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28:** In a series of meetings held last week Mr. Anura Bandaranaike, Chief Organiser of the SLFP Youth Leagues and Adviser on Youth Affairs Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs, said that the LSSP used its mud-slinging and slanderous campaigns against the late leader Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike in 1950 and against the present Prime Minister in the 1960s and now against him: he told this in a point-by-point reply to Dr. Colvin R. de Silva's statement in the NSA on September 18: Mr. Bandaranaike further said that the LSSP and other fissiparous groups were carrying on a planned and systematic campaign to malign and attack himself both personally and politically—TOCI. The Times of Ceylon illustrated reproduced the popular column called "confidentially" from the September 27th issue of *Tribune* and in a editor's note said that no mudalalis were involved either in the ownership or management of the Times of Ceylon. At the BMICH yesterday the North Korean Ambassador in New Delhi, Mr. Yu Song Jin, presented Mr. Anura Bandaranaike, son of the late leader, with 10,000 beautiful coloured badges of the late Prime Minister, Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, to commemorate the 16th death anniversary of the leader: these badges were sent to Mr. Anura Bandaranaike from the President of the Democratic Republic of Korea, Mr. Kim Il Sung—CO. According to the *Janadina* the appointment of Mr. G. B. Wickramanayake as a Secretary to the Ministry of Finance, in addition to the present Secretary, Dr. Lal Jayawardena was, contradictory to the constitution of the country: the paper further said that the appointment of secretaries were made by the President and Mr. Felix Dias Bandaranaike had made this new appointment. The *Janadina* editorially said that in her speech at the Bandaranaike Commemoration meeting on Friday the Prime Minister had said that the vast crowd present was that of the SLFPers and if the Premier had made such a statement it was an insult to the late leader even without her knowledge. The SLFP and CP will jointly declare the Government's plan for the next two years—VK. In a series of meetings held last week Mr. Anura Bandaranaike has said that at this juncture the UNP and the SLFP will not join together: he further said that the two parties believed in two widely varying policies and as such it will be impossible for the two parties to unite—VK. According to the *Lankadipa* the budget of November 5 will bring many reliefs to the suffering masses of the country: the paper predicted price reduction in flour, sugar, textiles and kerosene. John Agunga, a Nairobi, witch-doctor, predicted that Ugandan President will be overthrown and possibly assassinated by foreign mercenaries: the same doctor has predicted that American President Ford will be defeated in next year's Presidential Election by a Mid-Western democrat.

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29:** According to the *Janadina* the District Development Councils under the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs, which

directly comes under the Prime Minister, was an utter wastage of national wealth: the paper further said that lack of check on these projects after allocating money had resulted in this state of affairs. According to the *Daily News*, the Government was now studying a report that a sum of Rs. 86 million representing the contributions of employees to the Provident Fund of the C.T.B. has been retained by the Board to meet urgent running repairs: according to this report the CTB has been paying an interest of 5 per cent on these contributions: by way of low interest the contributors have lost Rs. 3.9 million. The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries decided to raise the oil of Arabian Light Market Crude by 10 per cent with effect from October 1 and according to *Daily News* the price hike affects Sri Lanka by Rs. 120 million at the FEEC rate in foreign exchange to meet the country's annual consumption of oil requirements: according to official estimates the country will import in 1975 about 12 million barrels. The LSSP envisages the formation of a hard core left wing within the SLFP led by the backbenchers and according to the *Daily Mirror* this was revealed during the party's central committee meeting held at Dr. N. M. Perera's residence over the week end. According to the *Virakesari* the LSSP will commence work on the proposed United Left Front this week and the Central Committee of the party has given permission for the party to go ahead with the formation. An estate employee Mr. M. Yogiraj has been elected President of the Democratic Workers' Congress, the second largest trade union in the plantation sector: the former President of the DWC, Mr. Aziz, has been elected as the Congress' General Secretary—VK. Fourteen clerical hands appointed by the former Minister of Finance to the Customs Service had been transferred with immediate effect by the present Minister of Finance, Mr. Felix Dias Bandaranaike—VK. Chairmen of Corporations have been instructed to inform the employees that in future they should not indulge in political discussions at their trade union meetings—LD. The Minister of Agriculture and Lands, Mr. Hector Kobbekaduwa, has decided to bring all crops of highland cultivation too under the Crop Insurance Scheme—DM. American President Ford reacting to the OPEC's decision to increase the price of oil by 10 per cent said that this price hike will be a boost to world inflation: US Secretary of State Dr. Henry Kissinger said that it seemed to be a middle line and "it is better than it could have been." Following two unsuccessful attempts on the life of President Ford, he has now decided to curtail his freewheeling style of campaigns and also curtail his appearances before street crowds. Indian Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, announced yesterday that the emergency would continue until the Government felt that the condition had improved.

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30:** Following the arrest of a youth at Kokuvil last week the Police have found evidence of a powerful political organisation in the North whose activities are believed to be parallel to the insurgent movement in the South: at the time of the arrest the youth had in his possession a fully loaded six chamber revolver and on a statement made by him the Police have detected several firearms and explosives and arrested a number of Youths including a teacher of a school in the Vadducottai area believed to have trained the youths in the preparation of explosives—DM. Commenting on a news report in the

*Janadina* which said that the Minister of Finance has acted against the constitution by appointing Mr. G.B. Wickramanayake, as a Secretary to the Ministry of Finance, Mr. Felix Dias Bandaranaike said that prior to appointing Mr. Wickramanayake he has consulted the Attorney General and found that the position taken by him was correct—DM. Mr. Hector Kobbe-kaduwa, Minister of Agriculture and Lands, addressing a conference of Government Agents on the nationalisation of estates said that the foreign exchange earnings on the nationalised company and locally owned estates should be a secondary consideration to the needs of the peasantry of the country: he said that provision of a better standard of living for the peasants of this country should take priority over everything else: the meeting was held at the Land Reform Commission's office and the members of the L.R.C. too participated—CDN. The C.J.C. (Exchange Frauds) yesterday informed the counsel representing Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, former Governor General of Ceylon, that it wanted Sir Oliver present in the Commission sittings to give evidence—CDN. Mr. Dzemal Bijedic, Prime Minister of Yugoslavia, will arrive in the island today on a two-day state visit—CDM. The Government is seriously considering to increase the price of oil and in the event of a price hike is still undecided whether kerosene too should be increased and if so what percentage of increase should be effected—ATH. The Ministry of Industries and Scientific Affairs was helpless to deal with the frauds of certain synthetic textile manufactures owing to directions it received from higher places—JD. Sri Lanka will receive a loan of Rs. 50 million from the IMF before the end of this year and before this loan was granted officials of the IMF will have further discussions with Sri Lanka Government—LD. An armed gang of three men had robbed the Cashier of the National Textile Corporation of Rs. 150,000 when the money was brought from an upper storey of a building to the bank which was situated in the ground floor of the same building—LD. President Anwar Sadat of Egypt launched another attack on the Soviet Union accusing the Russians of having repeatedly broken promises to supply Egypt with the weapons it asked for. Oil-exporting countries still want a dialogue with the industrialised world despite their 10 per cent price hike for petroleum.

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1:** According to the *Daily Mirror*, Mr. Ronnie de Mel, MP for Devinuwara, is likely to quit the SLFP: Mr. de Mel has held over 50 meetings in his constituency and has explained to the voters the reasons for his decision to quit the SLFP: two Ministers have approached Mr. de Mel to change his decision: Mr. de Mel had assured the voters of his constituency that he was quitting to pave the way to usher true socialism. The residence of the High Court Judge of Galle, Mr. Cecil N. Goonewardene, was attacked yesterday by a mob: this incident took place soon after Mr. Goonewardene delivered judgement sentencing all accused who were charged in connection with certain incidents that took place during the April 1971 insurrection to 15 years rigorous imprisonment each—CDM. Addressing the eighth Asian Regional Conference of the ILO at the BMICH yesterday the Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike, said that up to now developing countries have only had conferences at their disposal and now the time has come for action: Mrs. Bandaranaike stressed that the urgent requirement was therefore effective programs of action to help those sunk in misery to cross the poverty line—CDN.

Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike, received the visiting Yugoslavian President, Mr. Bijedic and his entourage at the Bandaranaike International Airport, Katunayake yesterday—CDN. The Tamil United Front launched a fund to collect money to help the families of Tamil youths arrested and remanded in the Northern and Eastern provinces allegedly for conspiracy against the Government—VK. The New Minister of Transport, Mr. K. B. Ratnayake, is actively engaged in designing ways and means to cut short waste in the CTB: he has individually gone through complaints of corruption and waste on the part of high officials and had taken action to sack them from the Board's services—LD. The Railway Workers' Union has complained to the Minister of Transport that in spite of his warning to high officials not to take political revenge on employees such activities were going in the Railway Department—JD. The *Aththa* editorially requested the working class to have an eye on the *Times* group of newspapers campaign which was against the working class participating in politics: the editorial further said that the present *Times* Mudalalis were doing what the Wijewardena's of Lake House had done their employees during their days. According to the *Aththa* the *Newsweek* magazine of September 22nd which carried an article in which it was stated that the businessmen of Sri Lanka had diverted their support to Mr. Anura Bandaranaike from Mr. Kumar Rupasinghe, had been held back at the Customs: the paper posed the question on whose instructions the magazines were held by the Customs. Mr. T. B. Tennekoon, Minister of Cultural Affairs, has said that he has devised a new method to complete the work on Sinhalese Encyclopedia: the Minister further revealed that though the work on the Encyclopedia was started 47 years ago so far only 5 letters in the Sinhalese alphabet had been completed—DM. All countries invited by France to a new meeting of oil consumers and producers starting on October 13 have accepted the invitation. US Senate passed and sent to President Ford a bill authorising 13,800,000 dollars for expansion of the US navy base on the British island of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean. Ties between the Vatican and Spain—one of the oldest Roman Catholic countries in the world—neared breaking point: Spai's relations with the outside world were strained still further yesterday as governments, politicians and labour organisations expressed anger at the executions of five Urban Guerrillas.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2:** Completion of the legal structure which began with the introduction of the Administration of Justice Law which came into force on January 1, 1974 will be from January 1 next year when a new Civil Procedure Code—an experiment which should go a long way towards bringing justice to the common masses of this country becomes law—CDN. According to the *Daily News* the disciplinary committee of the SLFP, which met at Temple Trees yesterday; decided to expel the MP for Devinuwara, Mr. Ronnie de Mel from the party. Following the arrest of several youths in the North the Police have evidence to believe that an organisation similar to the insurgent movement was active in the Northern and Eastern provinces: Police will soon arrest some Tamil leaders from the North in this connection—LD. The *Janadina* editorially said that the resignation of Mr. Ronnie de Mel from the SLFP was a good reply to the Prime Minister's speech recently in which she said that there were no persons in the SLFP to quit the party. The Minister



of Finance, Mr. Felix Dias Bandaranaike, is examining the conditions put forward by the International Monetary Fund for granting a loan to Sri Lanka: the Minister recently indicated at an IMF meeting that both parties could come to an understanding on these agreements—ATH. Commenting on a request by the Bar Association of Sri Lanka to its members not to participate in the Government's free legal aid scheme, Mr. Nihal Jayawickrama, Secretary to the Ministry of Justice, told the *Daily Mirror* that if those who have prospered financially through the legal profession now wish to turn their backs on the indigent litigant, the Justice Ministry will create a brigade of "barefoot Lawyers". Under the expansion of the special loans scheme for film production formulated by the People's Bank and the State Film Corporation for the first time in the country film

directors will be granted 100 per cent financial assistance for the production of films—CDM. Leaders of the TUF and volunteers numbering over 2,500 will collect funds today in the Northern and Eastern provinces for the families of the youth imprisoned for activities against the Government—VK. President Ford asked Congress to agree to American participation in the new Israeli-Egyptian disengagement agreement by this Friday and warned that a delay in approval would increase the chances of a new Middle East war. Many Ambassadors walked out of the U.N. General Assembly hall in protest yesterday when Spanish Foreign Minister Pedro Cortina Maury began to speak. President Idi Amin of Uganda yesterday said he will seek the exclusion of Israel from the United Nations when he addresses the General Assembly this week.

LETTERS

On Tribune

Sir,

Your cover pictures of 13th and 20th Sept. 1975 are a step in the right direction. Had the jungle fowl, gorgeously glamorous, been in colour and in still better quality paper, it would have been a hit a, palatable hit indeed. The same could be said of the female of homo sapiens pictured in 20/9. Would that it had been of a more photogenic individual honourably and traditionally attired unlike the exhibitionist portrayals of the now suppressed Sun! A palatable hit I should say for dissemination of the message to be conveyed and the values to be cherished.

E. Seemanpillai.

Mylambaveli,  
Chenkejadi.  
September 20, 1975

Sir,

I write to endorse the views expressed by Mr. M. Kangatharam in his letter to you published in the issue of 30th September '75 in respect of the print of the magazine. Frankly, I had the occasion to use a magnifying glass which I kept across the reading passage whilst reading, and, as Mr. K. rightly pointed out, my eyes get tired whilst reading the small print. I too suggest that you use larger type, perhaps, an alternative technique of printing such as "litho" etc. so that the reader is not fatigued.

May I also suggest you print an "Air-mail" edition on special air-mail paper for the benefit of readers in overseas to whom copies could be posted cheaper. It is earnestly hoped you will give considerations to the suggestions made by Mr.

K and myself as early as possible.

Wishing the *Tribune* success,

K. H. B. de Silva

Molawatte,  
Mottunna,  
Veyangoda.

28th September '75

IN TAMIL NADU

Protecting mango crop from pests

It is mango season again. We have not done much to improve or to maintain the yield potential of this fruit. There are a number of problems that need closer attention, but the most important among them is plant protection. The mango trees are subjected to serve attack of several pests, particularly the hoppers. These are by far the most destructive pests of mango trees all over Tamil Nadu. These pests secrete a sticky substance on which sooty mould develops. The pest affects inflorescences and buds which leads to yield reduction by premature fruit fall. Hoppers are exclusively restricted to mango: no other hosts are known.

The extent of damage caused by this pest is 60% in ordinary cases and 80% in severe cases. Some of the neglected orchards have permanently lost their yielding capacity due to this pest. Plant protection methods directed against this pest, (a combination of insecticide and fungicide) are designed to take care of other pests and diseases also that occur in mango.

Farmers who are suffering due to the tightening grip of acute drought are not favourably disposed towards plant protection methods because they think that since the mango season was good

in 1974, the same thing would not be repeated in 1975. Some of the farmers are of the opinion that the present drought may not be ideal for a good crop of mango.

The mango though an alternate-year bearer can perform well year after year if managed properly. Further the drought that prevails now seems to be ideal for a good crop of mango. Symptoms are seen in our trees as they have started flowering profusely. The weather which is dry without much of dew seems to aid fertilization of flowers thus preventing their benefit, chances of development of fungal disease on floral branches are also not there because of the absence of the dew drops. Although ideal weather conditions are thus present for a good mango crop, it can still be lost if timely plant protection is not given against the serious pests.

Farmers in Tamil Nadu are unable to take up plant protection measures because of the prohibitive cost of chemicals and lack of guidance in the job. The most popular chemical, 'Sevin' is selling at Rs. 32 to 42 per kilogram. The traditional chemical DDT 50% (W) is not available in adequate quantities and in pure form. To combat this situation, something has got to be done to improve the earnings of the farmers in the present difficult situation. We can perhaps consider the following as drought relief measures: (1) Proper advice to farmers in plant protection depending upon the available chemicals in the locality; (2) Supply of plant protection chemicals at subsidy rates; (3) Providing spraying equipment in time and in adequate numbers on hire basis.



## IN RETROSPECT

## United Fronts In Sri Lanka

by A Student of Left Politics

The removal of the three LSSP Ministers from the Government of Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike has resulted in the break-up of the United Front formed by the SLFP, LSSP and CP in 1968. This is yet another unhappy end to the numerous united fronts between various political parties that have been formed in Sri Lanka ever since the 1940's.

The question naturally arises in the minds of those interested in the local political scene, especially of those who at one time or another have been supporters of these fronts, whether these alliances in the form of united fronts have any place here at all.

But the very fact that even the LSSP leaders who have been removed from the UF Government still call for a united front, albeit a front in a different form, namely the renewal of the old United Left Front formed in 1963 and which came to an untimely end the very next year, shows that their faith in united fronts still persist.

IN THIS CONNECTION, it is interesting to recall the theory and practice of united fronts from our own experience in Sri Lanka during the last so many years. United fronts are not mere alliances formed by the leaders of different political parties. On the contrary, just as various political parties, here as elsewhere, represent the interests of various social classes existing in society, united fronts are essentially fighting fronts of social classes waging a common struggle against a common enemy.

United fronts are one of the forms of the expression of the class struggle where different classes, realising that their immediate objectives lie in a common direction, move towards one another and in the process force the political parties which represent their interests to come together. It is only through such an unders-

tanding of the nature of united fronts that we can correctly appraise the new situation that has now arisen and also chart the correct path for the march forward.

Under the Donoughmore Constitution, there was no political party system as such. There were of course, a few political parties like the Ceylon National Congress the Ceylon Labour Party and the LSSP too, to mention just three. But under the Executive Committee system of government which prevailed at that time there was no party system.

It was only with the inauguration of the Soulbury Constitution in 1947 that this system came into being. In preparation for it, the various capitalist parties and groups joined together in what was then only a loose party, but in reality a united front—the UNP. Later they consolidated themselves into a single party.

ON THE LEFT there was the LSSP, the Bolshevik-Leninist Party led by Dr. Colvin R. de Silva and the Communist Party. One of the first calls for a united front on the Left was issued by the BLP just prior to the first Parliamentary elections in 1947. It was for a Workers' Front both to fight the coming elections and to engage in joint trade union struggles. But that call found little response from the other two Left parties.

Later, in 1948, the LSSP issued the call for a united front of working class parties. This too did not meet with any favourable response from the BLP or CP and no headway was made, although the three Left parties did act together on different occasions for limited purposes on various issues.

In 1950 the CP called for the formation of a united front of the workers, peasants, intelligentsia, petty-bourgeoisie and the national bourgeoisie to wage a common struggle against foreign imperialism and their local collaborators, the compradore bourgeoisie. The latter they identified with the UNP. But this call did not find favour with the LSSP or the BLP.

But as later events proved, it was more less on the lines put forward by the CP that the UF which has just split came into being.

Meanwhile, in 1951, the late Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike quit the UNP and formed the SLFP. The latter party realised from the start that they must wage a struggle against imperialism and their local servitors in the UNP if the country was to forge ahead. That was one step forward. What it did not realise, however, was that to wage such a struggle successfully, it had to ally itself with the Left parties which were also engaged in this same struggle.

Only experience, often bitter experience born out of failure, show the people and their leaders the way forward. One such negative experience was the General Election of 1952. A positive experience of great value was the Hartal of 1953 when a united struggle of the progressive forces brought down a Prime Minister (ie. Dudley Senanayake) with a two-thirds majority in Parliament.

IT WAS THAT UNITY, though of a loose and temporary character, which paved the way for the defeat of the UNP Government in 1956. The people were learning their lessons fast. They learnt that the old order could be changed if they struck together. What they had still to learn was that the social changes they desired could not be won by merely obtaining a majority in Parliament.

They did not then realise that even those opposed to such changes were entrenched in power, both inside Government ranks and the administrative machinery (especially the Police and the armed forces), and that they had to be ferreted out if they wished to move forward. These lessons were to be brought home forcefully to them after the Cabinet 'strike' and subsequent assassination of Mr. Bandaranaike in 1959, the abortive armed coup against the Government of Mrs. Bandaranaike in 1962 and the successful parliamentary 'coup' two years later.

Learning from experience, especially from the bitter experience of defeat in 1965, the masses forced the leaders to agree on a common programme and come together in a united front to make the necessary changes in the socio-economic structure bequeathed us by colonialism.

The leaders, of course, played a part in the formation and development of the united front that

came into being. That was why they remained leaders. Had they gone against the wishes of the masses they would have been thrown into the dustbin of history. Nowhere was this proved more clearly than in the case of Philip Gunawardena, a veteran of the Left movement who came to a sad political end when for subjective reasons he tried to go against the mainstream of the progressive movement.

Our people today have acquired a rich experience in the working of united fronts. They know that the efficacy of these fronts depends not on the 'top' unity of their leaders, but on the unity in action of the masses which brought them to power. United fronts can exist, develop and achieve the desired results, irrespective of whether the alliance of classes in common struggle find their expression at governmental level. This was made clear, for example, during the fight against the foreign oil companies in our country in the early 1960's. It is also borne out from what is happening in India today in the fight against CIA-inspired subversion.

One weakness of the United Front after it was elected to power in 1970 was that there was a tendency to look upon the Government alone as the sole expression of the United Front, relegating to a place of little importance the mass movement which brought it into power. In a sense, the present crisis stems from this weakness. The present situation affords the opportunity to remedy this defect and take the movement forward.

Another weakness was the inadequate representation of the working class inside the Government. The working class was the strongest organised force which brought this Government to power. And whenever it was threatened from the Right, it was the working class that came to the forefront to give battle to and rout the incipient forces of local fascism.

That is why the recent decision of the Joint Committee of Trade Union Organisations to continue in its present form, even after the exclusion of the LSSP from the Government, is a matter for great satisfaction. It will not only maintain and preserve the highest degree of working class unity hitherto achieved in our country. It will be the surest guarantee against

any new threat of fascism, of the Government being overthrown by the Right or of itself going Right under the guise of a 'National Government' or any other pretext.

The ICTUO decision to continue as the united fighting centre of the organised working class will have a vital influence on all political parties and the Government and ensure the realisation of the objects for which the people voted in 1970.

In a critical political situation the organised workers have once again given the lead to all other classes and sections. If the latter too follow their good example, the future can never be in doubt. For, in the final analysis, it is not the composition of the Government or the role of this or that personality, however great he or she may be, that will determine the fate of the masses. It is the movement of the masses in action that will determine the composition of the Government and the pace of our advance towards socialism.



### ANCIENT CHINESE ASTROLOGY

## The Moon Calendar

FROM INDOCHINA TO KOREA, from China to Japan, and in all the territories in East Asia where the civilisation and culture of China has been dominant over the centuries, the Lunar Calendar devised by Chinese sages has been in use, until recently. Wherever the Chinese and other Far Eastern Asian peoples had gone, they had taken this calendar with them for their use. The Chinese system of ancient astrology had also been based on the lunar calendar, and even today when the Solar calendar has superceded the lunar calendar in governmental, commercial, administrative and other matters, people (in the Far Eastern countries) who still believe in Astrology go by the Lunar Calendar. In countries like China, which have officially adopted Marxism with its dialectical materialist ways of thought, the solar Calendar has been accepted and astrology has been discarded,

but the New Year on the Lunar Calendar is still celebrated as a major national festival as the Spring Festival.

In the entire region of South Asia and Southeast Asia where Indian culture had penetrated, a solar-lunar calendar had prevailed both for official and governmental purposes as well as astrological purposes. In the West, however, the solar Calendar had become dominant mainly because the Romans had adopted it as the most convenient for administrative purposes.

NOT MUCH IS KNOWN in Sri Lanka and the countries in this region about the astrological implications of the Chinese system of the lunar month and year. It has played a role similar to that of the solar-lunar calendar in India and Ceylon—whether it was in soothsaying, or for horoscopy, or for determining marriage compatibilities, or for the selection of auspicious days for weddings and the like.

The Chinese calendar and zodiacal system has a cycle of twelve years. Each year of the cycle has its own animal symbol which bestows the characteristics traits of that animal on those born within that year. The present century (the year 1900) had started with the Year of the Rat. Anyone wanting to know the Year, according to the Chinese cycle, one has to only count forward, or backwards.

We publish (in two instalments) the twelve years with the general traits attributed to persons born in particular years. This is not a guide for astrologers but it is only an indication of the kind of delineations made. We do not know whether this particular characterisation came from China, or Korea, or Japan, or Indochina, but we publish it for what is worth.—Ed.

### THE RAT

1900  
1912, 1924  
1936, 1948, 1960

Abundant food, wealth and activity are promised for those born within the Year of the Rat. Never idle, the busy Rat progresses, bit by bit, therefore never expects a big gain at one speculative stroke. Timid and humble, yet noted for his charm, he is fussy about small things, has a tendency to pinch pennies and only through love does he become generous. Although he maintains an outward

show of control, he is easily angered. Small-minded, honest, ambitious, with a tremendous capacity for pursuing a course to its end, he loves to spend money on himself, but does not lend. He loves to gossip, so is apt to have short-term friends. A good marriage would be with one born in the Year of the Dragon, Monkey or Ox. A marriage to be avoided would be with one born in the Horseyear. Doubly disastrous would be wedlock between a rat-year man and a woman born in the year of the Fiery White Horse.

**THE OX**

1901  
1913-1925  
1937-1949-1961

If one is born in the Year of the Ox, he will be steady and hardworking patient and not given to talk. Blessed with the gift of inspiring confidence he can achieve great success. Though prone to speak little he is mentally alert, and when he does speak he can be quite eloquent. Dexterous to the point of genius, he can do all sorts of things with his hands. Placid and easygoing he is nevertheless remarkably stubborn, hates to fail, and paradoxically shows it. Avoid an angry Ox-year person; he is likely to do something rash to anyone confronting him. He is also eccentric and can be terribly bigoted. An Ox-year person should choose as his mate one born in the year of the Snake, Cock or Rat, and avoid marriage with either a Horse or Dog-year person. He must regard marriage with a sheep-year person as highly undesirable.

**THE TIGER**

1902  
1914-1926  
1938-1950-1962

Sensitive short-tempered, courageous, stubborn, speculative, and capable of great sympathy for those of whom they are fond, Tiger-people may also be selfish and a bit mean. They cannot make up their minds quickly, and sometimes delay making a decision until it is too late to make a good one. Frequently they are in conflict with older people or those in higher authority. It is indeed fortuitous for a man to be born this year representing the greatest terrestrial power, the Tiger stands as an emblem of protection over human life. He cahes away the three disasters; fire, ghost and

thieves. Girls born in this year are said to be headstrong and obstinate, not traits one desires in a wife. Horse-year, Dragon-year or Dog-year people make good spouses for Tiger-born people. The worst possible choice would be either a Snake or Monkey-year person.

**THE RABBIT**

1903  
1915-1927  
1939-1951-1963

Of lovable personality liked by all, good-natured but easily led astray by stronger-willed persons, Rabbit-people will never become leaders but will always be happy, as they can passively accept their fate. Smooth-talkers, talented, ambitious, virtuous, reserved, financially lucky, affectionate, placid and clever at business they are mildly fond of gossip. Tactful in conversation. They are unlikely to speak ill of anyone. They are temperamentally melancholy and able to weep at the slightest provocation. Rather pedantic and inclined to be well-informed on some subjects, nevertheless they do not have inquiring minds and neither venture forth on new trails nor seek out further information. They have an uncanny gift for picking the sure thing and make excellent gamblers. Conservative, they look before they eap. The Rabbit-year person should seek a Sheep, Boar, or Dog-year person in marriage. A Dragon-year person is to be avoided and a Rabbit-year person must absolutely shun a match with a Rat or Cock-year person.

**THE DRAGON**

1904  
1916-1928  
1940-1952-1964

Excitable, short-tempered, very stubborn, Dragon-year people are healthy and energetic and are great warriors. Honest, sensitive and brave they inspire trust. They neither borrow money, nor make flowery or complimentary speeches, but are sincere in what they say and their opinions are valid. Capable of doing good work and devoting themselves to good causes, they can be just as active in devoting themselves to evil. Soft-hearted, they are easily taken advantage of by unscrupulous people. Normally they are not gossipers, although they have big mouths and are prone to say a lot they don't mean when excited. Men

born in this year are fortunate since the Dragon represents the greatest celestial power and symbolizes life and growth. It is said to bring the four blessings; riches, harmony, virtue and longevity. Marriage with Rat, Snake, Monkey or Cock-year person would be best. The Dragon-year person should avoid marriage with an Ox, Rabbit or Draggon person and must by all means elude a match with one born in the Year of the Dog.

**THE SNAKE**

1905  
1917-1929  
1941-1953-1965

Though compassionate and possessors of great wisdom Snake-year people also reveal traits of vanity and may dress to point of foppery. When approached for a loan, they may be a bit stingy. Unfortunately they annoy those whom they would assist by overdoing their solicitude. They have doubts about the judgement of others preferring to rely on their own knowledge. Calm, yet intensely determined in the pursuits of reaching their goals, they hate to fail at anything. They are always able to obtain money when they need it. They may be crafty and vindictive. They are exceptionally handsome if men and beautiful if women. They are apt to have marital troubles as they have affections outside the family. An Ox or Cock-year person would be a wise choice in matrimony for the Snake-year person. A match with a Monkey-year person should not be sought, but even worse, would be a marriage with one born in a Tiger or Boar year.

(To be Concluded)

**GREATNESS**

All consumed  
Are their imperfections,  
Doubts are dispelled,  
Their senses mastered,  
Their every action  
Is wed to the welfare  
Of fellow creatures:  
Such are the seers  
Who enter Brahman  
And know Nirvana.  
Self-controlled,  
Cut free from desire,  
Curbing the heart  
And knowing the Atman,  
Man finds Nirvana  
That is in Brahman,  
Here and hereafter.

**Bhagavad Gita,**

**BUILDING A  
VILLAGE HOUSE (52)**

## One Calendar Year

By Herbert Keuneman

FIFTY-TWO ARTICLES is 52 weeks, a calendar year. Interestingly enough (to me, anyway; and even to me in a sentimental sort of way and—at best—to you in a dully statistical sort of way) it is, as I write today's article, actually 52 weeks and 2 days and it will be 52 weeks and 2 weeks when the thing actually appears; for we missed out two publication dates somewhere along the almanac.

Not much to write away-from-home about! but Mine Enemy Grows Stronger and I become sufficiently senile to take an increasingly doddering pleasure in decreasingly significant anniversaries, though preferably with knobs on. (I recall, for instance, that, thanks to a father uniquely broad-minded in this one, single, exceptioned direction—or perhaps he was just lazy, for he hated driving, and welcomed even an occasional spare hand at the wheel—when I sold the last car I owned or now shall ever own, I had been driving precisely 51 years and 1 month and 1 week and 1 day, having first driven so as a twelfth-birthday present.)

But to prose along on the line I today particularly set out upon... I WAS ASKING MYSELF: 'What have been the highlights of this last year, during which I have been one of *Tribune's* regular correspondents (for I have contributed to the paper from time to time since a much earlier date) when a disgustingly poetic fallacy entered my head and which I know, nevertheless, will not go away until I have written it out of my system: that 'highlights' is indeed the *mot juste* for two languishingly whimsical experiences remembered, I suppose, because they were both very recent and written down, as I say, because without doing so I am not going to get any forrarder, experiences which—I blush to confess—obtrude themselves as they do only because they were literally concerned with light! Loathly literalistic, is it not?

Not but what they were, in their place, very beautiful experiences and illuminating in a sense.

The first was a few nights ago when I was sitting in the dark, as I so often do, at my upstairs look-out I was gazing toward the west and over the bund of our tank and the silhouette of the distant trees and one great bright golden tree, nearer at hand, a *mi* tree, under which village children had gathered gathering the fallen seeds for oil and from behind the bund their happy voices rose and so did the glow from the blazing flambeaux they would be carrying; only, nothing showed but the towering golden tree. And there was no sound but the children, not even of waterflow, for the birds have long forsaken the dried-out tank. That stares at us like a taunt; for there has been rain quite close to the south of us and the days have for some time been invariably clouded over and the evenings black with nimbus, but us somehow the rain misses and the tank is nothing but a swamp of browning lotus still desperately sucking what moisture out of the ground they can but dying steadily from the edges in. And then suddenly there was a hole in the overcast and in it a moon like a tilted silver bowl, spilling light, and the lotuses began to shine like a gleam of restored water so you could iamgine the tank again brimful, a sham born of sheer longing. And the children climbed up from their tree and momentarily formed a procession of torches homeward along the crest of the bund and the mocking brilliance of the moonlight dimmed the real splendour of the lights they carried, for all the torches' true gold; but their laughter continued to come clear when they themselves had vanished. But their elders no longer often laugh; their visages are grim.

Were grim, perhaps I should say. For last evening it rained. It rained quite a decent solid shower for about forty minutes around six o'clock, and all night there was a thin persistent drizzle which brought me at dawn, when I awoke, my other rhapsodical vision; the little *nux-vomica* tree outside my window was sparking with jets of coloured fire. Believe me, not even I, given to orchidaceousness though I admit I some-

times am, would be making so much of this had it not been something special. I have seen the dew-drop—just the single dew-drop—clinging to the rose newly born, and with no less unction than bonny Mary's inamorato, and I have seen such a dew drop—or even a dozen such dew-drops—enkindled by the sun into a quite exciting display. But I have never, up to this morning, seen a whole tree (albeit small one) dressed head to foot in diamonds. Indeed with the more practical part of my mind I am still trying to work out precisely the optics that did it; mere refraction wouldn't seem to suffice. I mean, a *whole* tree! But there it was. There it was, gaudier and brighter than a dozen Christmas trees full decked with *oto-matic* and bubbles and tinsel-gifts. The thing simply shot the colours of the rainbow at you from, I repeat, every bough from root to crown. It caught at my heart as sharply as it dazzled my eyes, and I looked away from it in the end because I could not bear to see it fade. When I did look again it had faded. But it was one of those sights destined for the 'inward eye', even more so (I should think) than fields of daffodils, more .availing .than dreams of amaranth.

I AM SURE there must be some moral or at least an augury to be learned of these two visions, but I am not mystic enough to have learnt it. However, one made me infinitely wistful and the other fleetingly satisfied, and perhaps for a human being there is no truth beyond these?

Sorry about all that. But now we can get on!

Or, can we? Get on to what that is of realler significance? Looking back over this year, how little has happened in the village; and how little, even of that, I have contributed to the happening of! In moments of despondency I seem to myself to have failed signally to 'connect': the village, it seems to me, is no more aware of my presence (leave alone influenced by it) than a man may be aware of a wart on his forehead; he knows it is there, but what difference? But then I go on to think of the 'great' events outside the village and, to be frank, I cannot see that they have changed the village all that much either.

I am thinking in particular of what I should have judged the greatest locally influential outside event of all: the fall of the would-be Titans of the LSSP.

Communism was the ideal to which so many of us (outside the village) had dedicated ourselves—'each according to his ability', and I early found that my own ability whatever it might be was not political—for at least thirty years; and when it came, when it seemed to have begun to come, we took it for granted that any system so self-evidently beneficial to society at large could do nothing but increase. I, for one—and there would be thousands like me—had not remotely reckoned with the possibility that the activists amongst us, burning as they were with an even more fervid ideal flame, could prove so intellectually inadequate as to remain more slavishly fundamentalist than any anti-Darwinian theologian, to fail to see that the Book written in the context of the mid-18th Century must be re-edited for application to the conditions of more than a phenomenal century later; that men we had looked on as incorruptible could become so swiftly contaminated by the filth of plain politicking; that whom we had looked upon as paragons of rationality should have developed in three decades of frustration such pathological inferiority complexes that in three years they would grow as capricious, arrogant and tyrannical, as Olympian above their precious 'masses', as the worst of mediaeval kings; that our *beau ideal* might have to stagger off the stage Drunk (and incapable) With Sight of Power!

I may be thinking of this, but believe me not many in the village are. It may be that niceness keeps those who visit me from bringing up a subject that might by me be considered painful; but would you not expect others that considered it painful, if there were any, to be eager to share their pain with me like invalids discussing their ailments? On the other hand, I can trace no sign of jubilation on the part of open supporters of the SLFP either, though I have looked for it. Interest, yes: I know Banders' father and his uncle have had casual conversations about Would it make a difference? and Has it made a difference? and It hasn't made any difference (hither-

to) but excitement or even enthusiasm, no.

And yet, perhaps this has been the SLFP's most critical political step since they became the SLFP. For now is the true time of testing. Now the SLFP has isolated itself as a socialist party but one with no commitment to the 'classical' Left. Now it must stand or fall wholly and solely by its own ability: there is no one else left to guide or inspire, *there is no one else left to blame*; each has been eliminated—the 'Imperialists', the UNP, the academical communists. And I, for one, long passionately to see it justify itself. But the villagers seem to regard the situation without passion.

To be sure, little enough has changed in the village under socialism to generate much passion, and whoever denies this is shutting his eyes to—or allowing himself to be blindfolded against—facts. The fact is, no one but bribe-takers (and perhaps a few bribe-givers) in the village has benefitted directly from socialism of either brand: the same shortages remain or increase, the drought continues, few prices if any—and no vital ones—have fallen, women still get half a man's wage though they put in twice as much effort, Pinhamy could obtain no benefit though he invoked the promises of 'Land Reform'; petty officials still fail only by accident, if they fail at all, to cheat the destitute of their dole, Government Apothecaries still issue 'good' medicine (supplied free by the State) only to paying patients who call at their bungalows, Co-operatives still sell choice items to *mudalalis* only, and so on *ad lib*; and bribe-givers have obtained benefits under all Governments. So, why should I expect to leave a permanent mark upon the village: I who came here for comfort, in the first place, and in many ways have at least been granted that. It is my own foolishness if I seek extra comfort in leaving 'a name and a remembrance'.

LET ME THEN count my blessings (and learn to regard them as my blessings, though, self-centred, I intended them as blessings to other people!) I think—for the whole year—I can count two: my having got back the things Sitale stole, while succeeding in not committing him to jail; and the

apparent welfare, up to date, of Dinga's yet-to-be-born baby.

Dinga's baby represents for me a special triumph, though all I have contributed has been some protein to Dinga's diet. Oh! and my having insisted on her checking with a Colombo specialist so that a slightly incredulous family really came to believe in her pregnancy. She had so exaggerated her early symptoms that the family, with hope too long deferred, inclined to write the whole business off, at first, as possibly hysteria (*manasika leda*). A few days ago Dinga came back beaming from a pre-natal clinic the Galgamuwa doctor holds in Ehetuwewa, saying that the doctor had congratulated her upon her baby's well-doing—I cannot think how he established this, since the clinic apparently makes no real tests beyond the occasional palpation; but anyway she says he congratulated her—and she clearly regards this as a personal achievement almost equivalent to delivering the child. In complete innocence she added that 'Poor Sumana was in tears because the

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES

— Inclusive of Postage —

#### LOCAL:

SRI LANKA: 1 Year Rs. 37.50  
3 Years Rs. 87.50

#### FOREIGN:

INDIA, PAKISTAN:  
Air Mail 1 Year Rs. 100.00  
Surface Mail 1 Year Rs. 55.00

#### SINGAPORE, MALAYSIA,

#### THAILAND:

Air Mail 1 Year Rs. 115.00  
Surface Mail 1 Year Rs. 55.00

#### U.K., AUSTRALIA, AFRICAN COUNTRIES

Air Mail 1 Year Rs. 125.00  
Surface Mail 1 Year Rs. 55.00

#### AMERICA, U.S.S.R, WEST-GERMANY, GDR:

Air Mail 1 Year Rs. 140.00  
Surface Mail 1 Year Rs. 55.00

#### TRIBUNE

43, Dawson Street,  
Colombo 2.

Tel. 33172

doctor told her she was most anaemic and that was bad not only for her baby but for her'. Very sweetly, Dinga despatched to Sumana that night, and has done on occasion thereafter, a *dhana* of rice with liver curry.

This was not, as you might think, a gesture of ane-upmanship. It seems it is a village; act of merit to offer *dhanas*—though more commonly of sweetmeats—to pregnant brides; and I have myself been the beneficiary of several offerings to Dinga. The *atrasas* Sumana sent her the other day were as good as I have ever eaten.

\* \* \*

### SOLILOQUY

## Death Of A Monkey

by R. C. Thavarajah

A dull THUD!

And it was all over in a matter of a few seconds. Mercifully, death was instantaneous. The 6 Shri limousine, 'burning up' the macadamized open straight stretch between thick jungle on the Colombo-Mankulam Road, sped on at break-neck speed. The driver and the other occupants, probably questionable characters, transporting contraband from the Northern-coast, were totally impervious to what they had perpetrated. They relaxed in the comfort of the exquisite and fashionable upholstery of their vehicle, complete with head-rests, safety belts, folding drinks tray and other sophisticated appurtenances. The victim, one of the herd of monkeys, on whom senile debility had wrought its ravages—somewhat slow to cross the road—paid the supreme penalty.

A lone villager, gathering firewood for sale to keep his body and soul together, unobtrusively witnessed the tragedy. He was visibly moved by the poignant pathos in the sylvan surroundings. The rest of the herd gathered round their dear departed. The obsequies were simple. Tenderly, they stroked the body of their dead comrade with their hairy hands and their helpless faces reflected deep, unspoken grief of their over wrought hearts. There

were no funeral orations, expensive caskets, floral tributes or the inane rhetorical question customary on such occasions — "O, Death where is thy sting, O, grave, where thy Victory". There was not even a formal interment. Nature, in her inimitable way, did the rest.

The killer did not face an indictment for murder under Section 296 of our Penal Code or even the lesser offence of causing death by rash or negligent act under Section 298 of the same Code. There was not even a charge under Section 161 of the motor Traffic Act which clearly states "Where any accident due to the use of a Motor Vehicle on a highway, any injury is caused to any person, animal or property, the driver shall report the accident to the O.I.C. of the nearest Police Station. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, animal means "Elephant, horse, cattle, ass, mule, sheep, goat or pig". Monkeys, unfortunately for the poor souls, do not come within the ambit of this law.

Religious fanatics of some sect prompted by a sense of righteous indignation may raise a hue and cry. They accept that Hanuman (which in Sanskrit means Monkey) is of 'DEVA KANAM' and referred to as 'MARUTHI'. N. KASTURI, M. A., B.L., Editor of "SANDEHA NIVARINI", refers to HANUMAN as "He, who is great courage and Help in the destruction of Despair. He is in the form of Courage." The author goes further to propound that, because of the association one has developed with courage, it is possible to cross the Ocean of Illusion; that is why RAMA, in the great epic RAMAYANA, has shown that he built the SETHU or 'Bridge' with the help of Hanuman. In the context of this allegorical reference, it is relevant to mention that when Hanuman, who came to Sri Lanka in search of SITA was caught and Ravana's men punished him by wrapping cloth round his tail and setting fire to it, the irate Hanuman in retaliation, swung his burning tail around and a vast extent of forest and vegetation was burnt down. According to the treasured Classical text, "Aartha Saastra" Art of Government used in Ancient India, which is a compilation of legendary writings of learned men, it was decreed

that Rama's emissary, Hanuman, should be tried in his Own Country for the crime committed in a foreign land. The concept of Diplomatic Comity and Immunity accepted today owes its origin to this ancient literature on Statecraft.

The pseudo-intellect or a diletante in Philosophy may, with accustomed snobbery, dismiss the death of the poor old monkey as the end of one of the creatures which are symbolic of man's base instinct of Insatiability. They may deprecate this trait by seeking recourse to the words of Tamil song which for the convenience of the reader I am giving the phonetic rendering in English—"MANAM ORU KURANKOO"—which means that the Human mind is likened to a Monkey—Impatient and restless. One may not approve of this somewhat harsh calumny. After all, they many of us who abide by the Latin maxim 'Nil Nisi Bonum De Martui'—Nothing but the good concerning the dead. As Lord Byron, with articles simplicity but with compelling emphasis so aptly put it "Tom's no more—so, no more of Tom."

The die-hard, matter-of-fact rationalist, who usually displays his irresistible urge to inflict his views based solely on the empirical certitudes, may ridicule all this mush of sentimentality as 'stuff and-non-sense'. Death, to him, is an inevitable corollary to birth. Since he does not believe in a soul, he may like ROBESPIERRE, superciliously pontificates that "The soul is no more than a genial breeze dying away at the mouth of the Tomb." Scientists, aetiologists and gerentologists may express some concern or interest. What, they may inquire, slowed down the aged monkey. Some may ask why the wretched animal should come in the way of a product of Modern Science when the present trends are characterised by 'tempestuous scientific and technological progress which opens up unprecedented opportunities for gaining control EVEN over the forces of Nature'. They have obviously short memories—for it was the 'brave' man who first sent a monkey into space.

The term 'MONKEY' is of uncertain origin possibly derived from the Latin diminutive "HOMONCULUS"—a little man or Mankind.

Professor G. S. W. De Saram, one time Head of the Department of Forensic Medicine, University of Sri Lanka, with whom I had the privilege of associating with some investigations, in his succinct but most instructive Book 'SCIENTIFIC AIDS TO CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION', in passing, refers in lighter vein to a rather pleasant verse which sets out the Monkey's point of view on the subject of Crime. I consider it relevant to reproduce this in the light of the great English Naturalist, CHARLES ROBERT DARWIN (1809-1882) who first soundly established the theory of organic Evolution in his monumental work 'ORIGIN OF SPECIES'.

"Three monkeys sat on a coconut tree

Discussing things that are said to be:

Said one to the other: "Now look, you two,

There's a certain rumour that can't be true

That man descended from our noble race,

The very idea!—It's a dire disgrace!

No monkey ever deserted his wife,

Starved his baby and ruined his life:

And another thing, you'll never see

A monkey build a fence round a coconut tree

And let the coconuts go to waste,

Forbidding all other monks to taste.

Why, if I put a fence round the tree,

Starvation would force you to steal from me.

Here's another thing a monkey won't do,

Go out at night and get in a stew:

Or use a gun or club or knife

To take another monkey's life.

YES, man DESCENDED—but here's my fuss.

He didn't bother, descend from us."

Ex—"LORIS"—Author unknown

Some writers of repute and eminence have written on a similar theme, using the same title—

*Death of a Race Horse* by John Creasey, *Death of an Expert Witness*

by P. H. Powell, *Death of a President* by William Manchester, *Death of a Shadow* by George Bellairs

and *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller.

I do not know to which of these I owe my apology for borrowing the title for my literary effusion which is hopelessly amateurish. The demise of the unfortunate monkey may mean nothing.

To every humanist and lover of animals who treats life in any form precious and who consider the 'very commonplaces of life as components of its Eternal Mystery, the wanton deprivation of life could have been avoided if only someone had NOT been in such a mighty hurry.

\* \* \*

KAZI—24

## Near Yala

By Anatory Bukoba

July 25,

In the south-east, near one of our big game sanctuaries, is a place that draws all men who can make the trip. Buses run direct there from Colombo regularly. People go there from Jaffna. You can tell the Hindus for they are stripped in the waist. All except a very few, even police on duty, walk around without their shoes. People dance, and they dance joyously. It matters not who you are; you just dance, and no one will think the worse of you, or even watch you more if they know you. The dancing must have gone on all night, the night I was there I thought of King David dancing, but he danced to the scorn of his wife, who I think was punished for it, and by God.

Like King David, everybody dances in procession, smaller or bigger groups at a time, and it is done with decorum, but it is lively for all that. There are no long faces, and there is no hanging back, You dance in your group, I think, once and for all, unless, I suppose, you just join in a group by As I did follow the group round, I cannot tell you more about it. What I noticed, too, was the way religions, mixed, the *Swami* and the *Bhikku* such good friends as to be long in each other's company, as if they were from one monastery. There was no time for going or coming. In fact, they came at the most unusual hours, and when you thought they had gone, they were back.

A *Swami* spoke brilliant English. He was easy to talk to. He said what you would unconsciously have him say, informative education, clear, and complete. It was the same with the senior *bhikkus*;

in Sinhalese natural, down-to-earth, kind, humorous, discreet and economical in words. I saw around a number of foreigners from Europe, and it says much for them, and for the place, that they seemed to fit in, to be not out of place as they so often are in other places in Ceylon. Food was expensive, but, with a little patience, I would find a place where I could get what I wanted at a fair price, and so I did not have to go hungry.

This place has changed in the last five years. Buildings have been knocked down. What are almost boulevards have come up in their place. There are rows and streets of new buildings, and some substantial structures in their places. There are new bridges, foot-bridges one-way affairs. What used to be a two-miles walk into the jungle is connected with a highway; it is a sister place, but smaller. Buses there were, but never enough. All this is a place where you can make friends easily. Even the beggars are well-behaved.

Nothing went right for me on this visit. Those inconveniences were the means of my seeing much more than I would have done had it all gone right for me. People turn night into day here as if it was the most natural thing in the world, and there seems to be no particular effort made to catch up with sleep.

Strange, it is that a place so characteristically Hindu should be so far in the south. It helps brings the races together. It is a pity that there is not a place of pilgrimage characteristically Buddhist in the Jaffna peninsula. It would open up knowledge of the Tamil, is their homeland, to the Sinhalese. Unknown to me, I had decided to visit this far out-post in Ceylon during the season, and after I got there, I found it was the last two days of it. There I was fortunate, or I would not have chosen this time.

There was a man, stripped to the waist, being escorted by a few policeman. I was told it was a junior minister, without my even asking, I admire his intention, but I wonder if he realised it looked incongruous to those who knew his rank, and I admire his humility to risk being taken for a crook. If these policeman had been in plainclothes, I wonder if they would have danced. It would have



been incongruous if they had not. A merry dancing fivesome would have looked good. I must say here that the junior minister was not dancing when I saw him. Bravo, Ceylon.

There had been rain, but I was lucky with my visit. People ignored the light drizzle that did fall, and it did not stop people from sleeping out with the sky as their canopy.

This morning I woke up with an almighty cramp in both legs. I did not think the place I was staying in would rise to a glass of salt water, but it did, and I had two, I only this because I have written the whole of this Kazi except this paragraph, with my feet in a stream, and seated on a newspaper on a rock. Cramp attacked me again in one leg, and one of two woman, washing clothes near me, went off home, or to a neighbour's house, and brought me salt water. Then the neighbour herself followed, all in quick time.

\* \*

# Inania of this, that and the other

## Oh! When Will That Ombudsman Come?

By Inna

Some months ago, a letter to the *Daily News* cried out for an Ombudsman. People wonder, when would that *ombudsman* come.

In Denmark the *Folketing* i.e. the Legislative Assembly, must elect outside it a man charge with the task of protecting the simple citizen against abuse, corruption, arbitrariness, injustices which can follow on certain acts of administration. He decodes, prevents, cures trouble. Listening to the motivations of the one and the complaints of the other, he is ever ready to resolve conflicts instead of making them permanent and romanticising conflicts. He is regarded as one of the lubricants of the motor of democracy.

Why can't our country learn, since this belongs to the Middle Path, steering clear of the helplessness of the oppressed and of

the arbitrariness of the oppressor? Democracy can be a fetish, merely a sacrosanct word if there is no redressing of wrongs done by the powerful few on the weak unnumbered. The monstrous, inhuman machine that passes for totalitarianisms, whether of Right or Left, or Wolf-in-sheep's-clothing Left, or Sheep-in-wolf's clothing Right must thus be broken from within.

Impartiality must be writ on the face and heart and head of the Ombudsman. Will Sri Lanka ever find a man of that sort? Or is it impossible in a country that lives by the *Singalovada sutta* of the Gihivinaya. Isn't it a rich mine of sheer human relationships?

All along the line, structures are coming up from District Councils and Unions to Societies and Associations, even perhaps an "Association for the Removal of Unnecessary Structures", as a colleague of mine said with typical irony the other day! Will these structures—be they political, social, economical, cultural or religious, expunge the rights of the poor human being, the individual person, pawn and plaything of certain people?

What do we do with the blunders in the CGR or other transport systems? I had the misfortune to go the CGR Inquiries at Fort, Colombo, to book a sleeperette for my weary self for the morrow night from Colombo to my hill-station. I was promptly told: "For tomorrow night, you must come tomorrow morning at 9 a.m."

I turned on my heel and walked away to the bus, for I had come from a long way off to the capital city to make the booking, since no telecalls are entertained.

I came the following morning at ten minutes to nine a.m. and walked in on the dot at 9. a.m. To say "9.a.m. sharp" would be an understatement. The officer in charge told me: "All seats are booked". There was no one in sight who could have preceded me. No phone calls were entertained. Then how the dickens could those 30 to 40 people have signed up so soon? Or was this particular officer suffering from a bad head in July?

I am baffled at this kind of service. The poor man hasn't a dog's chance in this Era of the Common Man. I am not affluent nor am I destitute, but this is the limit.

Changing ministers and directors of Boards, Corporations and What-have-you is only "changing pillows when you have a virulent headache." It is only in the un-blessed abstract that top-people profess to love people. Before and after public proclamation of the statement: "I AM concerned", there doesn't seem to be an ounce of concern.

How can a country that imported over 450 motor vehicles in July 1975 be concerned with the plight of the poor man? Over 390 of them M-O-T-O-R C-A-R-S, and that when other countries are giving them up because of air-pollution.

My Fort man, buck up, you'll soon be left out, sonny.

### THE GOLDEN RULE

**JESUS:** Whatever you would have men do to you, do you also to them.

**CONFUCIUS:** Do not unto others what you would not they should do unto you.

**LAOTSE:** Regard your neighbour's gain as your own gain, and your neighbour's loss as your own loss.

**BUDDHA:** Hurt not others with that which pains yourself.

**HINDUISM:** Do naught to others which if done to thee would cause thee pain.

**JAINISM:** A man should treat all beings as he himself would be treated.

**ZOROASTER:** That nature only is good that does not unto another whatever is not good for its own self.

**MOHAMMED:** No one of you is a believer until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself.

**JUDAISM:** What is hurtful to yourself do not to your fellow-man.

## JAFFNA AND ENVIRONS

## Geology And Water Resources

By Prof. K. Kularatnam

PRACTICALLY the entire area of the Jaffna Peninsula and environs is flooded by limestone of Miocene and later age. This limestone is of sedimentary origin, unlike the crystalline limestone which is found in the interior of the island. The latter is of Archaen Age, (over 500 million years old). The sedimentary limestone of the Jaffna Peninsula and Islands was laid down as a deposit on the beds of the Miocene sea, which over 30 million years ago covered the N.W. fringe of the Island, as well as the South-East fringe of peninsular India during the Miocene period of the Tertiary Era of Geological History. It is composed of the remains of shells and other organisms which lived in the sea then. These remains accumulated as a layer in the bed of the Miocene sea. Later, as a result of the withdrawal of this sea, the limestone deposits of N.W. Ceylon and S.E. India were left exposed above sea level as dry land. The present Palk Straits represents the shrunken remains of that much wider Miocene sea.

Limestone is a good water-bearer, particularly due to its solubility and jointed nature. It is riddled with joints and cracks which allow rain water to percolate underground. In addition, limestone is soluble in water. This means that rain water when it percolates underground, dissolves lime along its passage and thus creates cavities, channels and other vacant spaces in which water can be collected. Because of these factors, the limestone of the north has an excellent water holding and storing capacity. The presence of a dense and thriving agricultural human settlement can be ascribed principally to the nature of limestone as an aquifer. In a region where rainfall is low and confined to about three to four months of the year, and where evaporation is high, such human occupancy as is found in the area could not have been possible but for the underground supply of water in the limestone, which is

tapped by means of shallow wells. The limestone acts somewhat like a sponge in storing and conserving at least a part of the rainfall. The crystalline rocks of the mainland of Ceylon are, unfortunately, not good water-bearers, owing to their insolubility and the relative absence of joints and fissures. That is why in the mainland dry zone they have had to store rain water in surface reservoirs, by resorting to the construction of tank bunds.

In the Jaffna peninsula and islands, as the land surface is flat, it is not conducive to the construction of tanks for irrigation, by means of bunds. Also, the water will seep under-ground. The loss through evaporation will also be high.

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT that the level of sub-surface water storage in the peninsula and islands should be maintained high. Otherwise, with the increase in population and agricultural activity and the consequent increased demand for water, the sub-surface water resources will become gradually depleted. Already there are signs of this imminent danger. The remedy lies in inducing more and more of the rainfall water to percolate underground and enrich the store by raising the "water table." In fact in former times, our ancestors understood the problem and met the situation scientifically. The large number of natural ponds and Kulams and water holes is evidence of this. They acted as funnels by means of which rain water found its way conveniently underground. As everyone knows, clay is impervious to water. Rain water cannot percolate underground where the surface is covered by clay, although there may be previous limestone below it. So, it is important to see that the beds of the ponds and Kulams are kept free of clay and silt. In fact in the olden days, our ancestors used to scrape off the silt and clay from the bottoms of the ponds etc. during the dry seasons and use it for various purposes, e.g. for pottery and brick making, as manure for the fields, etc. Thus they tended to keep the "funnel" function" of the ponds and Kulams in good order, so that when the rains came, the water, instead of running off to the sea or causing floods by stagnating at the surface percolated underground to replenish the sub-surface store. By desilting the beds of ponds and

Kulams, it would be possible to both reduce floods and at the same time increase the quantity of water stored under the surface, thus helping to raise the level of fresh water underground. For the limestone country of the North which is not much above sea level it is important to ensure that there is a thick layer of fresh water accumulated below the land surface. Otherwise, there will be a tendency for the level of heavier salt water to infiltrate and rise, with its serious consequences to agriculture and life.

Not only are there joints and fissures in the northern limestone, but there are also large voids and other cavities, subterranean solution chambers etc. in the limestone below the surface. These may have been created by the continued removal by solution of lime by subsurface water in convenient sites. Their presence is not visible at the surface, except when sometimes the roofs of such underground chambers collapse, as in the case of the Puttur and Nilavarai natural wells. When water is drawn or pumped out of these wells, it is not only the water that is contained in the surfaces of the wells themselves that is drawn out, also water in a large underground surrounding area. Indiscriminate pumping might exhaust the layer of fresh water and then allow the underlying salt water to rise. That is why long periods of rest for recuperation should be allowed for. Unless the fresh water table is maintained high by making more and more rain water to percolate underground every year, there is a serious risk of disturbing the balance between the lower lying layer of heavier salt water and the overlying layer of accumulated fresh rain water. Active steps towards underground fresh water conservation, on a planned and scientific basis have become very urgent and important today, for underground water is the lifeblood of the North. The underground water is held up because below a local, the rocks are compacted and further drainage below is stopped.

THE RED SOILS OF JAFFNA are also associated with the limestone. The sedimentary limestone contains small percentages of sand clay, iron oxide etc. These remain behind as surface residue after the lime of the limestone has been

dissolved and removed by water. These accumulate at the surface in small quantities and after the lapse of a long period of time tend to become the thin mantle of soil cover over the limestone bedrock. Because of the ingredients present, viz, clay, iron-oxide and lime in this soil, it is fertile. Owing to the high average temperature in the North, humus does not accumulate in the soil; it gets destroyed. Hence the need to add humus to the soil artificially by burying leaves and other waste organic matter including animal dung

**JAFFNA WATER** is hard because of the lime contained in solution. While the red soil is generally fertile, the soil in the proximity of lagoons and the coast is not. This is due to the presence of salt. The Thondaimannar Lagoon Scheme is intended to flush out this salt into the sea in a few years time and thus render the soil capable of cultivation. The additional benefit from this scheme is the fact that by allowing a layer of fresh water to accumulate in the lagoon at the surface, it will enrich the underground water reservoir also with the fresh water that is likely to percolate underground from it.

The sand dunes of Ariyalai and Chavakachcheri areas as well as Ampan are said to contain excellent raw material for a glass industry. It is perhaps on the strength of these that one expert proclaimed Ceylon as a glass-maker's paradise. The glass sand exists not only in large quantity but also in good quality, free from injurious chemical impurities like iron and ilmenite, unlike the sand deposits of several other parts of the island.

The Miocene Limestone being of a high degree of chemical purity and in view of the relative absence of magnesium, is a very satisfactory raw material for the manufacture of high quality cement, unlike the crystalline limestone of the rest of the island which suffers from the presence of magnesium. Hence the siting of the cement factory in the North, at an ideal site from the geological point of view

As though through long gained experience, Nature has produced the palmyra as her most invaluable gift to the Dry Zone dweller. In terms of the environment, it is not only the most suited and successful crop but also the ver-

satile and valuable crop. At least wherever other crops cannot be cultivated, it is imperative to plant the palmyra. Every available vacant space should be devoted to it, if it cannot be put to any other better use. Its economic value (sugar, fibre, toddy etc) is common knowledge; but in addition it is a great protector of the soil and its importance from the point of climatic amelioration needs no explanation. Hence the setting up of Palmyra Research Institute in the north is urgent and vital. What happened to the Palmyrah Committee Report submitted to the Minister of Plantation Industries in March 1972?

**OTHER IMPORTANT SPHERES** which offer potential fields for development in the North and East are the commercial cultivation of cashew, ground nut, cotton, citrus and the grape vine. Japan earns 40 million dollars annually from the export of culture pearls. It seems to be possible to develop this industry in our lagoons also, but experiments will have to be carried out first. The facilities for the development of tourism that exist such as at Keerimalai and other calm bays for swimming, fishing and yachting also call for attention. Above all are our human resources the educated youth. Man is not what he thinks he is. Man is not what he intends to be. Man is what he does for others-today and tomorrow." Therefore, the youth must be mobilised for voluntary development service.

**Underground water is the most precious asset of the North without which life will be almost impossible. Therefore it is the duty of everyone to conserve and manage it economically and scientifically avoiding waste. One notices today that farmers in the North are adopting, through ignorance, a policy of killing the goose that lays the golden egg. They are unnecessarily over-irrigating their subsidiary crops, thus causing the depletion of underground water. They are drawing heavily from this bank. A lot of water thus drawn is being lost through evaporation. To reduce this, it is necessary to adopt the Israel practice of not permitting any pumping after about 8 a.m. and before about 4 p.m. If pumping is allowed during hours of bright**

sunshine, as much as 50 p.c. of the water will go waste through evaporation.

A survey of the ground water resources of the Dry Zone is long overdue. The Water Resources Board should be called upon to carry this out without any more delay.

\* \* \*

## ACTION GROUP

### Liberation Of Tea

One of the concrete proposals that emerged from the 12-session Seminar on "Liberation of Tea" which ended on 3rd September and organised by the Centre For Society and Religion (281/1, Deans Road, Maradana) was the formation of an Action group with four sub-committees to draw up a follow-up programme to handle the following respective areas:— (a) Nationalisation, Ownership and Management, (b) Production and Diversification; (c) Marketing and Agency Houses and (d) Plantation workers, their economic condition, their social integration and their political future.

The formation of this Action Group and its sub-committees is in keeping with the overall objective of this Seminar namely, to evolve a strategy of political, economic and social change as a corrective to the imbalance created by the exploitative structures and functions of the tea industry as a whole. The keynote of the operation will be centred mainly around consciousness raising so that a climate conducive for radical options could be created at all levels of our society.

This action group will operate within the parameters of (a) Its specific objectives-both short-term and long term; (b) Problem-identification; (c) Desirable organisational set-up; (d) Mobilisation of Resources; (e) Area of operation and (f) Methods of operation.

Organisations and individuals willing to join any of these four sub-committees are kindly requested to contract the Secretary/Tea Project of the CSR who will send them further particulars.



## AT THE DEVASARANA COLLECTIVE FARM, IBBAGAMUWA

### Study Seminars On Sri Lanka And The Social Revolution

A series of 14 Study Seminars open to all on the theme **Sri Lanka and the Social Revolution** has been organised at the Devasarana Collective Farm, Ibbagamuwa. The Seminars are to be held once every three weeks and a wide range of speakers will be participating.

The following are the chief speakers: Dr. Leslie Gunawardena (History Dept., Peradeniya University), Dr. Dharmasiri Gunapala (Philosophy Dept., Peradeniya University), Gamini Kiravella, Kalyananda Tiranagama, Fr. Tissa Balasuriya (Centre for Study of Society and Religion, Colombo), Jayatileke Silva (General Secretary, C. P. Youth Congress), H. L. K. Karavita, Kumar Rupasinghe (Director, National Youth Council), Dr. Kumari Jayawardena (Economics Dept., Colombo University), S. B. Herath (Member for Hiriya, National State Assembly), Ivor Palipana (S.L.F.P. Organiser, Hiriya), Batty Weerakoon (General Secretary, Ceylon Federation of Labour), K. P. Silva (National Organiser, Sri Lanka Communist Party), and M. Tennakoon (Heladiva Govi Sammelanaya).

A note in the Programme states: "These Study Seminars have been organized because it was felt that understanding by the people of the forces of change in our society is an essential part of their creative participation in the on-going process of development. The principal aim in all the Seminars will be towards evolving our own way of social changes in accordance with our religion and culture. Study of Marxist-Leninist-Maoist theory and experience is an essential part of achieving this. We should also continually seek to unify as many groups as possible on a broad national front in order to achieve goals of radical social change and development."

The first Seminar in the Series was held on Sunday, the 28th September from 8.30 a.m. till 1.00

p.m. The chief speaker was Dr. Leslie Gunawardena, Lecturer in History at the Peradeniya Campus of the University of Sri Lanka.

Besides the main address there will be study groups and discussions. All the Seminars will be held in Sinhala, and the time will be from 8.30 am to 1 p.m. The chief speaker will arrive at the Collective Farm the previous Saturday evening. There will be an informal meeting and discussion open to all at 8.00 p.m. The Seminar will commence on Sunday Morning at 8.30 a.m. and go on till 1.00 p.m. Apart from the main address there will be study groups and discussions. Lunch will be provided for those attending the Seminar from a distance, provided they give notice before-hand. Contributions towards expenses will be gratefully accepted.

**Sunday 28th September, 1975**  
Economic Relations in Buddhist Lanka (up to the 16th century)  
Chief Speaker—**Leslie Gunawardena**  
History Dept., Peradeniya University

**Sunday 12th October, 1975**  
Ideological Life in Buddhist Lanka (up to the 16th Century)  
Chief Speaker—**Dharmasiri Gunapala**  
Philosophy Dept., Peradeniya University

**Sunday 2nd November, 1975**  
Colonial Invasions and National Resistance (from the 16th Century)  
Chief Speaker—**Gamini Kiravella**

**Sunday 23rd November, 1975**  
From Feudalism to Capitalism  
Chief Speaker—**Kalyananda Tiranagama**

**Sunday 14th December, 1975**  
The Western Contribution  
Chief Speaker—**Tissa Balasuriya**  
Centre for Study of Society and Religion, Colombo.

**Sunday 4th January 1976,**  
The Russian Revolution  
Chief Speaker—**Jayatileka Silva**  
General Secretary, C. P. Youth Congress

**Sunday 25th January, 1976**  
The Chinese Revolution  
Chief Speaker—**H. L. K. Karavita**

**Sunday 15th February, 1976**  
Imperialism and Neo-Colonialism  
Chief Speaker—**Kumar Rupasinghe**  
Director, National Youth Service Council

**Sunday 7th March, 1976**  
Trade Union Movement  
Chief Speaker—**Kumari Jayawardena**

Economics Dept., Colombo University  
**Sunday 28th March, 1976**  
The Left Movement—**An U.N.P. View**

Chief Speaker—**S. B. Herath**  
Member for Hiriya, National State Assembly

**Sunday 18th April, 1976**  
The Left Movement—**A S.L.F.P. View**

Chief Speaker—**Ivor Palipana**  
S.L.F.P. Organiser, Hiriya

**Sunday 9th May, 1976**  
The Left Movement—**A L.S.S.P. View**

Chief Speaker—**Batty Weerakoon**  
General Secretary, Ceylon Federation of Labour

**Sunday 30th May, 1976**  
The Left Movement—**A. C. P. View**

Chief Speaker—**K. P. Silva**  
National Organiser, Sri Lanka Communist Party

**Sunday 20th June, 1976**  
The Left Movement—**An Independent View**

Chief Speaker—**M. Tennakoon**  
Heladiva Govi Sammelanaya

## A WORTHWHILE PROJECT HEALTH SERVICES

### The Lion Club Of Kotahena

THE LIONS CLUB of Kotahena has undertaken a project of great social significance, which can profitably be emulated by similar organisations in the country. The project was launched on this year's Bandaranaike Day, September 26, 1975, when work was started on the collection of particulars on forms in which a great deal of information could be squeezed into small space.

This particular project is in regard to Garden No. 89 at Jampetah Street, Colombo. The Vice-Chairman in charge is Dr. S. Somesegaram and the Director in Charge, Mr. Bill Claessen. We set out below, first the information sought in the form, and after that a short outline of the project itself—ED.

THE INFORMATION required to complete the form come under the following heads: (a) Number of the Premises, Total Square Area, Toilet Facilities, Water Facilities Electricity, Number of Rooms, Space For Home Garden, Rent, Family Planning, Immunisations: (b) Names of Occupants, Sex, Race, Age, Relationship to Chief Occupant, Occupation, Monthly Income, Blood Group and Voters list. (One more item might have been included, viz the incidence of Debt). To indicate the scope of this mini-census form, we set out a table for which abbreviations have been coined: husband, wife, mother, father, chief occupant, son, daughter, grandmother, grandfather, grandson, granddaughter, mother in law, father in law, son in law, daughter in law, brother, sister, cousin, mistress: and, Sinhalese, Tamil, Moor, Malay, Burgher, Stateless, Others.

GARDEN NO. 89 is a slum area with about 280 houses, and a population of approximately 1500. In lieu of accepting a village, this garden was adopted by the Lions of Kotahena in the fiscal year 74/75. During last year, fortnightly clinics were conducted, primarily for the purpose of spotting early symptoms of blindness due to malnutrition or other causes. These clinics were manned by the Doctor members of the club, ably assisted by other Lions and Lionladies. Though these clinics were primarily meant to identify cases of malnutrition, it became so popular, that regular treatment for other ailments were commenced.

This year with Dr. S. Somasegaram V.P. I being in charge of Health and allied activities, this project is being enlarged as follows. Forms have been printed to compile and record various statistics (a copy of the form is enclosed for reference). A deep study of the information when compiled, is expected to indicate to the Club the areas in which this community could be assisted, helped and enlightened. The gathering of the information in the form itself is a major project, and we are expecting Cabinet Officers and members of adjoining Clubs to help us to complete this in one or two days of field work.

Once the forms are completed, besides any other project that might manifest, it is hoped to: (1) Select

parents with 3 or more children and get the Family Planning Association to talk to them and persuade them to voluntarily agree to Visectomy and Sterilisation; (2) Arrangements have been made with the Blood Bank, to do the blood grouping of the adults. Thereafter blood donations from all exceptable individuals will be arranged. In the event of a call for blood of the group available in this community the Club will locate the party and rush him to the Blood Bank; (3) While doing the blood grouping, it is proposed to screen parties for Social Diseases. If and when a positive case is discovered, the assistance of the V.D. Clinic will be sought, not only to treat this individual, but to investigate and treat all contacts; (4) To find out the employables who are unemployed and under employed and try to find them full employment through the good offices of Lions in the City and elsewhere; and (5) To approach the Municipality or the Central Government to rectify the deficiencies in the facilities available.

\* \* \*

#### AGRICULTURE

## For Quality In Jak Fruit

Madras,

One of the sweetest tropical fruits is jack (Jak). It is a subsidiary food in Kerala next only to tapioca. The jack tree, is perhaps the only fruit tree which gives the maximum yield of fruits with minimum attention. The quality of jack fruits is never uniform. This is because of the existence of two types. One variety has firm, crisp and sweet flesh crown as "Varikka". The other with fibrous and less sweet flesh is known as "Koozha". The two varieties often get intermixed due to cross pollination and hence trees raised out of seeds from Varikka plants often produce fruits of indifferent quality.

The only way by which the quality of the Varikka can be ensured is by vegetative propagation. Grafting of jack seedlings using the superior varieties as the scion parents has yielded good results at Kallar and Thaliparamba but

large-scale production has not been possible due to practical difficulties in making such grafts. An answer to this problem has, however been found by Professor K. Srinivasan of the Vellayani Agricultural College. The method employed by him involves utilisation of the juvenile factor inherent in jack seedlings for layering and grafting. According to Prof. Srinivasan, grafting of trees in the juvenile stage ensured greater success in the same way as quicker and better reunion of fractured bones of children than in the case of old people. Grafts and layers were produced by him using jack seedlings in juvenile stage from a firm-fleshed scion variety—the Muttam Varikka. The first lot was planted in the Vellayani campus in November 1967. A noteworthy feature of this experiment was the early bearing of the vegetative progeny in 1970 in about three years after planting. The quality of the fruit was also of the good Varikka type.

The more important phase of the work was in the second stage when a close planted nursery of jack grafts—with a spacing of eight feet either way—was established. These young scions were trained to spread out above the ground (instead growing vertically upwards) and were used for grafting with potted jack seedlings. The method ensured easiness in grafting of this fruit plant which usually posed problems because of its height and inaccessibility of the young scion branches for grafting. The success of this juvenile grafting was of the order of 80 to 90 per cent. More than 1,000 grafts have so far been distributed and the demand is rapidly mounting. According to many growers, the grafts start bearing in the third or fourth year while the normal seedling takes 8 to 10 years. This dependable method for large scale grafting of the jack plant deserves to be exploited widely but the limiting factor appears to be the lack of space for nursery and other facilities. A separate nursery plot of five to ten acres with some dependable irrigation and some skilled staff can really help to make use of this technique. With the keen demand for jack plants of good quality in Kerala and other States, the project will certainly be self-supporting and may even turn out to be a profit-earner.

\*

# Confidentially

## Minister KBR And Railway Engines

IS IT NOT TRUE that railwaymen are happy that Mr. K. B. Ratnayake has been appointed as Minister of Transport? That reports have reached *Tribune* from various sections of railwaymen who are jubilant that Minister KBR has been given the job of getting the CGR back on its running wheels? That railwaymen say that KBR was personally aware of the travelling conditions in the CGR? That he has been a regular train traveller even after he had the right to use helicopters to take him to and from the northern and north-central regions? That because of this railwaymen believe that he is personally aware of train delays and the general deterioration of the service? That he was also aware of the total chaos in the Catering Service? That railwaymen look up to him to set matters right? That train travellers too wishfully hope that Minister KBR's experiences in train travel in recent times will make him do everything to make the CGR discharge its obligations to the public? That one of the things that KBR has to overcome is the iron (or bamboo) curtain which LSSP loyalists in the top echelons have raised in the last five years to make it impossible for any Minister to know the truth? That key and sensitive sectors of the Railway administration have been placed in the hands of hidden political fanatics who have now assumed the garb of blue-dyed (SLFP) ascetics victimised by the reds? That it will be a test for KBR to discover the truth of the canker which has really eaten into the CGR? That it is known that these hand-overs from the old regime (some of the topmost of whom are excellent writers of fascinating fiction about the CGR) have all the answers ready for queries that may be raised? That *Tribune* understands that answers have been perfected to show that the new Canadian locomotives are only having "teething trouble" and that it does not usually matter if they were bought out of specifications?

That *Tribune* has gone into the question of the new locomotives in detail? That we find that we had

made one or two small errors in details in what we had written on the last occasion? That the tunnels are not big enough breadthwise and not heightwise as we had mentioned? That because the wheelbase of the engines are longer than they should have been (11 feet odd whereas it should not have been more than 10 feet odd) there is a danger that they would scrape the sides of some of our tunnels on the upcountry run? That for this reason the engines have also scraped the sides of some of station platforms and that some of the station platforms must be shaved (if they had not been already)? That the extra-long wheelbase, together with the overall length being longer than the proper requirements, these engines find it difficult to operate on the curves and corners of the up-country run? That as a result they are grinding and groaning round the bends and that this also naturally tends to widen the tracks? That as a result the running speed of these engines on the upcountry has to be reduced to 15 mph or even less in order to save the tracks and keep the engine on the rails? That if the speed is thus reduced it will defeat one of the proclaimed purposes of buying these engines will be defeated? That there was much propaganda that these engines were specially ordered out in order to improve the service between Colombo and Badulla? That with the problems stemming from the extra-long wheelbase the speed of these powerful engines has to be reduced to a snail's pace to ensure safety? That these engines will be able to function on the flat runs to KKS and Matara, to Trincomalee and Batticaloa better? That they will have to slow down a great deal to negotiate the sharp curves (and there are a large number of them) even on these runs? That the engines can easily average over 45 mph on these runs but this average cannot be maintained because speeds have to be brought down very sharply each time a curve is approached? That Minister KBR should insist on finding out what specifications were laid down over the years for engines and coaches in the CGR so that they can function on the upcountry as well as the low country runs without difficulty? That it would be foolish and uneconomic to have 14 engines of the newest variety and the greatest power

which cannot function on one section of the Railway?

That in this connection it would be interesting to find out the fate of the new engines which had been ordered by the LSSP administration to haul timber on the narrow gauge KV line? That investigation would show that these engines were also ordered out of specifications? That they are now in a railway cemetery awaiting spares to make them railworthy once again? That the cost of these spares today is believed to be much higher (in terms of foreign exchange) than the original cost of the engines themselves? That these engines were ordered for a specific purpose? That for a long time now they have not been able to haul anything, leave alone timber? That the story of these engines (about which *Tribune* will have a great deal to say soon) is a saga in itself? That *Tribune* understands that a further purchase of power sets for the suburban services is now under contemplation (hanging over from the regime of a booking clerk promoted ASM who had *de facto* run the CGR for five long years in Rasputin fashion)? That it is believed that these tenders are now under examination? That it would be useful for the new Minister to find out whether these engines should be purchased in view of the impending electrification of the Railways? That it is now five years since the outgoing Minister had promised electrification? That power sets would be required only if no action was being taken in regard to electrification? That according to the *Daily News* the cost estimated by some French experts for electrification was less than 100 million rupees? That according to informed Railway sources the cost of electrification would be nearer five hundred million—if not more? That many knowledgeable railwaymen were afraid that the French under-estimation of the costs might have tempted the Government to launch on a project which the country could not have afforded at this stage? That *Tribune* will deal with question of electrification in a subsequent issue? That in the meantime it is good that Minister KBR will appoint a special Committee to investigate and report on the present state of the CGR and make recommendations to effect improvements?

— — — — —



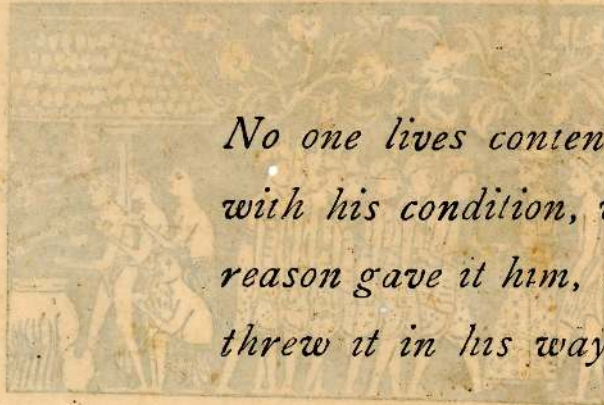
HORACE, 65 B.C.  
Sumer, Book I.

PHOTOGRAPHERS  
TO  
THE TOURIST TRADE

STUDIO TIMES

TIMES BUILDING  
COLOMBO 1.  
Telephone: 21331

(SPACE DONATED)



*No one lives content  
with his condition, whether  
reason gave it him, or chance  
threw it in his way*

HORACE, 65-8 B.C.  
Satires, Book 1.

To improve the condition of  
man in Sri Lanka

Support the  
Prime Minister's Production War

(SPACE DONATED)