

# TRIBUNE





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T R I B U N E

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# Letter From The Editor

AT THE MOMENT, and for some time more no doubt, we will be daily inundated with press handouts (and special supplements) about the Mahaveli. The first stage of this mighty and spectacular project was inaugurated on Thursday, January 8. The diversion of the often over-swollen but always plentiful waters of the Mahaveli to the comparatively dry areas of the Wannai and the North has been a dream for many decades. One of the first to propose such a scheme was the legislator-lawyer K. Balasingham who spoke about this with enthusiasm in the legislature in the twenties. He was supported by discerning engineers and others who considered it a feasible project. But it was only in the fifties that the project took concrete shape when a team of engineers from Denver in the USA made extensive studies about the river and the possibilities of diverting it to areas where water was needed. This report was not accepted. The cost of such a scheme moreover was so vast that Sri Lanka was able to think of the diversion in practical terms only when the United Nations Development Programme stepped in and undertook not only to provide working reports but also help to finance the project. What we witness today is the completion of the first stage of the project. There is not the slightest doubt that the Mahaveli Diversion Project is the biggest of its kind in Sri Lanka in this century—indeed at any time. It is capable of ensuring unbelievably stupendous development in the field of agriculture. Many names have been associated with the project from the beginning and it would be invidious to single out particular personages. Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike and Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike have been at the helm of affairs when much of the preliminary work was done, and it is therefore appropriate that the inauguration of the first stage should be on the birthday of the late Prime Minister. The Minister most intimately connected with the construction of the first stage of the Project is Mr. Maitripala Senanayake and much of mass media and radio propaganda of the Government at the moment has focussed attention on his contribution towards making the scheme a success. A small army of engineers and technocrats have laboured anonymously to bring the first stage of the project to fruition. Ambitious project reports have been published about what can be done; and even Arabian Nights fantasies have been conjured up about the thousands rupees a small farmer can earn for a season on triple cropping. This country has seen this kind of boastful propaganda on many occasions in the past, but much of it has come to nought. When the Gal Oya Scheme was launched the masses were assured that Gal Oya Valley alone would make this country self-sufficient in food, and very nearly self-sufficient in sugar. But these promises were never fulfilled although over a Rs. 1000 million have been spent. Each time a major irrigation scheme was got under way, with a fanfare of propaganda trumpets during the last thirty years and more, we were told that the country was being taken nearer self-sufficiency. And now, such propaganda for Mahaveli has reached proportions that will make anyone dizzy, and if the ordinary man begins to develop doubts whether all this propagandising is not another *gundu*, it is only because the propaganda is being blatantly overdone. The benefits of the Mahaveli Diversion (even this first stage) are being spelled out in superlatives and if achievements do not match the promises, disillusionment will be inevitable. It will be ungracious and incorrect to compare the promises about the Mahaveli diversion with the promises made about Pesalai oil, but those who sit in the seats of power today must know that the somewhat sophisticated ordinary man-in-the-street (in towns and urban areas) has already begun to retail quips about Mahaveli and Pesalai. The rural villagers is impressed by the vastness of the project, but unless the scheme will bring results in the form of more food and cheaper prices, the current rustic bewilderment will give way to disappointment and indignation. What those in charge of propaganda must know is that a scheme of this kind takes years before concrete results can be seen in reality—and not on paper (as so often in Sri Lanka). One tragic flaw, as we see it, is that the beneficiaries under this scheme will not pay for the water, as had been proposed earlier. Anything received free is never valued. Furthermore free water (at such tremendous cost to the nation) is also likely to be wasted. Even in socialist countries nothing is given away free—people must work and pay for it. A beginning to real progress will be made when there is re-thinking on this matter.

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## CONTENTS

### EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

—Mahaweli p. 2

### CHRONICLE

—Jan. 1 - Jan. 6 p. 7

### FOR THE RECORD

—Dr. N. M. Perera p. 10

### VILLAGE HOUSE—64

—Off To A Good Start p. 13

### IN MEMORIAM

—Percy p. 15

### KAZI—37

—In A Coconut Estate p. 16

### INANIA

—The NON cooperative  
COOPERATIVE p. 17

### LETTERS

—Trees, Bishop Horsley,  
Church Union p. 18

### CONFIDENTIALLY

—Free Warrants? p. 20



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

## MAHAVELI

IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE at this juncture to place on record some of the basic data about the Mahaveli Diversion Scheme set out in the governmental handouts which have been released in abundant quantities in recent weeks. Some of the data are indisputable facts which are not controversial, but some of the data are conjectural. In any case, readers of *Tribune*, particularly those abroad, are very interested in the implications of the Mahaveli Diversion Project, especially about, how soon the scheme will have a beneficial impact on food production in the country, and we will therefore reproduce some of the official data. We cannot do better, in the first instance, than quote the statement of the Chairman of the Mahaveli Development Board, Mr. Ratna S. Cooke, published in the officially-sponsored supplements published in selected newspapers by the Department of Information on January 8, 1976, on the occasion of the inauguration of first stage of the Project.

"At the moment when Hon. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, presses a button at Polgolla, the tunnel intake gates will open and the Mahaveli waters will flow through the Polgolla tunnel and the spray valves in the Ukuwela Power House into the Suda-Ganga for the first time, to augment irrigation systems in the dry zone, which are thirsting for additional water. This occasion is the first step in the culmination of concerted efforts of our engineers and technicians during the last two decades, to transform the dream of statesmen and the aspirations of the people, to divert a part of the copious flow of the Mahaveli Ganga waters, which goes to waste into the sea, for the benefit of cultivators in the dry zone.

"Though the Mahaveli Ganga is the largest river in Sri Lanka, discharging over 7 million acre feet of water annually into the sea, it is one of the least exploited. The Polgolla diversion will transfer 1.1 million acre feet out of the 2 million acre feet flowing annually past this point, to the dry zone.

"Feasibility studies for the diversion of the Mahaveli commenced in 1958 by a team comprising jointly of the United States Operation Mission and the Irrigation Department. At about the same time, another team comprising: The Hunting Survey Corporation of Canada and the Survey Department of Ceylon carried out feasibility studies based on aerial surveys, for the development of the Mahaveli Ganga Basin, as well as adjacent areas. The Government of Sri Lanka made a request to the United Nations to do a comprehensive feasibility study of the Mahaveli Ganga Basin and diversion areas (taking into consideration the studies already made) and make their own recommendations with priorities for development in a Master Plan.

"It was my good fortune to be appointed as the Ceylon Government counterpart to the Project Manager of the UNDP team led by Dr. P. G. Fialkosky of USSR, with whom I was associated from 1964 to 1968. This team published a report with a Master Plan for the development of 900,000 acres of irrigable land and hydropower with an installed capacity of 480 megawatts, at a total cost of Rs. 6,000 million. The feasibility studies included not only investigations of suitable sites for dams, diversion weirs, canals, power houses and other important structures, but also experiments for agricultural

development in Agriculture Department Research Stations and Pilot Projects in order to decide on the most suitable types of crops to be grown in the lands, depending on soil surveys and land classification.

"Detailed design were undertaken in 1969 of the first Project recommended in the Master Plan, that is the Polgolla Diversion, and finances were arranged by negotiations with the World Bank. The Government lost no time in calling for world wide tenders for construction of the first project, consisting of the Polgolla and Bowatenna Complexes of engineering headworks.

"What is being commissioned now by the Prime Minister is the diversion at Polgolla, which will transfer 2,000 cusecs of water from the Mahaveli into the adjacent Amban Ganga basin.

"The construction of this work was awarded to Messrs. Ingra of Yugoslavia and the State Engineering Corporation were their sub-contractors for the construction of the Polgolla Dam and all the civil engineering works in the Power House at Ukuwela. The main contractors carried out the construction of the tunnel and all the other electro-mechanical work in the dam and the power house.

"The 2,000 cusecs of water transferred from the Mahaveli Ganga at Polgolla will be sufficient to

## ON THE COVER

## THAI PONGAL

*Thai Pongal* is a Hindu, Tamil, festival. It is really an agricultural festival to mark the end of the heavy rainy season of the northeast monsoon. It is the beginning of the time for harvest and the cultivation of the crops which grow in the less rainy months mainly under irrigation. Astronomically, (and astrologically), it heralds the beginning of the month of *Thai* when the Sun enters the zodiacal sign of Capricorn. The manner in which the festival is celebrated varies from area to area, but the general pattern is the same. With the urbanisation of a large section of the Tamil population in this country, *Thai Pongal* has lost much of its universality. Among Tamils infected with the sophistication that stems from western rationalism, *Thai Pongal* has either been abandoned or lingers on as a symbolic relic to emphasise racial, religious and cultural identity. In the rural Tamil areas, *Thai Pongal* still has meaning and significance. In countries where seasons prevail, it is Spring which heralds the New Year (the metaphorical and not the calendar). In the lands of the northeast monsoon, the month of *Thai* ushers in the local version of Spring. Music, song and dance, the boiling of sweet rice at sunrise, poetic exhortations to Mother Nature to provide plenty are among the characteristic festivities at *Pongal* time. The veena which is prominently displayed on our front cover is a traditional musical instrument of the subcontinent and is much in evidence in *Pongal* celebrations.



augment existing irrigation systems covering 132,000 acres in the North Central Province for both seasons, and also provide irrigation facilities in Stage II for 71,000 acres of new lands in the Kala Oya Basin in the next three years, work on which has already commenced. A further extent of 20,000 acres of new lands will be taken up in Stage III under Kaudulla and Kantalai immediately afterwards.

"Until the work in the Ukuwela Power house is completed in a few months time, the water from Polgolla diversion will be sent down an irrigation by-pass in the Ukuwela Power House, to augment irrigation supplies to 80,000 acres of existing lands.

"The other item of work in Stage I is the Bowatenna Complex. This work was awarded to a Joint Venture comprising the Ceylon Development Engineering Co. Ltd. and Messrs. Patel of India. The construction of the dam itself is being done by the State Development and Construction Corporation of Sri Lanka as sub contractors. This complex of engineering works will be completed in a couple of months time, after which 1,000 cusecs out of the Polgolla tunnel will be transferred to the Kala Oya Basin to augment irrigation facilities to 50,000 acres of existing lands in the Anuradhapura district.

"In carrying out this tremendous undertaking, the Mahaweli Development Board has had the co-operation of various Government Department's like Irrigation, Agriculture, Survey and Corporations such as the S.E.C., SD and CC and RVDB. The Army and Land Development Department have also joined us now in this massive effort. The scope and complexity of the work involved is a challenge to our younger officers, who have proved themselves equal to the task, for whose co-operation I must express my unstinted gratitude.

"Most of the work on designs and construction are being done by Ceylonese engineers, who are now fully conversant to undertake similar works of this magnitude in the future. This achievement would not have been possible but for the great encouragement given by the Hon. Prime Minister and the untiring efforts and enormous enthusiasm of Mr. Maithripala Senanayake, the Minister of Irrigation, Power and Highways.

"Though what has been achieved so far is a substantial contribution towards the development of the country, it is comparatively a small step in the vast strides envisaged in the Master Plan for the development programme of the land and water resources of the Mahaweli Ganga. It is our earnest hope that the contribution we are making, with each Project in the Master Plan for the development of the Mahaweli Ganga resources will take us nearer and nearer to the goal of self sufficiency and lead us to prosperity."

THIS STATEMENT by the Chairman of the Mahaweli Development Board sets out the present position in realistic terms—of what has done and what is yet to be done—unlike some of the other reports which have mixed conjectural expectations of the future with some of the basic data. Apart from these speculative pieces to which reference will be made if necessary later, it is interesting to reproduce the "briefing" which the *Daily News* gave its readers on January 8. It read:

"Preliminary investigations indicated that the total water resources of the Mahaweli were six million acre feet, capable of irrigating about 900,000 acres. Of this extent 422,000 acres lie in the Mahaweli basin itself. The balance 478,000 acres are located in the North Central Province, Eastern and Northern areas of Sri Lanka. These studies revealed that after meeting the irrigation requirements within the basin itself, 2.5 million acre feet of water would still be available for diversion per annum to the parched Dry Zone areas in the northern sector.

"The magnitude of the agricultural benefits of the Mahaweli Development Project can be clearly visualised by a simple comparison: the total extent of irrigated land in Sri Lanka is 925,000 acres made up of 500,000 acres under major irrigation schemes while the balance 425,000 acres are made up of land irrigated by medium and minor irrigation works. The Mahaweli Development Project, on the other hand, is capable of irrigating 900,000 acres under conditions now obtaining in major irrigation schemes.

"The preliminary report of the UN Development Programme indicated that the total estimated cost of the Mahaweli Develop-

ment Project would be in the region of Rs. 6,700 million. This was way back in 1968. Devaluation, the increased cost of capital goods, inflation, higher rates of operation following on the fuel crisis have together contributed to the estimated cost escalating to the region of Rs. 10,000 million. Even the pre-devaluation estimated cost is a measure of the immensity of the project.

"Construction work was undertaken on the diversion of the Mahaweli at Polgolla in 1970 by means of a diversion dam some 40 feet high, straddling the river less than a mile downstream from the Katugastota bridge. The Polgolla diversion dam, nearly 500 feet long, is pivotal to the Mahaweli Development Project and is a gigantic structure by any standard. It is one of the biggest concrete structures in our country. Its crest carries a 24-foot roadway linking Watapuluwa with Uyanwate.

"The heading up of water against the gates and piers of the dam to provide for the diversion to the tunnel intake will result in the pondage of 300 acres downstream from the Katugastota bridge, adding to the scenic beauty of our hill capital. This project proposed to divert 2,000 cusecs through the Polgolla tunnel. The rest of the river will course down as before, seeking out the sea at Trincomalee.

"The water diverted at Polgolla will be led into the 5 mile long Polgolla-Ukuwela tunnel—excavated through the Patha Dumbara ridge, to take the Mahaweli waters over to the adjacent Amban Ganga basin. The Polgolla-Ukuwela tunnel the longest and largest tunnel, constructed in our country, has a diameter of 19½ feet. Like the Polgolla dam, this tunnel is a major construction work, also crucial to the entire Mahaweli Development Project. The water led through this tunnel will be hurled down two penstocks at the Ukuwela Power House to activate twin turbo-generators of 40 MW combined installed capacity.

"The Mahaweli waters, having served their hydro-electric function at the Power House, will be discharged into the Dhun Oya known in its lower reaches as the Sudu Ganga a tributary of the Amban Ganga. The turbulent Amban Ganga itself is the main



tributary of the Mahaweli in its lower reaches, cutting into the main stem of the river through its left bank around Manampitiya in the Polonnaruwa District."

Mr. Cooke's statement, cited earlier, makes it clear that the power house at Ukuwela is yet to be completed and that until this was done the water will be sent down an irrigation by-pass to augment irrigation supplies to 80,000 acres of existing lands (not very far away from this point). The Bowatenne Complex is yet to be completed, and only after this is done can water be transferred to the Kala Oya basin, and thence to the Anuradhapura region.

Governmental propaganda has tended to make many people to think that after January 8 water will course down to the rain-starved areas in the Kala Oya basin and also the Anuradhapura region. This is not so and this fact is likely to cause disappointment among many people when they realise what true realities are. It is unfortunate that the Government, unnecessarily, often tries to steal a march on time: on this occasion by claiming for the Mahaweli Diversion what will be achieved in the future—but not achieved so far. It may be thought that this would prove to be good political strategy, (at a time when the government has been thrown on the defensive by a no-confidence motion). But history and experience have shown that such attempts boomerang and become gimmick-like "gundus!"

IN THE OFFICIAL SUPPLEMENTS, an article by A. Maheswaran, described as Director of Irrigation in the *Daily News* and Deputy Director in the *Daily Mirror*, has an informative article on the history of the Project. The writer also sets out very valuable information about the Mahaweli Basin.

"The Mahaweli Ganga and its tributaries drain an area of some 4,000 square miles, roughly one sixth of the total land area of the Island. The upper reaches of this river (207 miles) longest in the Island, commencing from the Pidurutalagala, Horton Plains and Hakgala hills falls within the 'wet zone' areas of the Island, while

the lower reaches are the plains in the North Eastern sector of the 'dry zone'. The lower reaches contain some of the very fertile lands available in the country for development. It would therefore be logical that the river should be diverted for the development of the fertile areas in the lower reaches as well in the adjacent valleys if the land available in the basin itself is limited in extent.

**ANCIENT IRRIGATION SYSTEMS.** "Two different systems were adopted in Ceylon for conserving the abundance of water dispersed over the plains during the seasonal rains of the two monsoons.

"According to one the natural and effective plan of making use of the upper reached of a valley and embanking its outlets was resorted to. The other system was based on much more scientific and ambitious methods aimed at securing a greater volume of water than any local catchment could have supplied. This was effected by constructing massive causeways and anicuts across the larger rivers and turning the water into excavated channels which conveyed it sometimes many miles, over apparently flat country and impounded the water eventually in large reservoirs or a chain of reservoirs.

"The most important irrigation work on the main river was Minipe Anicut constructed by King Dhatusena in 459 A.D. The Left Bank channel from this anicut in addition to irrigating lands enroute, conveyed water to Amban Ganga for further diversions at Angamedilla.

"However, the most significant development, was the diversion of Amban Ganga, a left bank tributary of the Mahaweli. The well known anicut at Elahera diverted the Amban Ganga waters via the Elahera—Minneri—Kantalai Yoda Ela into the giant reservoirs at Minneriya, Giritale, Kaudulla and Kantalai. The third diversion was about 6 miles below Angamedilla near Dastota. This anicut diverted the water into Kalinga Ela for irrigation of lands below the paddy fields under Parakrama Samudra and Minneriya Tanks. The only known diversion outside the Mahaweli Basin was effected at Nalanda. Here water from Nalanda Oya, a tributary of Amban Ganga, was diverted through the Ebawela cut to Kala Oya in order to augment the meagre supplies of Kalawewa.

These ancient irrigation systems had gone into disuse over the centuries.

**RESTORATION OF ANCIENT IRRIGATION SYSTEMS.** "During the 'State Council Era' the Government, against, vociferous opposition from its critics, launched on a program of restoration of the abandoned irrigation schemes. The Irrigation Department spearheaded the pioneering work on these schemes. In spite of setbacks to the program, caused by malaria epidemics, the Department was able to restore the Minipe and Elahera—Minneri Yoda Elas, thereby initiating the commencement of a new era of development in these areas. This development was followed by the augmentation and restoration of several large tank schemes, which included Minneriya, Parakrama Samudra, Giritale, Kantalai and Kaudulla Schemes.

"Early in 1949, work on the construction of Nalanda Dam was commenced by the Irrigation De-

### CHOU EN-LAI

*Tribune* joins the Government and people of Sri Lanka in the expression of deep sorrow and grief on the death of Chou En-lai, the Prime Minister of the People's Republic of China. Undoubtedly he was, judged by any standard, one of the most outstanding personalities of this century. He was one of the architects and creators of new China. Sri Lanka's Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, in a statement, has very correctly stated that Mr. Chou En-lai was "a long and sincere friend of the people of Sri Lanka...Mr. Chou En-lai has also been sincerely sympathetic to the economic development of our country and the aspirations of the people. The magnanimous assistance that we have received from China in order to strengthen our economy has been, in my view, greatly due to his personal interest in our problems... He was an outstanding statesman and a world figure of the highest eminence... Whilst I feel a sense of personal loss at his death it can be truly said that Sri Lanka has lost a constant and sincere friend"



## The Master Plan

partment. This diversion, completed in 1956-1957 was the first major trans-basin diversion effected by the Irrigation Department.

### DIVERSION OF MAHAWELI TO NCP.

#### (a) Preliminary Investigations

"During the early fifties, the Irrigation Department carried out preliminary studies for the diversion of the Mahaweli Ganga at a site near Polgolla. It may be recalled that, when Mr. Hans Pfeifer a UN Adviser, addressed the members of the Engineering Association of Ceylon in December 1955, he criticised the proposal to divert the Mahaweli to the North. In his controversial report to the Government, Mr. Pfeifer concluded that from considerations of development of Hydropower the priorities for development should be Maskeliya Oya Scheme (Seven Virgins), Randenigala Reservoir Scheme on Mahaweli Ganga, Ratnapura Reservoir on Kalu Ganga followed by Victoria Falls Reservoir on Mahaweli. However, the Irrigation Department went ahead with its studies on the proposals for diversion on the basis that irrigation development should receive priority consideration over power development.

#### (b) United States Operations Mission (USOM)—Irrigation Department Investigations.

"On 7th February 1958, the Ceylon Government entered into a Project Agreement with the USOM to Ceylon for the preparation of a plan for the total multi-purpose development of the water resources of the Mahaweli Ganga Basin. The plan was to include, if feasible, a scheme for the diversion of a portion of the waters of the basin to the dry zone area of North-Central Ceylon. The investigation and studies of the USOM were made jointly with the Irrigation Department.

"In April 1961, the USOM-ID Feasibility Report was presented to the Hon. Minister of Land, Irrigation and Power. The planners intended that 'The Mahaweli Diversion Schemes is a part of a comprehensive study to develop a Basin Plan for the regulation and utilization of the waters of Mahaweli Ganga. Expediency caused the issuance of a report in advance of the Basin Report. This diversion report deals primarily with the feasibility of diverting Mahaweli

Waters to the North-Central Province for Irrigation and Power Development.' The main features of the proposals were as follows:—

(i) *Diversion*—A 2,500 cusec diversion to be effected at Primrose to discharge into the 124 Mile long NCP Canal. Annual average diversion to be 1,514,000 Ac. ft. of which 1,346,000 Ac. ft. to be utilised in NCP area. Balance diversions to Polonnaruwa District.

(ii) *Upstream Storage*—Moragahakanda Reservoir (465,000 Ac. ft.) together with storages in existing irrigation tanks.

#### (iii) Hydropower

Kotmale Power Plant	120MW
Ukuwela Power Plant	45MW
Diggala Power Plant	45MW
Lenadora Power Plant	33MW
	<u>243MW</u>

#### (iv) Irrigation

Existing area	97,000 Ac.
New area	215,000 Ac.

The proposals were not implemented due to various reasons.

#### (c) UNDP/FAO Studies

"Following the withdrawal of the USOM, Hunting Survey Corporation Ltd. carried out an assessment of the entire Mahaweli Basin. Their report published in 1963 assessed the potential of Mahaweli to be capable of developing 425 MW of Hydropower and irrigating 600,000 acres of land. The Government, thereafter, sought assistance from the UNSF to prepare a Feasibility Report to make an "accurate and dependable assessment of the Agricultural Electrical, Industrial and Socio-economic potentialities of the development of the Mahaweli Ganga Basin". It was argued that as 'the funds required for the construction work on the planned development of the Mahaweli Ganga Basin will have to be obtained in due course in the form of a loan either from the World Bank or from a Foreign Government, the granting of such a loan will be facilitated by the fact that surveys, study and appraisal of the scheme has been undertaken by the UNSF.' (These expectations were not realised during the implementation Stage).

"The UNDP/FAO Team of experts working (1964-68) along with staff from Irrigation and other Government Departments evolved a 'Master Plan' for the Development of the resources of the Mahaweli Ganga.

"The 'Master Plan' formulated during this study, envisages the development of about 900,000 acres of land in the dry zone including 246,000 acs. of existing fields and the production of 500 MW of Hydro-Electric Power. The 'Master Plan' provided for two Major Diversions of the Mahaweli Ganga as follows:— (i) At Polgolla for the irrigation of lands mainly in the Amban Ganga and Kala Oya Valleys; (ii) At Minipe for the irrigation of lands (a) on the Right Bank and extending across to Maduru Oya Basin (b) on the Left Bank to enable the construction of the NCP canal to the North.

"The first diversion at Polgolla is the fore-runner to the future programs for the utilization of the resources of the Mahaweli Ganga.

### Project I—Polgolla Diversion Project

"The Project as planned by the UNDP/FAO was submitted to the World Bank for financing. The World Bank, however, considered that the project had not been prepared in sufficient detail for the purpose of financing. As the investigations and formulation of the project had already taken a long period of time, it was considered expedient to sub-divide the project into three stages and commence work without delay. According to the above decision, a loan agreement was signed in January 1970 with the World Bank for the financing of Stage I of Project I.

#### (a) Stage I

"Stage I, as planned for construction, comprises of the Polgolla and Bowatenna Complexes, Sudu Ganga and Elahera Headworks and Canal improvements, and the augmentation of Huruluwewa. The Polgolla Complex consists of a low diversion dam across the Mahaweli Ganga at Polgolla, a five mile long tunnel to convey the diverted water to Sudu Ganga and a 40 MW Hydro-Power Station at the end of the Tunnel. The diversion dam is a concrete structure (565 feet long and 55 feet high) provided with ten Hook Type Gates capable of discharging a flood of 210,000 cusecs. The Diversion Tunnel, 26,450 ft. long and 19'-6" diameter will be capable of carrying a normal discharge of 2,000 cusecs. Nine feet diameter Twin Steel penstocks, 1300 feet long will convey the water



to two vertical shaft turbo generator sets having a rated capacity of 20 MW each.

"The principal features involved in the construction of the Bowatenna Complex include a concrete and earth embankment dam, tunnel and outlet canal and appurtenant structures. The dam will be primarily a gravity type concrete structure with a low earth embankment closing the left abutment. The concrete section of the dam will be approximately 741 feet long at the crest and 98 feet high. Six 32'x37' radial gates and two river outlets are incorporated in the dam. The tunnel of discharge capacity 1,000 cusecs, will be approximately 21,300 feet long and will have an excavated diameter of 13 feet.

"Sudu Ganga river channel will be improved so as to be able to discharge the additional flow of 2,000 cusecs from the Polgolla diversions. The Elaheera anicut will be remodelled and the Elaheera-Minneri—Yoda Ela improved to facilitate additional discharges to Minneriya.

"A 13 mile long feeder canal will be constructed to augment the supplies of Huruluwewa from Bowatenna. On completion of Stage I, in addition to the production of 40 MW of Hydro power, about 120,000 acres of presently cultivated lands will receive additional water supplies to enable two cultivations per annum. The total cost of Stage I is estimated to be Rs. 350 millions.

#### (b) Stage II.

"Stage II of Project I comprises of the development of some 70,000 acres of land in Kala Oya Basin located under two major reservoirs Kandalama and Kalawewa. The development within Kala Oya basin has hitherto been limited by the scarcity of water supplies to its location in the dry zone. The project area will be irrigated by improving and extending the Kandalama LB and RB, Kalawewa RB Main canals and further constructing a new Kalawewa LB canal. A total length of 77 miles of Main Canals will be constructed to irrigate 70,000 acres of new lands. These main canals will also irrigate an extent of 27,000 acres which are already irrigated under Stage I of the Project. Studies conducted indicate that a maximum of 1,000 cusecs and averaging about 500,000

acre feet per annum would be made available to the Stage II area by the Mahaweli Diversion.

"The product involves the settlement of people on about 200,000 new farms and providing them with irrigation and other farm services. Some 8,000 farm families presently resident in the area could be integrated in the Mahaweli development. Each farm would be approximately 2½ acres of extent. The cropping patterns will depend on the type of soils in any particular area and also on the market conditions prevailing during the seasons. Besides paddy, cropping patterns will include non-traditional crops such as onions, chillies, soya beans, pulses and cotton. The total cost of the development is estimated to be Rs. 656 millions.

#### (c) Stage III.

Stage III of Project I will be the development of about 30,000 acres below the Kaudulla and Kantalai reservoirs. Investigations so far conducted reveal the potential of this area for the cultivation of sugar cane. As a first step, detail studies are being conducted for the extension of the Kantalai Sugar Plantation by 8,000 acres. Feasibility studies expected to be completed by end of '75. Implementation of this stage is scheduled for 1976.

### ROLE OF THE IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT.

The Irrigation Department has played an active part in the investigations, studies and formulation of the plan for the utilization of the resources of the Mahaweli Ganga. During the year 1970—1971 when the implementation of the proposals commenced the Foreign Consultants who were assigned to the project were withdrawn. However, it stands to the credit of the Engineering of the department that they carried on undaunted for over a year without any foreign assistance. The manner in which the work was carried out during this period was so appreciated that when a new Consultant was engaged, the terms of the Consultancy were so drawn up, that the Consultant was required to act in an advisory capacity only.

"When the Mahaweli Board was set up in 1970, practically the entire staff of the Irrigation Department working on the Mahaweli was developed to work on the Board. To this date the Maha-

well Board continues to derive strength from the Irrigation Department. In addition, to loaning or releasing Engineers and other staff to the Board, the Department is carrying out direct consultancy work in seven spheres of development activity on the Project. It is very fitting that on the year when the Irrigation Department is celebrating its 75th year of existence, the farmers of Raja Rata should rejoice at the successful diversion of the Mahaweli waters to their drought stricken areas."

**TO KEEP EVERYBODY HAPPY,** the Daily News on January 7 splashed a frontpage story with a soul-uplifting headline: **MAHAWELI WATERS—BOON TO THE SMALL FARMER: MULTI CROPPING CAN TREBLE YIELD, EARN HIM Rs. 53,000 PER YEAR.** The report read:

"A small farmer and his family can earn as much as Rs. 53,000 a year by scientifically multi-cropping a two and a half acre plot of land to be irrigated by the diverted waters of the Mahaweli. This is the considered view of scientists of the Maha Illupallama Agricultural Research station have reached after recent trials. The trials have shown that under ideal conditions correct management and hard work, a family farming unit on one hectare (2.471 acres) can under the system of multi-cropping double or even treble the quantity of food produced from the same extent of land under traditional methods.

"The scientists have worked out and developed systems of soil management and crops which would help boost agricultural production. Two scientists—S. H. Upasena and G. W. E. Fernando in a research paper published in the Rubber Research Institute Journal on "The Cropping Pattern of Sri Lanka" have given the results of multiple cropping patterns actually carried out by farmers in the fields at the Pelwehera Pilot Project and the Special Project at Muthulyan-Kaddu. At Muthulyan-Kaddu the cultivation of plots of 1.2 hectares (2.96 acres) had yielded incomes ranging from Rs. 22,520 to Rs. 18,000. The crops cultivated were chillies, onions and green gram. The incomes were calculated when the selling prices of dried chillies varied from Rs. 5 to Rs. 8 a pound while the prices of onions varied from Rs. 60 to Rs. 90 per cwt.

"One of the major objectives of the pilot project at Pelwehera was



to determine the optimum size of the farming unit under irrigation and to determine the best system of cropping which would yield an annual income of over Rs. 6,000. The studies have revealed that the optimum size was in the region of two and half to three acres per family and the present policy of the Mahaveli Development Board is to allocate land on that basis for future settlers in the Mahaveli Project area. It had been found that where a family was allocated 5 acres of land the farmer had to resort to hired labour or mechanisation....."

To tie up multiple cropping (treble) with Mahaveli waters—

giving the impression in the headlines that such multi-cropping would be possible with the Mahaveli Diversion—may be a good journalistic gimmick, but is not very convincing. Everybody who knows anything about agriculture knows that multiple-cropping can be done everywhere there is water and sunshine—Tribune has published several articles in this connection in recent times—and that it has been traditionally done for centuries in some areas in Ceylon like Jaffna.

The study undertaken by the scientists of Maha Ilapallama in regard to the Youth Settlement

at Muthiyankadu makes interesting reading especially the conclusion that a 2½ acre unit was the best family unit, but the wonderful results envisaged in the study can be achieved anywhere where water is now available. Mahaveli waters will make it possible to expand the extent of such cultivation, but what is important is that multiple-cropping has not been adopted extensively in the areas where water is already available. It is one thing to encourage multiple-cropping, but it is poor propaganda to make people think that one of the benefits of Mahaveli would be multiple-cropping.

CHRONICLE

Jan. 1 — Jan. 6

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; TOCSL—Times of Ceylon Sunday Illustrated; DM—Dinamina; LD—Lankadipa; JD—Janadina; VK—Virakesari; ATH—Aththa; SM—Silumina; SLD—Sri Lankadipa; JS—Janasathiya.

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 1:** According to the *Daily News* the private sector has offered the Government investments to the tune of one billion rupees with prospects of employment this year to as many as 67,000 persons: so far the Ministry of Finance has received applications for 429 projects. The Cabinet at its weekly meeting yesterday appointed a Cabinet Committee on the Non-Aligned conference to be held in Colombo in August this year: the Committee will be in charge of direction of policy and arrangements pertaining to the Conference on behalf of the Government—CDN. Mr. Arthur C. Clarke, the well-known science fiction writer in a letter to the Editor of *Time*, weekly news magazine, said that the picture of the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka published in *Time* of 15th December was grossly unfair: Mr. Clarke said that this picture was taken when Mr. Clarke showed her the work of Stanley Kubrick some time ago: Mr. Clarke who referred to the article in the *Time* said 'some family planning in developing country like Sri Lanka was inevitable and the educated of the country who formed the administrative services came from a closely, inter-related cadre and this was so even when the UNP ruled (it was called the Uncle Nephew Party)—CDM. The Food Department last week interdicted 10 employees including six store keepers following detections made in a racket whereby imported rice kept in the warehouses had been pilfered—CDM. The UNP's Working Committee will meet tomorrow in a bid to solve the difference of opinion within the party; the Administrative Committee too will meet on the 10th of this month—VK. The Government hopes to produce 900 million bushels of paddy in the year 1976—DM. The Ministry of Housing and Construction has made

arrangements to start another 50 housing projects in the year 1976 at a cost of 7.1 million rupees—DM. The *Aththa* in an editorial said that all progressives should unite to make the Non-Aligned Conference scheduled for this year a success and be watchful of the tactics of the reactionary UNP. According to the *Lankadipa* the celebrations in connection with the Mahaveli diversion will start on January 6 and by the end of this year the actual benefits of the scheme will be available to the country. Nigeria denied a statement by the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) that it was planning to send troops to Angola. Algeria has alerted its veterans of its Independents War to stand by as tension mounts between Algeria and Morocco over the Spanish Sahara. The Kuwait Government approved a 10 million dollar contribution to the United Nations Emergency Aid Fund for countries most affected by the increase of the price of oil.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 2:** According to the *Daily News* foreign entrepreneurs who invest in export oriented industrial and agricultural projects in Sri Lanka will be given an internationally recognised guarantee by the Government: the guarantee which will be the maximum possible under international law will be in the form of a legislative commitment for settlement of disputes in the event of a take-over. Mr. T. B. Ilangaratne, Minister of Public Administration, has proposed to convert all offices of Divisional Revenue Officers into Kachcheries, with a view to bring the administration to the ordinary masses' doorstep—CDN. Pakistani paper *Morning Times* in a report on Mr. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's visit to Sri Lanka said that the two distinct results of the tour will be a substantial increase in the volume of trade between the two countries and greater co-operation between them in major international forums—CDN. Mr. S. S. Kulatilake, Minister of Social Services has submitted a proposal to the Government to the effect to make begging a punishable offence: the Director of Social Services said that there are nearly 50,000 beggars both professional and occasional—CDM. The CID is on the trail of an organisation which advertised overseas jobs on attractive terms and duped the applicants of several thousands of rupees: these advertisements appeared in national newspapers and those who applied were informed to part with a fees for processing of the applications and that was the last heard from the advertisers.—LD From this year the Government decided to appoint



Deputy Political Authorities to ease the pressure of work of Political Authorities—VK. On the 31st of December Mrs. Bandaranaike officially accepted a naval training ship which was gifted to the Government by the Soviet Union; the ship has been named "Samudra Devi"—ATH. The Government has taken steps to establish Agricultural Services organisation to which all agricultural work presently being done will be brought under—DM. The Government decided to postpone the decision on places where liquor shops should be run for another three months—DM. The Government closed down the toddy tappers training centre from 31st of December: this centre was earlier established by the former Minister of Finance, Dr. N. M. Perera to train youths on toddy tapping; the permanent appointments of employees too had been cancelled—JD. All eighty people aboard a Middle East Airline were killed when it crashed in Dharan in Saudi Arabia. Sixteen people many of them teenagers were killed and twenty injured when fire ravaged a cafe in Belgium on 31st night. France announced it was granting independence to the territory of the Afars and Issas, its last African territory.

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 3:** The coconut pest which adversely affected the coconut plantations of the country in 1970-71 has once again raised its ugly head: the Coconut Research Institute has made a positive identification from specimens of the pest discovered from a coconut estate opposite the Bandaranaike International Airport, Katunayake: this pest is identified as *promocotheca cumingi*—CDN. The Ceylon Petroleum Corporation yesterday signed a contract with a US firm Pexamin Pacific Incorporated for exploration of oil in the North East offshore: this is one of the 12 offshore areas earmarked for oil exploration and the terms with the US firm are on a profit sharing basis—CDN. Four Arab countries Libya, Kuwait, Sudan and Iraq have started to participate with aid programs for Sri Lanka: the Libyan mission was opened in Sri Lanka, last month—CDN. Dr. Gamani Corea, Secretary General of the UNCTAD, who is on a short visit to Sri Lanka, told the *Daily Mirror* that Sri Lanka will be among the developing countries that would benefit from the integrated commodity program proposed by the UNCTAD. Speaking in the British House of Lords on the compensation payable to Sterling Companies whose estates were taken over by the Government of Sri Lanka, Lord Avebury said that if the amount is determined in accordance with the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties adopted by the United Nations on December 12, 1974, the amount of compensation will be nil—CDM. Mr. C. Kumarasuriar, Minister of Posts and Telecommunications speaking at a meeting held to commemorate the Cuban revolution said that if international capitalists are allowed to exploit this country Sri Lanka will have to face exactly what Cuba faced just prior to the revolution—ATH. The cost of living which dropped by 7 points in November registered an increase of 7 points in December and stood 199.9—ATH. An infectious disease similar to measles is fast spreading in Badulla and Maskeliya areas and so far 5 children died of this disease—VK. The Controller of Imports and Exports cancelled an allocation of Rs. 1.1 million rupees allowed for the State Ayurvedic Drugs Corporation for the import of Ayurvedic medicines: this sum of money in foreign exchange was passed to the corporation in the year 1973: as a result of this

state run ayurvedic hospitals had been experiencing a shortage of drugs—LD. Witnesses identified 20 policemen of the Moratuwa Police Station who were produced before a magistrate following an incident on Christmas Day where policemen were alleged to have assaulted innocent people: the suspects who were identified were released on bail—DM. Technicians of the Middle East Airlines investigating the Boeing crash in which all 82 people aboard were killed did not rule out sabotage. Mrs. Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India said that India will continue to be Non-Aligned because that is the only way to move forward with self respect. Former US President Nixon's daughter Julie and son-in-law David Eisenhower were given a red carpet treatment when they visited China for a short holiday: on new year's eve they met China's venerated leader Mao-Tse-tung, a privilege usually reserved for heads of state.


**SUNDAY, JANUARY 4:** The Cabinet accepted a proposal by Mr. Pieter Keuneman, Minister of Housing and Construction, to grant new tax concessions to home builders, to persons who let out houses on rent purchase terms, and to persons who buy a house for themselves or a site to build a house—CO. According to the *Observer* all entry points to Sri Lanka are closely watched by Customs and Immigration authorities to check the inflow of subversive literature into the country: last year Mr. Janarthanan, a Tamil Youth Leader from Madras slipped into the country from Malaysia after the Government of Sri Lanka instructed the High Commission in India not to issue him with a entry visa: the Government suspects that inflammatory literature is being smuggled into the country from South India and certain Tamil leaders are in South India are behind this operation—CO. Mr. Ronnie de Mel, Member for Devinuwara, who resigned from the SLFP some time ago yesterday joined the UNP—CO. The UNP Working Committee last Friday rejected a request by Mr. J. R. Jayewardene who wanted to resign from the post of President of the UNP because he promised the masses that he would resign from that post if he failed to force a general election in 1975: the UNP Working Committee unanimously decided that Mr. Jayewardene should continue as President of the party—ST. The Auditor General in his latest report on the CTB said 178 CTB vehicles worth about Rs. 300 million were reported to be missing at August 31, last year: these vehicles were reported missing after a verification carried out by a board of survey on March 23, 1974—ST. The Government has produced a small film on Mahaveli which will be shown all over the island after the Mahaveli Diversion on January 8—SM. The Government of Rumania will sell 140 railway passenger Compartments for the use of the railway: fifteen of this consignment will arrive in the island on January 15 and balance before the end of March 1977—SM. Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, President of the UNP, announced that the party will not indulge in any civil disobedience in view of the public pledges by Mrs. Bandaranaike that elections will be held in 1977—VK. Britain was hit by the worst storm for 16 years yesterday when hurricane force winds carved a trail of death and destruction across the country wrecking buildings, tearing down power lines and playing havoc with sea, air, and rail traffic. In Beirut, powerful groups of armed Muslims stormed two Lebanese jails during the night and released the prisoners.



**MONDAY, JANUARY 5:** One of the main provisions of the Investment Law to be gazetted shortly prior to presentation in the NSA will be that the Business Acquisition Act will not apply to foreign capital investment in Sri Lanka: the investment law is expected safeguard all export oriented projects to be set up in Sri Lanka either solely with foreign capital investment or with local capital participation from the provisions of the Business Acquisition Act—CDN. Mr. D. C. Wimalasena has been appointed General Secretary of the UNP and the former Secretary Mr. Ananda Tissa de Alwis has been appointed as Chief Organiser for the Kotte electorate—CDN. Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, President of the UNP, indicated to the party's Working Committee on Friday that he will continue to be the President of the party according to wishes of the party—CDM. According to a spokesman for the University the medical faculties in Peradeniya and Colombo will increase the intake of medical students to overcome the shortage of doctors—CDM. Mr. Siva Pasupathy, Attorney General, in a request to all state attorneys said that they should prepare themselves to conduct cases in the Tamil language in the Northern and Eastern provinces and in Sinhala in other parts of the country: Mr. Pasupathy said this at a high level conference held at the Attorney General's Department—VK. Mr. Ronnie de Mel, MP for Devinuwara, in a interview with the *Virakesari* said that he joined the UNP because it has given up its old policy and under the presidency of Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, it had pledged to follow a new policy of democratic socialism and this move of the party convinced him that UNP is the only party that will be in a position to solve the problems of the country. The Navy stationed at Karainagar has been instructed to release the 38 Indian fishermen and the boats who entered the island's territorial waters—VK. Police are investigating a racket whereby students who sat for the G.C.E.O. Level examination was issued with bogus identity cards: this has resulted in impersonations at the examination—DM. At the second identification parade held at the Panadura Magistrate Courts, more 17 policemen of the Moratuwa Police Station were identified by witnesses: they were released on bail and directed to appear in courts: this parade too was held following the Christmas Day disturbances at the Moratuwa Police Station in which several innocent people were assaulted—DM. The authorities refused permission for a LSSP propaganda rally scheduled to held at the Senkadagala electorate yesterday—JD. Mr. S. K. K. Suriarachchi, Minister of Co-operatives and Small Industries, has made arrangements to re-organise the co-operative system in the island to rid the system of corruption—ATH. Hurricane winds

in North West Europe has killed 25 people and caused damage to property: the worst hit country was Britain. According to new opinion poll Americans do not have much faith in the presidency of Mr. Gerald Ford but have confidence in the future of their country.

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 6:** Mr. Felix Dias Bandaranaike, Minister of Finance and Justice told a meeting at Nittambuwa that it was wrong to say that Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, President of the UNP, who was responsible for the Government's decision to hold the general elections in 1977: Mr. Bandaranaike said that the Prime Minister, Mrs. Bandaranaike, decided on this as far back as 1972—CDN. The President, Mr. William Gopallawa, will today receive a Bos sapling from Buddhagaya which will arrive at the Bandaranaike International Airport in the afternoon: the sapling will be the first to be brought to this country since Sangamitta Thero brought one 2200 years ago as an emissary of King Asoka of India—CDN. Private sector industrialists who were willing to invest large sums of money in industries in response to the call by the Finance Minister in his Budget speech are now perturbed over the stipulation by the Ministry of Industries and Scientific Affairs that they would not be allowed to invest in industries which are set aside for public sector participation—CDM. Representatives of various political parties who gave evidence before the Delimitation Commission at Batticaloa requested that arrangements must be made to split the electorates to enable a Tamil MP to be elected in the Amparai electorate and a Muslim MP to be elected in the Batticaloa electorate: the representatives were unanimous regarding this request which they expressed irrespective of party differences—VK. The population of Sri Lanka will 13.6 million from the beginning of this year—VK. According to the *Janadina* the reason for the present state of rail services is mainly because of the abolition of workers councils and other organisations responsible for providing better services to the commuters. The *Janadina* in an editorial said whether the SLFP or UNP claimed responsibility for the diversion of the Mahaweli Scheme, it should not be made a political trump card and instead the rest of the work too should be finished soon to enable the farmers of the North Central Province to benefit out of this scheme. Two armed men believed to Japanese nationals hijacked a Japan Airlines plane with more than two hundred passengers and crew on board at the Manila International Airport. President Idi Amin of Uganda told that the US has sent him a message that it supported the formation of a national unity Government in Angola.



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FOR THE RECORD

## Dr. N. M. Perera

### —On The Treasury And Gamini W.—

(SPEECH IN PARLIAMENT  
ON THE VOTES OF THE  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE—8TH  
DEC. 1975).

Mr. Chairman, I do not know whether Hon. Members are aware of a circular issued by the Ministry of Finance dated 1st December, 1975. I will read it out for the benefit of hon. Members and the record:

**"To all Heads of Departments, Corporations and Statutory Boards under the Ministry of Finance.**

*"Please obtain from officials in your organisations, the initials of whose salary scales are above Rs. 6,720 per annum in the State Service, or above 7,200 per annum in Corporations and Statutory Boards who you have reason to believe have taken part, or are taking part." —(Heads of Departments are supposed to have reason to believe that they have taken part or are taking part!—*  
*"In political activities, declarations on the following matters:"*

Sir, for 5½ years this Government has functioned, and now the Minister of Finance is starting MacCarthy-like investigations into the political activities of members in Government service. But why are you confining yourself only to members whom you do not like? Why not include your own members—members of the SLFP?

Mr. Felix Dias Bandaranaike:  
Includes all.

Dr. N. M. Perera:

Of course not. And this must include even Mr. Anura Bandaranaike. He is a State Officer.

Mr. R. Premadasa:

Mr. Kumar Rupasinghe.

Dr. N. M. Perera:

Yes, and Mr. Kumar Rupasinghe and various other people, including the daughters of the Prime Minister.

Mrs. Vivienne Goonewardene:

This is Wickremnayake politics.

Dr. N. M. Perera:

What is this? After five and half years you have suddenly woken up? Why only myself? What about the Ministry of Public Administration? He had all the departments under him. He took no action so long as we were there and now that we are out he wants to penalise members of the Lanka Sama Samaja Party. This has gone only to the members of the Lanka Sama Samaja Party at the present moment.

Mr. Felix Dias Bandaranaike:

This circular has gone to Heads of Departments.

Dr. N. M. Perera:

The Heads of Departments have served notices only on members of the Lanka Sama Samaja Party. Even the United National Party is exempt!

Mr. R. Premadasa:

Our people have been suffering for the last 5½ years.

Dr. N. M. Perera:

Agreed: but nobody has been persecuted. I do not know whether you will be persecuted now.

This is what the circular says:

*"1. In the case of those who have ceased to take part in political activities, the date on which they ceased to be office bearers or members of a political organization."*

He is asking them to confess that they have been active members of a political party and once the statement is made, they will be told: "You have taken part in political activities contrary to section 36 of the Administrative Regulations, and therefore you are interdicted." What right has the Minister to ask a member to confess like this? What right have you? What is the basis on which you are doing this? Why only members of a particular political party? Why are you exempting the members of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party? Is the Sri Lanka Freedom Party not a political party?

The next one is:

*"2. In the case of those who are office-bearers or members at present of a political organization, a declaration of immediate resignation (with copy of the letter of resignation) from the organization, failing which they will not be able to continue in service. Please report accordingly to the Secretary (Administration) of the*

*Ministry with a summary of declarations within 10 days." I have something to say about the Secretary (Administration) presently.*

Let us look at the Constitution. When this Constitution was drafted it was generally understood by this House that, by and large, we should liberalise and take in even from among the personnel in Government service those who are ready and willing to come and serve in this House and give the benefit of their intelligence, their experience, and their knowledge for the benefit of the development of this country. The tendency was to broaden this out and not try to restrict the political opinions of members.

What is wrong about a member of a Government service being a member of a political party? He is entitled to his own political opinion. Are you hounding out the people because they are holding Lanka Sama Samaja Party opinions or because they are holding U.N.P. opinions? Why should they not hold their own political opinions? Is it your position that only S.L.F.P. opinions can be held by them? This is McCarthyism of the worst type. This is your alignment with the United States. McCarthyism was given up by the United States after a bitter experience.

Section 74 of the Constitution states:

*"When a state officer is a candidate at any election, he shall be deemed to be on leave from the date on which he stands nominated as a candidate until the conclusion of the election."*

We have gone so far as to permit people who are in Government service to be candidates without any loss of their jobs.

They can come back also. I know this has to be taken together with Section 70. I am not denying that. But you must consider the whole trend of this Government since it came to office. We, as a Government, pledged ourselves to grant political rights to Government servants, although we limited it to certain classes of salaried Officers. But by and large our attitude towards all Government servants is that they are entitled and free to have their own political opinions so long as those opinions do not impinge or on their work.



## Political Witch-hunt

### The Chairman:

But this section does not apply to all categories of Public servants.

### Dr. N. M. Perera:

No, taken together with Section 70 it restricts it to those below that particular category. That, I am saying, is the spirit in which we set out this whole business when we drafted this new Constitution and now you are going back on everything we have done, that this Parliament has decided, the whole atmosphere in which this Constitution was drafted and the whole atmosphere in which the United Front Government came into existence. We did not get up on the platform and say, We are not going to allow you to contest seats and so on. We took up the position that we are going to liberalize as much as possible the granting of political rights as part of our dictum. Now he comes and starts it in his own Ministry.

I can understand if the Government has come to a decision and says. No more political rights for all people, and the Public Administration Department starts it in all departments and for all members of political parties. Why have you started only in your Ministry? Why have you started with a vendetta in your own Ministry against people whom you do not like.

I know, Sir, one cannot get to the Treasury today. There are police officers at every turn. There are more police officers than people working in that office. They are so frightened. (Interruption). If he is so frightened he is entitled to have his own protection. That is perfectly all right. But all I am saying is he has no right to interfere with the liberties that we have now conceded, fighting for years and years, struggling against the imperialists, struggling against the whole capitalist regime. This is the old regime that we have had. We could not get these democratic rights granted to the officers and employees. We had to obtain them after struggling. Now, after he became Minister of Finance, he suddenly switches on with regard to the Loans Department and starts with a vendetta against particular individuals.

### Mrs. Vivienne Goonewardene:

Something is radically wrong with him!

### Dr. N. M. Perera:

What it represents is the fact that you are getting people to confess that in the past they have been members of political parties and now they will cease to be members. What is there to prevent them, after you interdict all these people, from being members of political parties. Your position is that they are acting contrary to the Administrative Regulations, as a matter of fact, the general feeling was that we should interpret even the Administrative Regulations fairly liberally.

I never interfered and never wanted to interfere with anybody in my Ministry when I was Finance Minister. There were people in my Ministry who were members of the United National Party. The first thing I told them was: You are entitled to your political opinion, but please do not let them colour your actions in the Ministry. That is the attitude I adopted and that is the only liberal democratic attitude that any Minister can adopt. You have no right to say, You cannot be a member of such and such a party. The officer takes a risk if he goes into active politics, then he is violating the Administrative Regulations. That is the time for this.

But the members of the S.L.F.P. are doing that with impunity. I notice that a gentleman in Kalutara is going about making attacks on the L.S.S.P. He is the principal of a school drawing well over Rs. 7,000. We do not complain, we do not intend to complain. Let him exercise his political right. We are not bothered about any of these people getting on to platforms and arguing these things out. We can give them back as well as we get. That, I think, is the healthy attitude to adopt in governing a country on a democratic basis. I do not think we want to have in this country back again the discarded McCarthyism that the U.S.A. had for a number of years. And they lost some of their good brains as a result of McCarthyism. As a result they lost some of the top-most scientists. Some committed suicide. So persistent was the kind of inquisition that they practised on some of these top intellectuals that they could not bear it any longer. We are not coming to that stage today.

I must say that I got shocked when I saw this and when it was

brought to my notice. This is a leading question. I thought most witnesses are not allowed to be put questions like this. In the case of those who have ceased to take part in political activities, the date on which they ceased to be office-bearers or members of a political organisation. I do not think the Minister is entitled to adopt this kind of despotic attitude. I know that the Hon. Minister still harbours the idea that a little bit of totalitarianism is good, but I am sorry to say that I do not subscribe to that view.

That is one question I want to deal with. I would ask the Hon. Minister not to persist in this. I would appeal to him to withdraw this thoroughly reprehensible Circular which is much against all the trends that we have developed during the last five and a half years in this country. The broadening of ideas of liberty in this country is now being undermined by this Circular. It has created a considerable amount of disquiet, not only among the members of the staff and the administration of the Ministry of Finance, but in other departments also because they do not know what time this blow will come upon them. It is thoroughly undesirable from every point of view that we should persist with this. Now that the dangers and the unsatisfactory nature of the Circular have been brought to the notice of the Hon. Minister, I would like a statement from him that he has agreed.

I shall now come to another very interesting point. The Hon. Minister issued another Circular. Here is the Circular:

**My No. MF/EB/105  
S.T./D.S.T.**

### All head of Divisions & Departments under the Ministry of Finance

#### Re-organization—Ministry of Finance

I am planning a complete re-organisation of the Ministry of Finance and of the Departments and Divisions in the Ministry of Finance.

2. As part of my programme of re-organization I propose to ask the S/T to take responsibility for the economic work of the Finance Ministry with the result that the S/T will not have to devote time and attention to the work of



re-organization or the day to day administration of the work of the Departments and Divisions of the Ministry.

3. I propose to rely on Mr. G. B. Wickramanayake who functioned as the Secretary to the Ministry of Public Administration, Local Government and Home Affairs, as a Secretary in the Ministry of Finance for all purposes connected with the re-organisation as well as the day to day administration work of the Ministry and the Departments and Divisions under it."

He has already been appointed as Chairman of the Bank of Ceylon. Here is the sentence:

"I could appoint Mr. Wickramanayake formally as a Secretary but I prefer to have him function as a Secretary without a formal appointment, while continuing to be Chairman of the Bank of Ceylon."

This is a new kind of administration. All these relations can be put into jobs without payment or not? Anura gets appointed like this and other people get appointed like this. What kind of Government are we having? What is this? Is this the private property of Wickramanayakes, of Dias Bandaranaiques and other Ratwattes? This is the property of the country. What are we coming to in this country? He appoints people as he likes. What does the Constitution say?

I shall come to the Constitution in a moment. I want this on record because this is a valuable document. The people ought to know the kind of thing that is taking place in the Government.

"The D. S. T. will continue to function within the proposed framework of the reorganisation as a Secretary in charge of various responsibilities entrusted to him in the Ministry."

According to this circular the D.S.T. will be only a nominal person. He will function within the proposed framework of the reorganization. That is to say he will work under Mr. Gamini Wickramanayake.

"All files and papers requiring directions may be put up by the respective Heads of Divisions and departments to Mr. Wickramanayake....."

All files and papers requiring directions will be put up by the

respective Heads of Division and Departments to Mr. Wickramanayake, not to the D.S.T., mind you. The Secretary to the Treasury is the Head of the Treasury, but—

"Mr. Wickramanayake.. will be in attendance at this Office every day and every direction given by him will be carried out in the same manner as though it were a direction from the Secretary."

Mr. Gamini Wickramanayake is supposed to be the full-time Chairman of the Bank of Ceylon. The funny part is that Mr. Wickramanayake's directions will be carried out in the same manner as though they are directions from the Secretary. That is to say Mr. Wickramanayake's directions will be supposed to be directions of the D.S.T. without any reference to the Secretary to the Treasury. What kind of a Government is this? The Secretary to the Treasury has got to take responsibility for the directions of Mr. Gamini Wickramanayake, who is formally the Secretary but not the Secretary in law. Constitutionally he is not the Secretary.

Is this fair? Is it fair that you should place a high official like the Secretary to the Treasury to endorse orders coming from some other person and taking the responsibility for those orders? If Mr. Gamini Wickramanayake—I shall presently have something to say about his doings and activities—if Mr. Gamini Wickramanayake does something wrong, who is to blame? The Secretary to the Treasury. He carries the responsibility, not Mr. Gamini Wikramanayke. He is well cushioned and safe. What is this? I have never seen a thing like this in all my life. I have been in the legislature for nearly thirty-six years or more, since 1936, but I have not even in my wildest dreams come across people behaving like this, running Government departments as if they were their own private property. You can run your own private farm on this basis, but you cannot run a Government on this basis.

"..Mr. Wikramanayake will always obtain my authority for the decisions that he communicates and such directions must be treated in the same manner as though they were my directions. For the purpose of carrying out his functions Mr. Wikramanayake has my full authority to summon confer

ences of officers in the Ministry and to undertake the scheme of reforms that I have in mind in regard to the administration.

"All Chairman of Corporations, except in regard to economic matters, may deal directly with Mr. Wikramanayake where my directions as Minister are required."

What does the Constitution say? The Constitution is quite clear. There is provision clearly made that there shall be only one Secretary to each Ministry. The Constitution is quite clear on that point and you cannot get behind that. Section 103 (1) says:

"There shall be for each Ministry a Secretary who shall be appointed by the President."

The Secretary cannot be appointed by the Minister. The Secretary has to be appointed by the President. He is a very responsible officer who is appointed by the President.

He cannot be appointed by a Minister. You cannot have unofficial Secretaries functioning. As a result, this gentleman does not issue written orders: he gives verbal orders which the other officers have to carry out. He dare not give written orders, because he knows that is illegal.

I do not know whether the Cabinet has changed the position now, but the Cabinet has consistently taken up the position that each Ministry can have only one Secretary. When we were in the Government this question arose more than once and the Cabinet has always taken up the position that each Ministry can have only one Secretary, and that Secretary has to be appointed by the President with the sanction of the Cabinet of course. You cannot appoint Secretaries like this, as he has done. Some of the officers are in a quandary, and I do not blame them, as to whether they are to carry out verbal orders. Some of them are senior officers who have 20 to 30 years' service in the Government and they fear that they might be thrown out for refusing to carry out verbal orders. Are we justified in running a Government like this?

Now, Sir, that is the situation. A thoroughly illegal, unconstitutional act has been done by the



Minister in appointing Mr. Gamini Wickramanayake as a Secretary of the Treasury. You will notice Sir, in point of fact, by this circular the Secretary to the Treasury has been sidetracked and pushed on only to the so-called Economic Section. It quite clearly states here:

"I propose to ask the Secretary to the Treasury to take responsibility for the Economic Work of the Finance Ministry."

So that he is being competently sidetracked so far as the responsibility for running the Treasury is concerned. Mr. G. B. Wickramanayake is now the person who is responsible, he has no legal status, he has no constitutional status, he has now been appointed by virtue of an edict from the Minister of Finance which he has no legal right to issue.

(To be Continued)

\* \* \*

BUILDING A VILLAGE HOUSE—64

## Off To A Good Start

By Herbert Keuneman

Willyou-nillyou—and, grammarians, forgive me that the phrase parses incorrectly—I am going to ignore the new year's portents and write, while I can, light-heartedly; for who can tell what heavier-hearted messages later months will make me bear?

Here, then, is another village folk-tale, a long one, in fact several tales which I have taken the liberty of stringing together, which though they may none of them appear immediately topical nevertheless all carry profound village morals.

There are those—poor dupes they may seem—that maintain the cardinality of simply being well-born, or at least well brought up; and there are those with no such delusions that seem to get better away with the competitive business of modern times. But on whose side are the old gods? There once lived, it might be in Ehetuwewa, a representative of each type; Kota, a Drummer, poor but politic; and a *gamarala*, a Village Elder, no personal match for him,

but with the paramount advantage (look at it one way) of belonging to the 'right' caste. He was a Farmer.

Now, here's an example of the kind of thing that was always happening between them. In his best field the Farmer raised, season after season, an outstandingly desirable strain of paddy on which the Drummer had long fixed an envious but hitherto frustrated eye. One day, accordingly, Kota went to the *gamarala* and begged a *kuruniya* of seed. Just ordinary seed. He hankered after the special strain, but the *gamarala* was jealous of that. No matter. Since it was stipulated that the Drummer must return thrice again as much as he had borrowed, the *gamarala* was well satisfied; and since the Drummer had a carefully worked-out long-term plan he was satisfied also.

At the end of the harvest Kota repaid only two-thirds of his debt but begged for a new loan. The *gamarala* (no loser even at this level of the deal, and anyway a kindly man) agreed to let the arrears stand over and went to his bins for more seed. But when he reappeared the Drummer had a suggestion to make: '*gamarala*', he said, 'you can see that all you are likely to gain from this inferior variety you allow me is more and more debt on my part and less and less paddy for yours. You owe it to yourself'—he was very earnest and solicitous—to ensure that you recover your loans at the best rate, or people might take you for a mug.'

'God bless my soul!' said the *gamarala*, 'd' you think they might?'

'Oh! they would, *gamarala*; that's how people always are, always evil-speaking. Now, if this season I planted your good seed I could repay the full interest for certain, as well as the arrears from last season's loan, and since all would be paid in the good paddy, that would be sheer bonus for you.'

The *gamarala* saw the logic of this kindly reasoning, and the deal was made! See what I mean?

It was just on next harvest-time that the gods chose to deal the *gamarala* one of those capricious paddy-whacks that keep even high-caste men on their toes. This one, to be sure, was a haymaker: a *rakshaya* made off with the *gamarala*'s daughters. Both of them!

In Ceylon—as, I have no doubt, elsewhere—the life of even a landed proprietor is bedevilled by... well, devils, what did you think? And of devils in Ceylon there is a wide choice. But in all the unattractive plethora, the *rakshaya* is by far the commonest and most irritating. In his favour the single, thing is his indefeasible foolishness; against him the most weighty objection is that he is so unmitigated a nuisance he interferes. He has an embarrassingly human penchant for pretty girls and is continually running away with them. And they with him. It is true most girls tire of his attentions in quite a short time; but even so it is an inconvenience to have your womenfolk suddenly abducted, however temporarily, and to have to drop everything and go looking for them and rescuing them, this sort of disturbance upsets a man. It isn't as though a *rakshaya* had so much as good looks, either: he is overgrown, quite a small *rakshaya* stands a couple of fathom tall; he is as black of visage as a monsoon cloud; he has bloodshot eyes, unbrushed yellow fangs a wildboar would not disown, coarse and unkempt hair, and his ears flap. Naturally, being large as winnowing fans. In the gastronomic way he has the usual demonic partiality for human flesh; so that he has a flatulent, distended belly and halitosis. What these women can be thinking of.....

Well, as I was telling you, one day a *rakshaya* carried off the *gamarala*'s two daughters: Ran Menika, the younger one, and Kiri Menika the elder and even more beautiful. The crisis clearly called for the minutest examination of the planetary conjunctions and the most detailed observance of the auspicious procedure, obviously a business for the expert. The Drummer Caste being traditionally astrologers, the *gamarala* had recourse to his debtor, a practitioner of considerable reputation.

Kota was fittingly concerned 'Oh!' said he, 'Oh poor girls! This is a bad business, a bad business. We must spare no pains, not a stone must be left unturned, above all we must be nice in every step, no inauspicious *faux pas*, no, no! I should say not! We will set out to look for the girls ourselves! of course.' He turned to the distraught father: 'But what to do? what shall we do? Wish I could



concentrate..Wish I weren't so preoccupied..*gamarala*, about that loan of seed paddy I had from you—

'Oh my dear chap! Forget it! Think nothing of it! Just let me have the one *kuruniya* back at your convenience: only find my girls for me! I'd counted on their attracting fine husbands to our house..young chaps, you know..able-bodied..' He struck himself upon the forehead. 'My daughters! Oh! my daughters!' (He might have added: 'My ducats!' but this was before Shakespeare).

'Yes, of course!' agreed the Drummer, 'that's true, that's the immediate problem, isn't it? Well! let's get ready for our journey. Maybe a long one. Meet me on the tank bund in half an hour. Put money in thy purse' he called as his harrassed client hurried away. Shakespeare could go and be damned.

Saying this he went home and completed his own preparations, which were simple. He boiled up a little *hunsal* (rice dust, such as a very poor man or one of low caste might eat) and filled his own purse with chips of broken china which jingled in a most melodious if misleading manner. Then he set out to join the *gamarala*.

It was not long before it became meal time, and the travellers sat down beside a stream and each took from his scrip his *bat-mula*, his packet of cooked rice. They went down to the water to wash their mouths and hands (as is proper before a meal) and the Drummer stood downstream of his companion (as is proper for one of lower caste) and the *gamarala* washed longer and more elaborately (as is proper for a man of higher station) and returned only in time to hear the Drummer exclaim: 'Ah! How exceedingly careless of me! how unforgivable! Oh! *gamarala*...'

'Huh?'

'*gamarala*, forgive my unforgivable carelessness: I have spoiled your lunch!'

'Spoiled my lunch?'

'Just that, alas! I was sitting here considering the sad plight of these dear children, worrying, you know, and my incorrigibly careless fingers—I beg you to forgive me—undid your packet of rice, and my disgustingly unthinking

mouth—do forgive me, *gamarala*—has already swallowed a whole couple of mouthfuls. Excellent rice, *gamarala*, and excellent, excellent curry: your wife's a rare cook, a rare cook—can your daughters cook like their admirable mother? So now, as I was trying to explain—please, please forgive me, *gamarala*—now that your meal has been hopelessly polluted by being fingered by a man of such low extraction as mine, you must take my own *mula* in exchange—you must, *gamarala*, I insist: see, it is still completely sealed—'

'But...'

'Precisely! It's only right! Yes, just *hunsal* porridge—that's the sort of thing we low folks are used to eat, as you know...' and he pressed upon the hungry but unwilling man, ceremoniously, his ignominious parcel of pap.

It did nothing to improve the *gamarala*'s temper or the unpalatable nature of the meal he had disgustedly to set to when the Drummer began quietly to chuckle.

'What are you laughing at?'

'I am laughing,' the Drummer replied, continuing objectionably to do so, 'at the laugh this will raise in the village. He-he! To think of your eating *hunsal* porridge, *gamarala*! Drummers' food! Hu-hu! And he went on chuckling until, shortly, he was going 'Ho-ho!' and even 'Ha-ha!' in a quite impatient manner.

The *gamarala* considered him and gradually turned pale. 'You...you...wouldn't...do that?' he enquired anxiously. 'My dear chap, you wouldn't do that! You wouldn't tell them in the village?'

'Well, I might not.'

'Don't! Please don't. You must on no account tell it. Not on any account, there's a good fellow. You wouldn't really do it, would you, old man?'

At this point there appeared along the path a man carrying a rope of twisted deer hide. 'Oh! what a lovely rope! Kind of rope I've been longing for for years. Can't afford to buy one, you know; saving what little money I have'—and he shook his bag of china chips—for a new drum. Been using jungle creepers all this time and my buffalo keeps breaking loose; spend half a morning every

day looking for the beast. Oh! this rope would be just the thing!'

The *gamarala* thought quickly. 'Why, Kota!' he said, 'I'd be delighted to buy the rope for you. Just think kindly of me. And—er—don't tell about the *hunsal*, eh?'

The Drummer, thanking him profusely and slinging the rope over a shoulder, smiled. And the two walked on.

A little further along they met a man carrying a drum. 'For sale?' asked Kota.

'For sale', the man agreed.

'Nice drum', confirmed the other, with a connoisseur's approval; 'I'd care to buy it, I think.' He began to fumble with cords of his purse of china chips. 'Well, bother!' he grumbled, 'Can't get this beastly bag open Cords all tangled. Lend me a few rupees, *gamarala*? and I'll pay you back when I can get at this cash.'

'I'd rather not', said the *gamarala* unguardedly.

'Why I must say I think that's rather disagreeable!' complained the Drummer. 'I suppose it's a touch of dyspepsia. Often comes on after eating *huns*—'

'No, wait, wait, wait, Kota old chap,' the *gamarala* broke in hastily, 'how much did you say you want? And quickly counting out the coins he handed them, a little sadly over.'

The next man they met had for sale a simply splendid elephant tusk. Cheap, too. 'Now that's a real bargain', exclaimed the Drummer: 'that I'll buy if it's the last thing I do.' And he reverted again to his business with the strings of his purse. 'Darn this darned thing! he swore a minute later; 'It's this beastly knot; if I'd only a pin, or a spike, or a—I know, your toothpick! that fine silver toothpick you were using after your meal of *huns*—'

'Oh please, please, please be quiet', cried the by now quite discomposed *gamarala*. 'Here, take the toothpick; take my money'—and he flung his own purse over—'take anything you want; but please, please, please don't talk about..you know what!'

(To be Continued)



IN MEMORIAM

# PERCY

## -Peer Without Compare-

by R. C. Thavarajah  
Retd. Supdt. of Police

WILLIAM MAKEPEACE THACKERAY, (1811-1863), one of the great English Victorian novelists, author of "Vanity Fair", "Pendennis", "The Rose and the Ring" and the first editor of the Cornhill Magazine said:—

"To be a gentleman is to be honest, to be gentle, to be generous, to be brave, to be wise and, possessing all these qualities to exercise them in the most Graceful outward manner". When I look back to the time I knew him intimately which was over twenty years ago, I realise how appropriately this definition of Thackeray befits Don Percival Weerasinghe, who is no more. Young Percy Weerasinghe of an aristocratic and distinguished family from Embuldeniya, Udamulla, his brothers Berrie, who retired as Superintendent of Police, and Vernon, now an Inspector of Police of the Criminal Investigation Department have contributed their share to the Police Service. Percy joined the Department one year after I did. How devoutly I wish that he were alive today. His unrivalled drive, energy, personality and initiative and, above all, his love for the Service would have been a shining example to the young officers.

A motor accident which resulted in the loss of one of his legs quite early in his career as a Policeman did not deter his enthusiasm in whatever work he was entrusted. A lesser man without character would have wilted, withered and vanished into oblivion, "unsung, unhonoured and unwept". Percy's firm resolve of virtue and reason was characterised by what William Ernest Henley epitomised most forcibly and eloquently in his immortal poem entitled "Invictus":—

*"In the fell clutch of circumstance  
I have not winced nor cried aloud;  
Under the bludgeonings of chance  
My head is bloody but unbowed.  
Beyond this place of wrath and tears  
Looms but the horror of the shade;  
And yet the menace of the years  
Finds, and shall find me unafraid".*

By his undaunted spirit, Courage, Fortitude, he proved most convincingly that the loss of a limb did not crush his unconquerable soul. He was an inspiration to so many of his coterie of friends and veritably blazed a trail to help us fight our own battles in life exhorting by the great Aristotle's sustaining advice:—

*"Sufferings become beautiful when anyone bears calamities with cheerfulness—*

*Not through insensibility BUT through Greatness of MIND".*

THE PERFECTIONIST AND IDEALIST that he was, he believed in the perennial nobleness and sacredness in his work and his entire effort was always motivated by the desire to achieve the acme of perfection in anything he thought worth the while. I recall how he managed to find time, in spite of his official duties and other semi-official engagements, to attend the singing classes conducted by Mrs Spencer Sheppard who was responsible for so many eager young men and women of Sri Lanka who wished to "blossom into song". His powerful baritone voice, which he could modulate when necessary to produce effect, used to delight us on so many occasions. He sang only for the listening pleasure of those who had the sense to appreciate what Carlyle described as "little dew-drops of celestial melody". I remember very vividly how he kept enthralled a group of sea-weary sailors on short shore leave with Irish airs, "Trees", "Old Man River", and other old favourites. "The salts" of the sea most of them from Ireland and Scotland, who may not have seen, their homeland, were so visibly moved emotionally and expressed their appreciation unreservedly and unabashedly.

He, by example, showed the younger officers the importance of participating in the various inter District tournaments organised not merely to ensure physical fitness for Police officers but also to inculcate the true spirit of clean and healthy competition. I have seen him discarding his crutches and take the plunge at the deep end of the St. Joseph's College Swimming pool to take part in the open events as well as the relay races representing the Technical Branches of the C.I.D. He certainly did more than what the other

'stalwarts' without any physical disability could ever dare to do—to prove that he would be brave for there is much to dare.

His wide reading and clear thinking made him the 'complete' man and I have benefited by discussing various subjects with him. At the Police Training School, Katukurunda, Kalutara, when he was entrusted with the task of organising a farm, he gave it his undivided attention by the skill he acquired after successfully completing a course of training at The School of Agriculture at Peradeniya. The fact that farm brought considerable profit is of little concern. What is most significant urgently relevant today is that, over twenty five years ago, he gave vibrant expression to Samuel Johnson's dictum that "Agriculture not only gives riches to a Nation but the only riches she can call her own."

The type of training at the Police Training School—now designated the Police Academy—was different in our days. Discipline learnt under hard task-masters may have been the stern type "that pervaded all Nature which was a little cruel that it may be very kind." Whenever the rigor of it manifested itself excessively by ruthless and sadistic "superior" officers, Percy had the "guts" to stand up and deprecate such traits—irrespective of whether he fell out of favour or not. I still remember the forthright article mentally stimulating, somewhat abrasively satirical but scintillatingly witty he wrote for the Police Off-Duty Magazine. A worthy product of Royal College, Colombo—he was regal in more ways than one. I am constrained to quote Edwin Arlington Robinson who wrote:—

*"And he was rich—yes, richer than a King—*

*And admirably schooled in every grace.*

*In fine, we thought that he was everything*

*To make us wish that we were in his place."*

I have had the pleasure and the privilege of seeing the dawn of several New Years with him. The close of this year when we 'ring out the old and ring in the New'—which, incidentally also marks the end of my own 'innings' in the Department, has impelled me to write a tribute to the Perfect Gentle-



man and most faithful friend. Consonant and strangely topical with what Washington Irving, the first American man of letters and father of American Literature wrote are the words:—

*"There is a remembrance of the Dead to which we turn even from the charms of Living. These we would not exchange for the Song of pleasure or the Bursts of Revelry."*

Sacred to his memory, I shall try to meet the challenges of the New Year with the same Courage with which he fought his many battles, the heavy odds and the cruel punishments of Fate. I am certain that he would wish that I be guided by Henley's inspiring message:—

*"It matters not how strait the Gate,  
How charged with punishments  
the Scroll;*

*I am the Master of my Fate,*

*I am the Captain of my Soul."*

May God bless the unconquerable soul of this true Gentleman, who was not 'tailor-made' but certainly born.

KAZI—37

## In A Coconut Estate —Cattle And All That— BY ANATORY BUKOBA

November 5.

Dark it was, and a man came from the direction of the gate on his way to his house on the other side of the road. He gave no sign of anything amiss inside the estate. So on, up the estate road, and at the turn off to the bungalow, lights and a voice came from the direction of the cattle shed. This was enough to give a man a turn, for the voice of the Superintendent from the shed at that hour of night spelt trouble. So it was.

To the bull pen, and there the five-month old bull calf, bought to serve as the chief stud bull, when it grew up, lay on the ground and he could not stand up. Hoisted to his feet, he had not the strength to stand, and he had to be laid down again, but an excuse had already been trotted out that his legs were numbered or cramped, and that they only needed massaging back to life. Massaging was done. To the man who had just come to the estate, the calf looked

a goner. Anger welled up in him as he asked why the calf had been allowed to come to such a pass.

The calf had been the direct responsibility of a man, whose chief duty was to cut grass, when he was not actually working with the two bulls in his charge. The two watcher, the superintendent and the newcomer were there and no cattlekeepers. The grass-cutter or weeder was sent for and told he would have to sleep in the calf pen that night. He had brought a sack to sleep on, and he was expected to make his bed on the trough or hay-rack, but first, an idea had flitted through someone's mind that the calf might be carried on some sacking to his keeper's house.

The chief herdsman or milker, who lived some distance away, was called. Later on, he had to be sent for again. He gave the calf some grass, which the calf munched slowly; and so, to dinner. The Superintendent was the first to return to the bull pens, and the newcomer followed later. When the head cattleman was sent for a second time, he was asked to bring his bedding. This happened when the superintendent alarmed the new-comer by pouring some water from a bottle down the calf's throat.

When this new comer had first come, what with the late hour, the darkness, and the strangeness of the situation, no one had seriously considered calling the *vedda-marthy*, who lived six miles away, to the estate that night. The question was asked if the calf would last out till morning. I think it was presumed at that time that it would. There would be us no room in the trough for two men and the byre was a few yards away over some rough grass. A light would have to be provided, and it was stated that the open flame used for milking would not do. The Superintendent went away to fetch the Aladdin he normally used with his hens. He was a long time away getting it. Meanwhile the calf took a turn for the worst. He would no longer even eat. All the arrangements for calling the *vedda-marthy* in the morning seemed futile. If he was to come at all, he would have to come that night. He lived six miles, away, and the only one on the estate, who knew his house, lived in the village across some paddy fields over which

there was a motorable road. The men were despatched to summon a hiring car and to collect the man who knew the *vedda marthy*s house. They were to sound the car horn a number of times, as they passed the estate to let those inside know that their mission, so far, had been successful. They left the estate at about eleven, or 10.45 p.m.

The Superintendent and the new comer went back to the bungalow, the new comer leaving instructions that that he was to be informed when the car sounded its horn. The two men on duty by the pen had brought some tea with them to brew. The newcomer, lying on his bed heard the long drawn out horn, and, soon after, the voice of one of the watchers informing him of the fact. He lay on a quarter-of-an hour and then got up and went down to the byre. He took up his former position by the trough. The time was about midnight. A half-hour passed, and then someone said there was a car's lights approaching. He turned out to be correct. The *vedda-marthy* took a look at the animal, and he told the new comer quietly that the calf had no chance. This was as the new comer had suspected. Yet an effort had to be made.

The ingredients of the new medicine lay about the estate and in various kitchens. All but one item were by now in the byre, and the pounding done, a brew was made, and this took a long time. At one time, the new comer thought that all was up with the calf. His breathing seemed almost so have stopped. Then the animal showed signs of rallying, and those at the fire were told to hurry up with the brew. It was given to the animal in two small glass bottles, a little at a time. The car had been sent away, and the *vedda-marthy* had elected to stay. The medicine administered, people were sent everywhere to collect the ingredients for a second mixture, which was to be applied externally while most of these people were away the animal died. The time was 3 a.m.

December 4.

Husks piled up and there never seemed time to remove them. Before the last pick, room had to be made, among these husks, for the next crop of nuts. Fences were not repaired, or only first enough of it done to stop cattle getting



## Daily Routine

in or out of the estate, an attempt was made at re-sowing grass. A few crops of fodder were got from this, and then the fodder grass succumbed to weed. Subsidiary crops were sown and watered. The most successful of this was soya bean. The rest of this work petered out.

Cattle died as if they were worth two a penny. In the end, heroic efforts were made to save sick animals, but always too late. The delay in training new cart bulls was unconscionable, especially when the bulls being used were of pensionable age. Two male buffaloes had been bought to draw a plough. Years had gone by, and we were no nearer this laudable aim.

At first some of the trouble had been put down to lack of money for investment. There was a member of the family who always had insisted that the money was there, that there was no need to go outside the estate for it. Resort was had to putting the estate under a company who would provide capital for investment. After a six months trial, this fortunately fell through. Then the estate was taken under the direct wing of a person who had already been associated with the estate through the company. As a member of the family which owned the estate, and as a man who had already proved himself in business, who was able to take a broad view of all the finance involved, not just those of the estate alone, he found that enormous sums had been paid out income tax, which might easily have been recoverable by approved investment in the estate. Various capital items were purchased on the one hand, and the style of the workers' houses elegant all at no cost to the estate. The estate had been tight on labour, under the belief that it could not afford more. On the other hand, when it became necessary to increase the number of working hands it used to be said that the labour could not be got. I always disbelieved both excuses.

During the short days of the company, I think it was, if there were no actual capital investment, I believe there was more money available for current use, as on wages. Money was certainly more easily at call, when the personage, I never already mentioned, took over. There was a great increase in the labour force, but this meant more work, and it seemed to be

resented by the man who had to control it. To have controlled this work force effectively would have meant more work for him. He had a point there, for there is a limit to what any one man can do. It is all very well to say one must be where the men are working, but when they are split up in small gangs, it is not possible. Then there are books to keep up, people to see, both on and off the estate, and, seemingly, a hundred and one other matters to be seen to.

Attempts were made to appoint underlings, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, but consciously, because one or two people were desperate to get some work done. It seemed the only way. Work was being done. The manure was going in, but this seemed to be taking up all the time. There never seemed time to do much else. The dropped nuts were being collected, and the picks registered an increase, but, I was told, it was below the national average, or below that of the beat-run estate.

Accidents do happen, and there was a temporary change in the management. The acting man was very active, and things got done this way especially so with the subsidiary crops. The area under this increased beyond all recognition. There had been two crops of soya bean harvested. Now snake-gourd was sown, and spinach, all in elegant beds, and with the appropriate trellis work. Much cow-pea went down, and chilli is still going down. The area under cultivation is being extended weekly, and that under preparation almost daily.

The enthusiasm is great. There had already been a start made training new cart bulls. The preliminaries have already been gone through for training the buffaloes. They have been castrated, and the *vedamarthiya* was called in for this. The buffaloes have been tied together with a chain. I shall know how to recognize a castrated bull or buffalo in future without having to look at its testicles, if it has been done the native way. The tips of the horns have been shorn off. All that is delaying in is the delay in getting the plough repaired.

New houses have gone up quickly with no loss to the inland revenue; the tidiest little cadjan house you could hope to see; a *maduwa* for cows to calve in, in inclement

weather; and a new bull *kotuwa* was been made the day I left. Dung has been led out of the area where the cattle are tied up, near the milking shed. A wathcer's house has been re-thatched, cadjans are being woven almost daily. There is a permanent work force for the subsidiary crops. There is a full time kangany there, and he uses his brains, his knowledge and his experience, and is not just there to carry out orders only. Fences have been slashed and wire repaired that has not been done for years. A bonus system for exceptional work has been started, and it is pooled. Space calls a halt to this, and time. I have been told that we leave where I am in five minutes.

## Inania of this, that and the other

### The NON-cooperative COOPERATIVE

By Inna

"Not very co-operative, are they?" asked my friend in the queue as he flecked a spot of something from his raincoat, tattered as it was in the *Banderawela* rains of November. He waited and waited, it seems.

You'll get this kind of thing only in one place in the world: Sri Lanka, my unique, my privileged country where smiles are over the counter and tins of stuff and bales of bundles are under the counter ready to go at a moment's notice underground. I watched them for a year. They do it with brazen impunity and the Big Folk in Colombo was eloquent about the Kandyan peasant of pure predestined stock. The shop chiefs are having a field day riding rough over the backs of the peasants.

See my CTB buses all plastered with WHY DONT YOU USE KILOGRAMS and SWITCH OVER TO KILOMETRES etc., but in the co-operative the *chundu* is not heaped up, it is not levelled, it is almost cut with a concave wire. The bus-posters say that 1 Kilogram is 2. point something-something but the co-operative coupon-cutter mighty as he is (his days may be numbered at his brazen impunity) will know nothing about



measures and half-measures of rice. He knows only his faulty *chundu*, twice levelled, for bad measure, and he heaps this kind of insults for good measure to anyone who says anything.

My man visited the place in the morning of Distribution day:

—"Can I have half a pound of coriander, please?"

—"No, come in the evening, distribution is at two p.m."

—(My man sneaks around to the place at ten to two p.m. The queue forms at 2 and this is the answer): Oll-finis (All the coriander is over).

What the counter-man does not know is that this happens every week, every month, every year and we, say *Hats Off* to great Mr. Felix D, and he deserves it. He came here once for a pandal ceremony in September and I and my friends went and met him and greeted him, on invitation. He came obviously reluctant of all the fanfare. You could see it on his shy face. But may I invite him again or those who know the cooperation that some of the co-operative officials try to mete out to people and he will be surprised. His measures are drastic, but they are like the silver lining, ruthless, drastic, to save the down-and-out.

Coope going *metric*? May well be, but now the co-op going's hectic and I mean it. (The day after, my man looked into a box by mistake: there was coriander, that wonderful welcome seed in cold, cleety, rainy Bandarawela where I'm for a while). At once he was told, now that he had seen it all—the passing and the keeping—"I'll give you a little bit." He can keep his little bit for all he is worth. Nemesis will overtake him. This is the type of man who is normally hung, drawn and quartered in Russia, who attack his fellowmen with subtlety and disgrace.

Then again, how many Stores in this hell-hole of a town for Exploitation, run out of stuff (any material) the day after. Someone went to a nearby farm to buy seeds. He found all kinds of receipts to show they had been sold out in a rush, but they could be bought in that certain place, every every time.

Whom are they fooling? And a day is coming when the Consumer Societies will fling these men into the railed bin. It's coming. The

poor peasant is not long in understanding, and he won't bide his time.

*Buck up, you nit-wits. If you love your life, go ahead, lose it.*

## LETTERS

### \* Trees

### \* Bishop Horsley

### \* Church Union

Sir,

I enjoyed reading the Editor's letter in your issue on the 15th of November '75 (Vol. 20 No. 26). In fact the subject of protecting trees is very close to my heart. When I was a teacher many years ago, I made it a practice to tell young students of the value of trees. I used to compare a tree to a city and found it made a wonderful impact on the pupils and they all began to love and respect trees. It is not without significance that man at one stage worshipped trees throughout the world. Among Hindus and Buddhists veneration of trees, although only a few varieties, is a part of their rich and ancient culture.

How much of significance is there in the fact that the Buddha attained enlightenment under a tree? A tree is a magnificent creation, a stupendous architecture of nature. It is a symbol of life and growth. You can write volumes on the value of trees. I am glad you have spotlighted this very important issue, basic to our ecosystem and important to the preservation of man and his natural environment. In destroying trees, man is destroying himself.

I am happy to note the activities of the Ruk Rekaganno. I would like to become one of them. The Tamil translation for the Sinhala phrase should be *மரம் காப்போம்*. It rhymes with *அறம் காப்போம்* a Tamil word for Temple trustees and an exalted office in the ancient Tamil kingdoms. The translation should be appropriate for the noble production of the people who protect trees.

R. R. Sivalingam

212/5, A Galle Road,  
Mt. Lavinia.  
21.11.75.

Sir,

Please allow me the courtesy of your columns to refer to the admirable letter published in your journal of 6.12.75 from Mr. E. Seemanpillai a friend and contemporary of mine in the public service. One who is constantly browsing on mount Parnassus surrounded by the western classics and in particular with the Odes Of Horace always at hand cannot have a clearer view of this matter than my own "down to earth" view which I expressed with a great deal of restraint.

However this may be it is necessary to remove any misconception so that this long standing reproach to the suburban hierarchy, clergy and laity may be speedily remedied. At the date Sir Andrew Caldecott was appointed Governor of Ceylon he was holidaying in England and it was on the golf course in Surrey that he heard and learnt for the first time in his life a Sinhala word, namely *Hemin! Hemin!* Simultaneously he gained his first insight into the way of life of the people in Ceylon from a book that happened to be published in England at that date, namely "Grass For My Feet" by I Viyayatunga, a product of Mahinda College during Principal Woodward's time. Incidentally Sir Andrew was full of praise for this author and book which contains a graphic description of the way of life of people in the Galle district during the early part of this century. Being a Southerner myself I can confidently endorse this praise and add also that this book is the best of its kind I have ever read. Unfortunately it is out of print now.

In similar manner when the election of C. D. Horsely to fill the then vacant seat of Colombo was announced in England ex-Colonial Englishmen in England who had earlier resided in Colombo and regularly worshipped in Colombo's churches hastened to felicitate, advise and brief the Bishop—elect who was going to live and work in a strange land among strange people. The young bishop-elect with characteristic youthful ardour and mindful or unmindful of the vulnerable position in which he would be placed, because ever the devil quotes the scriptures to suit his own purposes, then and there determined to remove immediately on his arrival



In Ceylon the reproach on the suburban churches.

On arrival in Ceylon to his slogan and exhortation "Indigenise" the response and reaction of the suburban clergy and laity was something like this—"English is the state language of this land and we insist on worshipping God in the English language in obedience to the Christ's own injunction 'Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's..and who the hell are you to countermand the Christ's injunction?'

Bishop Horsely was not, and would, if he were alive today, unequivocally repudiate that he was a prophet in advance of his time as suggested by my aforementioned learned friend. Gentle reader I now leave it to you to "read between the lines" transposing the above quoted response and reaction into today's context.

And now, sir, I do not propose to encroach further on your valuable space except to say if the hierarchy on the occasion of his pastoral visit to suburban churches delivers his sermon or address in Sinhala, (leaving it to the Vicar to interpret simultaneously in English in case the latter considers it necessary although it is an undisputed fact that Colombo residents, Sinhalese, Tamils and Burghers, have at least a good colloquial knowledge of Sinhala in which language they daily converse with their domestic servants, tradesmen, fish mongers etc) the suburban clergy and laity will soon follow suit. Even assuming that there may be one or two who do not, it does not matter. In 1953 I was transferred to Batticaloa and on the first Sunday morning since my arrival there I walked into the Anglican Church only to find that the service was conducted in Tamil even a word of which I could not comprehend but I stayed put till the end of the service. When I was leaving the church the Vicar hailed me and expressed his regret that I could not have understood even a word of the Tamil service. I replied that although, unlike a Catholic church, a Protestant church does not provide visual aids to worship where in a similar situation one with the aid of rosary can pour out his heart to the Crucified One and seek the intercession of saints whose images embellish the church I was not at all inconvenienced and requested the Vicar

not to worry. His face beamed with pleasure when he said that years earlier he had exactly the same experience with a new Government Agent an Englishman. Just as faint heart never won fair maid faint leadership invariably fails to achieve.....

R. W. W.

Mt. Lavinia.  
18.12.75



Sir,

Differences have always existed within the Christian Communion. Attempts also have always been made to heal those differences and restore peace harmony and Christian fellowship among the dissident constituent bodies. Such was the position even in apostolic times, such too ever afterwards. Short-lived however were those differences, the hierarchy intervening in most cases, in some the state at the instance of the hierarchy. But when differences became acute and so widespread as to threaten the integrity of the faith in Christendom, General Councils were convoked and Peace and Order restored.

In the eleventh century however there occurred a breach, a rent in the seamless garment of the Church that has defied repair and re-integration even to this day. The Eastern Church broke away in schism from full communion with the parent Roman Church perpetuating, it would seem, the age-old differences between East and West. It is to resolve those differences that the several ecclesial bodies under the Patriarchate of the East at Constantinople have decided to establish a joint Commission empowering the same to draw up a Scheme of Reunion with Rome ending thus the bitterness of centuries of separation and estrangement.

These moves tentative in themselves towards restoration of full intercommunion would not have aroused sustained worldwide interest in the now generally prevailing atmosphere of ecumenism among Christian confessional bodies. What doubtless has produced interest amounting to dismay amongst many in the Roman fold is the reported supreme act of obeisance rendered by Paul VI at the consecrated service in theistine Chapel to the Most Reverend Meliton, Metropolitan of Chalcedon and

plenipotentiary of the Venerable Dimitrios, Patriarch of the Eastern Orthodox Church. Students of ecclesiastical history would recall to mind the Council of Chalcedon in the Vth century and the grand finale with which the Fathers greeted the doctrinal position as enunciated by the legates of Pope Leo IV acclaiming in thunderous unison the historic words: Roma locuta est, causa finita est—Rome hath spoken, the case is closed.

There should however be no dismay in the Roman Communion nor bewilderment in the non-Roman Churches. The triumphalism evidenced in the entry into Jerusalem by Christ was shortly followed thereafter by the touching scene of the master washing with water basin and towel the feet of his disciples, the feet of those He wrought or in closest association during three years of earthly ministration.

That scene so touchingly depicted in John XIII wherein *samanera* remonstrance was submerged in a tide of overflowing tenderness unmatched in historical narrative, has itself been the forerunner divine of the Maundy Thursday observance to be instituted in the fulness of time commemorative of the spirit of humble service which He insisted should ever afterwards be the hallmark of Christian leadership as against the lordly *hauteur* that had characterized rulership in gentile lands.

The "Servus Servorum Dei" title may at times in the history of the Papacy have been flouted far too ostentatiously to be matched by condign performance in the field of actual service, any observed departures from the lofty ideal set by Christ being traceable to that unsubduably emerging human element in some of the occupation Of the Petrine Chair. But this gesture of Paul VI consequentially so pregnant, phenomenally so significant, self-effacingly so pro-tentous as to recall to mind the empyreal exanition (Vulgate: exinanivit) of the Son spelt out with such poetic splendour in Philip-pines II 58, is unquestionably a towering landmark of incomparable beauty in the annals of inter-confessional relations.

E. Seemanpillai

Chenkalad.  
31 December 1975.





# Confidentially

## Travelling On Free Warrants

IS IT NOT A FACT that a sizable percentage of those who use the CGR and the internal flights of Air Ceylon do so by virtue of the free travelling allowed to them as part of the fringe benefits as public servants? That during holiday time warrant holders invariably monopolise the seats in Air Ceylon and also in the CGR where reservations can be made for sleeping berths, sleeperettes, and in air conditioned carriages? That passengers who buy their tickets for cash are at a great disadvantage because these warrant holders make block reservations to cover groups and families? That this will not matter very much if the reservations are fully utilised? That very often these reservations by warrant holders are not fully utilised and the spare is wasted? That what is important is that warrant holders who cancel reservations or do not use them are not penalised in any way? (That is what is believed by the cash paying travelling public—and it is probably correct?) That a passenger who has made a reservation and bought his tickets has to pay a cut of 10% if he cancels the seat even 48 hours before the time of travel? That if the reservation was cancelled 24 hours before the penalty is even higher? That if the cancellation is last minute (at least on Air Ceylon) the penalty is 100%? That it is not clear how the penalty is exacted by Air Ceylon from free warrant travellers who make late cancellations or even fail to travel? That the popular belief among cash-paying travellers is that the warrant holders suffer no loss? That in the case of the CGR, as much as in Air Ceylon, cash paying passengers are often told that all seats are booked? That no reservations were available—except on last minute cancellations? That cash-paying travellers have to hang about the booking office to seize upon a seat which is cancelled? That on many occasions such cash-paying travellers have found that

the cancellations are many? That the warrant holders make reservations and cancellations without the least compunction about the inconvenience caused to other passengers? That what makes it worse is that these free warrant holders have their "friends" in the reservation counters? That the cash-paying traveller is at a great disadvantage when it comes to making reservations? That in the CGR such reservations can be made ten days ahead? That during holiday time block reservations (ten days before) make it difficult for the genuine cash-paying traveller to obtain a seat? That in the end there are last minute cancellations and many seats are not used? That unless free warrant holders are also penalised for late cancellations or indiscriminate block or family or group reservations, the cash paying travelling public will always be at the wrong end of the stick?

IS IT ALSO NOT TRUE that there is a widespread belief that many government departments are in arrears in respect of money due to the CGR and Air Ceylon on account of warrants issued by these departments? That there is a persistent rumour that as of last year there was a sum of nearly Rs. 39 or Rs. 40 million owing to the CGR on account of tickets issued against warrants? That two government departments are mentioned as being the biggest culprits in the matter? That owing to this huge sum outstanding to the CGR much of the maintenance work budgeted for has not been done? That if these arrears had been paid the CGR could have utilised the money to get the work done? That it is on the cards that this story about the Rs. 40 million arrears is only a popular myth to account for the inability of the CGR to do proper maintenance work? That this story about the arrears may well be a canard? That it will be useful if the Ministry of Transport looks into the matter and informs the public as to the real facts? That if the story is a canard it should be laid to rest once and for all? That even if the arrears story is not true and is a product of a frustrated imagination, it will be good if the Railway authorities make it possible for cash-paying travellers to have a dog's chance of getting reservations during times of holiday rush? That in the past, there was an unannounced system whereby

a certain percentage of possible reservations were held for cash-paying travellers until 72 or 48 hours before time of travel? That only if these seats were not availed of before that time were they allotted to free warrant holders? That this system, like all other systems, may lend itself to a few abuses, but the possible abuses outweigh the benefits to the cash-paying travelling public? That there is no reason why this system cannot be re-introduced now? That it is also necessary to impose the same penalties exacted from cash-paying travellers on free warrant travellers who make late cancellations? That it is time that the CGR and Air Ceylon paid a little attention to the passengers who paid cash for their tickets? That this does not mean that free warrant holders should be discriminated against? That if they were not privileged in the matter of cancellation-penalties there is no doubt that the inconveniences suffered by the cash-paying travelling public will be greatly diminished (especially during holiday rush-periods)?

THAT IT IS TRUE that in the CGR there has been marked improvement in many ways? That an effort is now being made to keep the carriages cleaner than they were before? That most carriages are now lit? That the few fans which have not been stolen have begun to work? That Railway Security guards endeavour to curb the activities of thugs, rowdies and roughs who cast rude remarks at women? That many stations are cleaner? That the grass has been cut on large sections of the tracks? That the trains now generally run on time? That there is much more room for improvement but a beginning has been made? And that this itself is a miracle—for the CGR the public had known for years? That there is no doubt that with a little effort the CGR can provide a much better service to the public than it has done for several years now? That while a few stations have been cleaned up and present a neat appearance, there are still a large number where the staff have to be roused to do much-needed spring-cleaning? That ticket inspectors are seen more frequently but ticketless travellers are still legion especially in short hauls on long distance trains?





## A Snake Stone

A stone that sticks to the wound caused by a snake bite and falls off when the patient is out of danger may sound very much like a fairy tale. But it is true. Here are a few facts.

Deep in the wild of Brazil a Jesuit Missionary came across remnants of a once famous Red Indian Tribe. All the years he worked among them, he noticed that among thousands of patients no one was ever brought to him to be treated for snake-bite. Yet, he knew the country well and he knew people were actually stung by snakes. One day, it transpired that the old village doctor had an infallible remedy for such snake-bites. Was it just sorcery or magic? Did he use any charm or chant any mantram? No, he only applied a small black stone to the wound, the stone stuck to the wound and fell off only after the patient was cured. Try as he may the missionary could not obtain the secret from the Red Indian. Yes, he had been good to them, he had been like a father to the tribe. But that was a secret handed down from his forefathers and that secret he meant to keep for his family. On his deathbed, however, the old snake bite specialist sent for the Missionary and revealed the secret to him. Diffidently at first, then with greater confidence, the missionary made large use of the wonderful stone. The results were quite amazing. The snake-stone of the old Red Indian Chief worked wonders. The missionary sent samples of it to his brethren working throughout South America and in far away Central Africa. From everywhere came news of the wonderful cures effected. But the formula of the wonder stone remained a dead secret. Hundreds had used it, thousands had been cured by it, yet, no one knew the secret but the old missionary from South America. How is it then we are in possession of the secret? Yes, strange though it might appear, we keep the secret now. It is a long cry from Brazil to Ceylon but the long and short of it is that the dying missionary confided the secret to two nieces and these, when unable to make any use of it, entrusted it to a missionary leaving for Ceylon who in his turn left it to us.

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