

TRIBUNE

CEYLON NEWS REVIEW

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ARE OUR GRANARIES OVERFLOWING?

— What's J. R. Up To?

The Minister of Food, Mr. J. R. Jayawardene, is now proclaiming that Ceylon's granaries are full with locally-grown paddy and rice and that the imported rice is now a glut and a drag on the market. He would undoubtedly like the public to believe that this miracle of overflowing granaries is due entirely to his efforts as Minister of Food.

The public are not likely to be taken in quite so easily. They will remember that in July 1952, Mr. J. R. Jayawardene in presenting the Budget had painted a rosy picture of the island's prosperity and wealth. Two months later, when Sir Oliver Goonetilleke had failed to obtain aid from Washington, the truth was out. That the country was in dire financial straits: that the food situation was desperate and that every thing was wrong with our balance of trade and that our foreign assets were dwindling at a terrific rate.

The public will now need more than Mr. Jayawardene's assurances to believe that our granaries are overflowing with locally grown rice.

One Crop

And this optimistic boast of excess paddy seems to be based entirely on the crop returns for one season. This is certainly not

enough for deluding oneself into the belief that all is well with the island's food resources.

How has this excess crop arisen? How much excess is there? What are our reserves? Has the price of paddy on the black-market fallen? For how much can non-rationed rice be bought in the boutiques in Colombo and the outstations?

These are questions that must be answered before the assurance of Mr. J. R. Jayawardene is accepted. Will he publish statistics on these matters? *From inquiries we have made there does not seem to be any reduction in the price of non-rationed rice in our boutiques.* If there are such boutiques and towns where there has been an appreciable drop in prices, the public is entitled to know.

The second question the public want to know is why this talk of overflowing granaries is made an excuse to decry Chinese rice. Ceylon imports rice from Burma and China. We pay more for our Burma rice. And Burma moreover does not buy any rubber or any other commodity from us.

But China does. She buys our rubber at enhanced prices compared to present world prices. If any imports have to be cut, it must be rice from Burma.

The Government must take care that the Minister of Food does not put the Cabinet in a false position with public by trying to wreck the China Pact by raising this agitation against Chinese rice. There is more than a suspicion in the mind of the public that all this talk of overflowing granaries and unsaleable Chinese rice is another sinister attempt to sabotage the Rubber-Rice Agreement with China.

WHAT'S WRONG, LAKE HOUSE?

In recent times there has been not one battle the Lake House Press has fought without losing it.

Let us take some of the instances at random.

When Mr. R. G. Senanayake originally went to China, Lake House started a hare that he had no authority to negotiate a Pact. On his return, it was more than proved that he had gone armed with full authority and that he had in fact made arrangements for a Pact.

Then, another battle was launched that the British Government disapproved such a Pact. When this too was proved a figment of the imagination invented by a Lake House blue-eyed boy in London, the matter was not allowed to rest.

Lake House began to attack the Pact itself.

Luckily for Mr. R. G. Senanayake, there was another group of newspapers in Ceylon and the *Times* fought his battle and won it.

Premier Stakes

Then Lake House fought hard against Sir John Kotelawela to get Mr. J. R. Jayawardene appointed as Premier. But it was Mr. Dudley Senanayake who got the appointment.

Then in a campaign against Sir John, Lake House tried its best to keep Mr. Dudley Senanayake as Premier against his wish. This plan too failed.

The Hartal too was another incident which Lake House tried to play down. The whole country, thanks to *Times* saw what was the truth.



And then came the "damned lie" culminating in a Parliamentary Group meeting which showed that not only had the *Times* not disclosed Cabinet secrets but that negotiations had been made without any sanctions from the Cabinet which was the real point in the *Times* story. In fact, as the *Times* reported it:

"Sir John failed to give a categorical assurance to the Party that the Government was not thinking of American aid.

"He asked: 'What is the harm in exploring aid from any country? The Yankee Dick can try and get aid from any country. So is the China Dick free to explore the possibility of getting aid from anywhere'"

Cabinet Secrets

Some of the Ministers and members of Parliament seem to have peculiar notions in regard to what is a Cabinet secret. If in the Cabinet room, one kind Minister asks an unfortunate member "How's your wife's lumbago?" "can this precious wife's lumbago become a Cabinet secret?"

What gossip transpires at a Cabinet meeting is like any other gossip. Whether Mr. J. R. Jayawardene suggests that the *Times* should be sued or Mr. R. G. Senanayake objects to somebody trying to steal his shoes. Considering such small talk as Cabinet secrets

betrays an utter lack of what a Cabinet secret is.

C.C. Desai

The *Thinakaran* and the *Virakesari* have carried long interviews from the High Commissioner for India in Ceylon on the question of Ceylon Cabinet's sub-committee decision in regard to stateless persons being made jobless and foodless.

I am told Mr. Desai is one of the promoters of *Jana* the new stale-newsmagazine of Lake House. In fact, the whole idea was born at India House with the High Commissioner as midwife.

It would be interesting to see what *Jana* has to say about Mr. Desai's view on the subject.

Jana

If Lake House intends to spread thinly over Asia and Africa the great ideals of coco-cola journalism (or is it coco-colism?), the U.S.A. need not pour so much money in propaganda of the open dollar policy.

But it does not quite look like the rest of Asia is going to swallow the Lake House policy of English for ever, America always and hate India till it harts.

This is shown by the poor sales of *Jana*. Even Nehru's name had to be used to boost sales. It would appear that Mr. Desai's recommendation got *Jana* a message from Nehru. But, he was never that much interested to order 100 copies. What Mr. Desai had ordered of his brain-wave magazine has been used as an excuse to use Nehru's name.

THE COMING

*Quite by accident we stumbled on
this remarkable poem in Bishops College
magazine. The writer, a student in Form VI A,
hides her identity under the pen name "Y."
This poem is not merely an exercise in rhyme
or the music of words. It has a message
and a purpose and is written with restraint
that reveals artistry.* — Editor.

The year He came, the rains had failed again
And the crops wasted. Under thick, green slime
A water-trickle still moved sluggishly
In hard-baked channels, scooped, at sowing-time
From rich, wet mud.
In the fields, the rice stalks bent, and yellowed, and dried;
In the village, two of the children sickened and died
When the fever struck in March. The white dust rose in clouds
And covered them, as it covered the walls and the houses,
Crusted the fields, and the shrunken branches of trees,
Coated the slime that crept in the channel-beds,
Coated and clogged the dried, shallow beds of our lives.

Through the dust and the heat, then, I say it was first that we saw Him.

All that morning, the people had grouped and collected,
People from outlying settlements, travelling on foot
Along dust-covered roads. (There were some in the crowd that we knew)
They had come, they said, they had come to witness His coming.
He will speak to us, they said, He will remake His promises
He will bring prosperity to our parched land
He will fill the fields and the empty barns with grain
He will fill the hungry with good things.
Our children and our children's children will live to bless His name
When He turns the rivers to flow through our land to the sea,
He will have done with poverty (they said)
He will exalt the humble, and those of low estate.

Tell us we cried, impatient, Who is this?
Who is it that will do these things?
He that is coming, they answered, and finding some shade
From the sweltering heat of the sun, they settled, to wait.

By the side of the road, where the women sat fanning themselves,
Palm leaves nodded and swayed; through their green arches
Down the white road it came, the black, sleek shape,
Long, low-sprung on smoothly-running tyres,
Came, and slid to a stop.
The door was opened for Him, and heavily, He
Climbed out. We heard His words in silence.

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THE COMING

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"We are the poor," He cried to us, "we are the hungry" —
(He stood with his polished, pointed shoes apart,
His white coat stretched, and straining at the buttons)
"Our children are starving and dying in tens and twenties"
He cried. (And the chauffeur, lounging,
Stifled a yawn with his hand).
After His speech was made, they garlanded Him —
With pink and orange artificial flowers
(No fresh flowers bloom in the pathways round our fields).
He did not stay long —
I think the headman must have told Him of
The fever in the village. He went away,
And crowds of people lined the road and cheered
As the engine roared, and the car went past; and watched
The little white eddies of dust that churned under the wheels.
He went away,
And left on walls and leafless trees, a crop,
A rash of coloured placards, bills and posters.

We went, and stood, and waited; one by one,
We pushed our scraps of paper through a slot.
He won, they said. We went back home once more
To plough the fields and weed the garden plots.

He has not come our way again. And still
The wells run dry, and though we sow and fill,
The withered fields lie open to the sun;
The dust still creeps through cracks in baked mud-walls,
And clogs the streams and channels, one by one.

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DACCA

RIOTS, IMPLICATIONS

While Karachi was busy "negotiating" conversion of Pakistan into an advance American war base in "mutual defence," East Bengal rocked with a ghastly manslaughter in which officially four hundred and unofficially one thousand persons, including children and women, died because of what on surface looked a small matter. Though an enquiry commission is yet to find real reasons behind the holocaust, Premier Ali who did not even care as much to visit the scene of butchery, took only forty eight hours to find a scapegoat in the communist which has been denied outright by East Bengal Chief Minister Fazlul Haq. *Dawn* in the meanwhile, with unhidden glee, has added to its list of traitors the name of Fazlul Haq and repeated once again "Hindus and communists."

To discredit

That an attempt is afoot to discredit Fazlul Haq and introduce Governor's rule in East Bengal is not denied in Karachi but the people of East Bengal are equally determined to be ruled by themselves and none else is evident from the defiant attitude now prevalent there.

To India the cause of the ghastly Dacca riots is not far to seek. India was forced to accept political division of a single geographical unit because of the British backed Muslim communal insistence and worse. The wheel of communalism does not unfortunately stop without its full course of a complete round. In East Bengal it has taken the repellent shape of a Bengali non Bengali feud because the former, the East Bengali, says is being ruled and exploited by the later. The fact is; culturally, economically, ethnologically, and linguistically the

gulf between the two wings of the vastly separated Pakistan, as wide as it is close with the two well knit Bengals. In some shape or other, most people in East Bengal actively feel the anomaly must be solved. Naturally when Chief Minister Fazlul Haq who belongs to the soil gave vent to this pent up feeling distant Karachi found in him a veritable traitor.

The Squeeze Out

The Indo-Ceylon problem is very much in the news here. The "problem" continues to vex Premier Nehru and according to circles close to him he seems to be rather disillusioned on this score. Frankly, as it seemed when he spoke in the Parliament on Ceylon Government's latest manoeuvre to "squeeze out", as Nehru put it, Ceylon Indians, he is not used to such what some malicious Members of Parliament termed as "double dealing".

When Sir John was here, he so much praised the sincerity of the Government of India in settling the Indo Ceylon question and when all concerned had accepted that Nehru had in fact given Ceylon such concessions which they had not even dreamt of, it is amusing now to read childish and ill-worded motives imputed by Sir John's party paper the *U. N. P. Journal*.

In 1945

A Ceylonese friend has sent to me a copy of a letter from Jawaharlal Nehru which is addressed to one N. A. F. Meemanage who, I am told, belongs to the Sri Lanka Freedom Party. The letter is dated October 1, 1945. It was written just a few weeks after Nehru was released from Ahamadnagar Prison.

To a question from Meemanage as to if any day he (Nehru)

were to be the Prime Minister or Foreign Minister of India how would he solve the Indo Ceylon issue Nehru wrote:

"Lanka and India are so closely connected that they must inevitably be associated with each other, politically and otherwise in the future. For India perhaps this is not such an important matter, as India minus Lanka will yet be a great power. But for Lanka this connection is vital. This has been my faith all these years, but I have always made it clear that this question of closer association must be decided by Lanka herself and she must be perfectly free to choose.

"Culturally, racially and linguistically Lanka is as much a part of India as any province. But all these considerations might be overridden by political and economic developments. As a matter of fact, it is these political and economic considerations that point inevitably to a closer union. Lanka's trade must of necessity be largely with India; any attempt to look elsewhere will produce instability and insecurity.

S. E. Asian Grouping

"Politically, India is certain to be a free and independent country soon, and will thereafter rapidly develop industrially and otherwise. She is likely to become the centre for defence purposes and trade for Southern and South-East Asia. It is my hope that regional agreements, within the four corners of a world agreement, will bind together all these countries of South and South East Asia.

"If some such development takes place, Lanka must hold on to

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ASSEMBLY



DEBATES INDO - CEYLON PROBLEM

On May 13, a most remarkable thing happened in the Madras Legislative Assembly. Twenty-six legislators, including a Minister, participated on a prolonged debate over a non-official resolution tabled by the Communist member, S. Ramalingam, and finally the resolution was put to the House and carried.

The resolution requested the Government "to convey to the Government of India its grave concern at the growing deterioration of the condition of Ceylon nationals of Indian origin, after the signing of the Indo-Ceylon agreement and to take necessary steps to arrest the worsening situation and to improve the lot of such Ceylon nationals of Indian origin.

As anticipated in my last week's despatch, the people in this part of India have started preparing themselves to the dangers inherent in the Senanayake plan, also known as S-Bomb from Ceylon. So, now the elected tribune of the people in South India have had a prolonged debate and the resolution as well as the proceedings will be sent for the special attention of and action by the Central Government. And, pretty soon the *Lok-Sabha*, as the New Delhi House of the people has been renamed, will take up the matter. And, so will the Travancore-Cochin Assembly, for if 5.5 lakhs are going to be repatriated from Ceylon, a small percentage of the repatriates must be belonging to Travancore-Cochin. Travancoreans and Cochinites ought to be concerned.

Communist Motion

What was remarkable about the resolution was that a non-official resolution sponsored by a Communist was carried with the

support of many of the majority party, for the Congressmen placed regional loyalty above party loyalty. This resolution mildly censuring Premier Nehru for apparent indifference towards the Indo-Ceylon problem brought together Communists, Congressmen, Karghamites, the Trotskyite S.C.C. Anthony Pillai, and even the super-capitalist Sir M. A. Muthia Chettiar (Rajah of Chettinad), to speak with one voice. Strong criticism was voiced by every one of the legislators except the minister who in keeping with his dignity counselled moderation.

The debate was interesting. It was interesting to hear the Rajah of Chettinad (the bosom friend of several U.N.P. Ministers, especially the Senanayake and Sir Oliver Goonetilleke), suggest the setting up of a separate department by the Government of Madras to watch events in Ceylon, Burma and Malaya as well as the sending of a delegation from Madras to Delhi led by the Chief Minister to make representations to Prime Minister Nehru. It was interesting to hear the Ceylonese-born Trotskyite brother-in-law of Phillip Gunawardene, Anthony Pillai, confirming on the floor of the House the existence of some form of Malanism in Ceylon. It was interesting to hear M.P. Subramaniam accusing high-placed officers and dignitaries from North India for the debacle that has resulted out of the recent Indo-Ceylon pact. It was equally interesting to hear N. Gopala Menon and others suggesting that the present High Commissioner for India in Ceylon should be recalled if found unsuitable for the job.

Unwise

The consensus of opinion among the legislators is that Premier

Nehru did a very unwise thing in concluding the Indo-Ceylon Pact, firstly without consulting the Madras Government, and secondly in giving in to the Ceylon Government at the expense of the Ceylon Indians on the sole advice of High Commissioner, C. C. Desai. The well-informed among the legislators are of the confirmed opinion that all the unilateral actions taken by Ceylon Government with the intention of driving out the Ceylon Indians have resulted out of concessions given to the Ceylon Government in the Indo-Ceylon Pact. It is to be recalled here that Premier Nehru conceded several things to Sir John Kotelawala which he refused to do when he discussed the same problem at London with Dudley Senanayake. People are beginning to wonder whether there was a hidden hand behind the volte face and whether it was the hand of High Commissioner Desai, who studied with Sir John in England.

Game of Chess

APPARENTLY the Indo-Ceylon problem today is like a game of chess between two astute players. For every move of the Kotelawala Government, there is a counter-move by the Indian High Commissioner. Checkmates, stalemates long silences and cheer seem to be part of the game.

The latest counter-move of High Commissioner Desai has gratified many on this side of the Palk Straits, for the India Government has categorically stated that it would not accept or register as Indian nationals those who are being coerced to seek such registration under threat of losing their jobs or having their rice rations confiscated. India has refused to

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SABOTAGE THWARTED?

This is the second and concluding article by S. P. Amarasingam, author of the book "Rice & Rubber," the recent controversy.

On Friday May 14, the *Daily News* front-paged a single column news item to say: "SHORT SHRIFF FOR CANARD..... Cabinet took only a few minutes." The report stated that the Cabinet had completely vindicated the Prime Minister and thereby "proved" that the *Times of Ceylon* story was a canard. The report, however, was at pains to state that the story put out by *Lankadipa* about two ministers having discussions with the U.S. Ambassador was utterly false. However, the report admitted that that the two ministers had, in fact, met the U.S. representative for a few minutes but had not discussed this matter.

Scoopers Scooped

That evening, the *Observer* once again covered its front page or most of it with a terrific streamer: "THE SCOOPERS SCOOPEDTIMES 'TORPEDO' IS A DAMN SQUIB.....SNARLS CANNOT TURN A FALSEHOOD INTO A TRUTH." With photostats of its front page and that of the *Times* for a number of days on which this controversy reached great heights, the *Observer* endeavoured to show that Lake House (and more particularly the *Observer* itself) had covered itself with glory in telling the public that the *Times* story was a damn lie. It also found consolation in a Washington report that there had been no immediate approach from Ceylon for aid and further that the U.S. position was known and clear—namely, that if the China Pact were broken Ceylon would be entitled to such aid. The layman reading this report seemed to think that it supported the *Times* story but the pundits in the *Observer* seemed to think otherwise.

The *Times* on Friday afternoon (May 14) announced that Mr. J. R. Jayawardene wanted to go to China for the next discussions about the rubber and rice price review. This was a report of what had taken place at the Cabinet meeting the previous day. The *Observer* immediately rushed into a second edition with announcement: "J. R. JAYAWARDENE NOT GOING TO CHINA.....Another *Times* canard." It stated that the *Observer* "is in a position to kill another gigantic canard propagated by the *Times of Ceylon* today." It declared that the team for China had already been chosen and they were Mr. R. G. Senanayake, leader of the delegation, Mr. T. B. Panabokke, Mr. K. Alavapillai and Mr. H. Jinadasa.

The *Observer* vigorously defended Jayawardene: "The *Times of Ceylon* sought today in its leading article and editorial to suggest that the choice of Mr. Jayawardene to negotiate the renewal of the China pact was a sinister attempt to give substance to their exploded 'torpedo' theory"

Last Say

The next morning, the *Daily News* was strangely silent about the whole matter. The *Observer* too had nothing more about the controversy, except for a cartoon by Collette to show that it was Mr. R. G. Senanayake who was giving away Cabinet secrets to the *Times*. The *Times*, however, had a field day. It published an exclusive statement from Mr. R. G. Senanayake. He stated that he knew nothing about his having been chosen to go to Peking. "I know nothing about this," he declared. I checked the story with other members of the alleged delegation, and none of them had any information, official or otherwise that any of them had been named."

He concluded the statement with the remark: "I am glad that Mr. J. R. Jayawardene has now decided not to go to China."

Editorially, the *Times* wrote one of the strongest pieces it has ever done against the Prime Minister or, for a matter of that, against any member of the Government.

"Today the *Times of Ceylon* bluntly accuses the Right Honourable Sir John Kotalawala. We accuse him of forgetting the dignity of his high office, and making himself the object of derision by lending himself to the a newspaper group whose scurrility has now become a byword....."

Very rightly, the editorial demanded why the Prime Minister had not denied the *Times* sabotage story by means of an official communique through the Information Department or why he did not deny it on the floor of the House of Representatives.

"We are pained and shocked at the irresponsibility with which Sir John treats the office of Prime Minister," it declared. "We are aghast at the attitude of mind revealed by his recent 'statements' to scribblers who have nothing else to do but to scamper to Sir John each time a new edition of the *Times of Ceylon* is published....." Mr. D. S. Senanayake, Ceylon's first Prime Minister, was truly and literally Right Honourable. He received the world's acclaim as a dignified statesman. His son, Dudley, our second Premier nobly carried on the tradition established by his father. Has Sir John Kotelawela no pride, no dignity no conception of what it means to be the head of a state?"

Lake House Silenced

The next day, Sunday May 16, the *Times* set out the full course of the controversy under the heroic banner headline "SIX DAYS THAT SHOOK CEYLON." It called upon the public to judge from the facts before them. It

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The new Bus Commission

seems to have started out on the right lines in its sittings in Kandy. What is even more encouraging is that members of the Commission have decided to see for themselves the actual conditions in which bus travellers are carried in buses that are euphemistically called public utility vehicles.

With the experience and the example of the last Bus Commission of Donald Rutnam fame, the new Commission should operate in such a manner that it would give a fair hearing to bus travellers without being unfair to bus owners.

It will be admitted that bus owners have their problems and it will be the duty of the Bus Commission to examine their difficulties in the context of bus travel for the ordinary man.

One aspect that the Commission might investigate concerns the charge that has often been made that bus operators do not "plough back" an adequate portion of their profits into the business. On the contrary, it would appear, that a good many bus owners have invested their profits in other lines of business and that they have, therefore, failed to develop their services as they should and could have.

If rumour is to be believed, the new Bus Commission is setting out to do its work in a most scientific manner. It is said that a Secretariat has been set up and different branches of this organisation are at the moment said to be collecting statistical and factual data on bus transport in the country. The report of this Commission is bound to be a valuable document.

Radio Commission

The Commission on Radio Ceylon has not yet completed its task. Its report and recommendations are awaited eagerly. For, if there is one thing in the country that everybody (except those who get jobs and programmes on Radio Ceylon and of course, their frie-

nds and relatives) is totally dissatisfied with, it is the outpourings of our broadcasting station. Nobody seems to know what is really wrong. Everything is being blamed and everybody is being accused of bungling. The latest is that the Minister himself has reprimanded the chief and his assistant for allowing a certain Mr. Philip Deane for speaking his mind over the radio. If the Minister would listen to the talks of another gentleman who gives a fifteen-minute sermon every week on international affairs, he would not have dared to reprimand anybody for what Philip Deane said.

Over Radio Ceylon, we have talks on the co-operative movement in Ceylon which make no reference to the corruption that is eating into its vitals. We have talks on science that would fill a book of howlers. And, our schools programmes are a scream. For one thing, nobody listens in. Not even the schools for whom they are intended. The programmes clash with the school time-table more often than not. Whether the schools programme serve any other purpose than to enable a few favourites to earn a little pocket money is a matter that needs investigation.

It is hoped that the Radio Commission will issue a comprehensive report with definite proposals and recommendations. One such recommendation should be that persons called upon to speak over Radio Ceylon should be the best available in the island, and not be selected merely because they are the prime satellites of men in authority.

Commissions seem to be the most popular pastime in Ceylon at the moment. There are so many Commissions in existence that it is difficult to keep track of them. In addition to actual Commissions in operation, there are a great many which are in embryo. Commissions have been suggested for everything.

Commissions

Whilst it must be admitted that commissions can serve a useful purpose where they are needed, they can be a mockery if made a panacea for all our ills. Instead of the useful role they can play, they will become a method of shelving unpleasant matters. Quite often, the public has forgotten a major scandal by the time a Commission has finished its work.

What Ceylon needs is not Commissions for every matter, but quick action by men in authority. When there is corruption in the Co-operative Movement, there is no need for a Commission to investigate this fact. What is needed is quick and firm action to root out bribery and corruption.

Bribery

It is heartening to note that a number of cases under the Bribery Act will come up to the Courts soon. To the credit of the Bribery Squad, it must be said, that it has investigated over 250 complaints since it came into existence just over three months ago.

But, what the public would like know is whether in these investigations men in high positions have been concerned. Or have investigations so far been confined to the lower strata of government employees and a few in the middle rung? The public will gain confidence in the Bribery Squad if it is known that that even the top notchers in the political and bureaucratic world are not spared if complaints are received.

The Squad suffers from a major disability in that it can only investigate acts of alleged bribery committed after the appointed date. In spite this, if the Bribery Squad performs its duties satisfactorily, it will go a long way towards eradicating bribery. One danger must be avoided. The Squad must take every precaution to see that individual members of it do not make these investigations a cover for blackmail and worse.

THE NEW PARTY?

There has been a great deal of talk about the little note I wrote last week about the possibilities of the formation of a new political party with some of the biggest names in the U.N.P., the S.L.F.P., and even the L.S.S.P. Some politicians have been busy assuring each other that this talk of a new political party was just sheer nonsense and only kite-flying.

Other politicians, however, have been trying to find out if there was any truth in it. One of them found to his cost that the matter was really true, and that at least one of the trusted party lieutenants of his party (not the U.N.P.) had tentatively agreed to join the new party on one condition that if any persons were invited to join from the L.S.S.P. such persons would renounce violent revolutionary politics.

Two other prominent members of this party—both M.P.s—are said to have expressed a desire to join the new party.

Talks about the new party will proceed at greater tempo in the near future.

Diplomat Recalled?

Diplomatic circles in Colombo are buzzing with talk about how the British Government pulled up the U.K. Diplomat in Colombo who permitted the Globemasters to land on what is a purely British base—Katunayake—without reference to Whitehall.

Mr. Condon was attached to the U.K. High Commissioner's Office in Colombo and he was one of the most popular Englishmen who has ever set foot on this island. He had a great many friends among the Ceylonese and was in sympathy with a great many of their aspirations.

Unfortunately, he was "on duty", so the story goes, when the Americans demanded that the U.K. High Commission instruct Katunayake to permit the Globemasters to land. The American Emissary,

it is said, was armed with a letter from the Ceylon Government.

David Condon was in a fix, the story continues. He knew that the Ceylon Government had no business to grant permission to any one to land at Katunayake. But he did not want to precipitate a first-class row between the U.K. and Ceylon. At least, that is how he may have thought. So, much against many inner promptings, he agreed to instruct the Officer at Katunayake to permit the planes to land.

Bombshells are said to have come from London. If the story is true, poor David Condon had a thin time of it. He has now gone back to England—recalled, the story goes—"for reasons of health".

Ceylon has lost a good friend.

Varada Kageda?

One of the main topics of conversation these days are the Cabinet sub-committee's proposals on the problem of the stateless Ceylon Indians. These proposals are being attributed to R. G. Senanayake so much so that it would appear that in South India these proposals are known as the S-Bomb.

But, *one who knows* assures me that R. G. Senanayake is really not the author of this famous plan. He seems to have been persuaded to accept its paternity under the idea that these proposals would make him the hero of the voting millions in the island.

Whether these proposals will make him prime favourite in the country is yet to be seen. But what is intriguing is that the real father of the scheme keeps very much in the background. While the proposals have set ablaze a right royal fight between

India and Ceylon, this great wizard is said to be negotiating secretly and also openly with big capitalists from India asking them to take an interest in the affairs of the island.

This remarkable genius who is able to make puppets (and suckers) of Cabinet Ministers has played an important role in many matters for several years, and it is said that he is to be elevated to a great big job soon.

Senate

Brisk canvassing is going on for the seats that have fallen vacant. It is believed that the Prime Minister is not anxious to pick and choose the new senators and that he has left the matter entirely in the hands of the Government Parliamentary Party.

Whatever it is, one candidate is being tipped as a certainty. He is Peter Mellaratchy, the ever youthful and enthusiastic Asst. Sec. of the U.N.P. Peter is a popular soul and will undoubtedly grace the Senate by his charming presence. The U.N.P. cannot find a better man. University (College) students of the middle thirties will remember Peter as the presiding genius of what was then known as the Union tuck-shop. Peter's boss was Mr. (Pagoda) Rodrigo. Peter should have been in the Senate long ago, but in Ceylon merit is not recognised with the spontaneity it deserves.

Tail-piece

Orders have been issued, it would appear, to "tap" Serendib's phone. But, as usual, bureaucracy has picked on the wrong person. Let me assure everybody that Serendib has no phone. He gets everything straight from the horse's mouth.

TEA MARKET FIRM

Perhaps the main feature of the tea sales this week (held on Tuesday May 25) was that there was no immediate effect on Ceylon teas as a result of Egypt withdrawing import licences for teas from Ceylon.

It will be remembered that the Egyptian Government was embarrassed with a surfeit of Indian rupees at its disposal which had accumulated as a result of long and regular purchase of Egyptian cotton by India.

Cairo had no alternative but to utilise this excess currency and as India could not supply her with the consumers goods, she had no alternative but to purchase tea.

The reason why there was no immediate effect on the market was that many Colombo shippers who had received orders from Egypt had still to execute them. Therefore, the demand for Egyptian type teas-fannings and dust was heavy at this week's sales.

The effect of Egypt's embargo will undoubtedly be felt in a short while. In the meantime, the prices of all teas continue to be steady with a slight upward trend.



Coconut Products

The market was quiet. Arrivals were spasmodic owing to the wet weather. Preliminary reports indicate that production has not increased as anticipated. Certain coconut producing areas report shortfall compared to last year's production.

Rubber

Rubber production has been badly affected by the early and unusual monsoonal rains which has affected tapping.

Price of crepe and sole crepe have appreciated slightly in the Colombo market. This is due to the communique issued by the Rubber Study Group which stated that there was no "burdensome surplus" of stock next year. Even this important announcement failed to maintain the slight advance. Towards the close of the week demand on the London and New York markets was much easier.

Cocoa

Cocoa has maintained a firm market due to good inquiries from overseas buyers. Crop indications are very favourable at the moment, but Ceylon production is comparatively so negligible that it does not affect world price levels.

Share Market

Throughout the week it was dull. There were few inquiries from investors for tea shares like High Forest, Stratheden's and Uplands. But investors were cautious owing to the unsettled conditions arising from Indo-Ceylon relations affecting plantation labour. Strangely enough, in spite of a very good tea market, tea shares have not been sought after. Until there is greater finality about a settlement of the Indo-Ceylon problem, tea shares may continue to be in the doldrums.

Tea-cum-rubber shares were also neglected. There were a few inquiries for Commercials like the Bank of Ceylon, Browns, Hunters and Ceylon Breweries.

Sabotage Thwarted?

Continued from Page 7

emphasised that neither Sir John Kotelawela nor his Ministry of External Affairs had issued any official communique denying the *Times* story. And, as for the accusations and denials, *Times* rightly asked its readers to draw their own conclusions from the way the "Jaywardene-not going-to-China" story had back-fired on the *Observer*.

Lake House, the *Daily News* and the *Observer* have so far not replied to *Times* accusations and criticisms of May 15 and May 16. One can only conclude that it has thrown in the sponge.

Rarely has Lake House knuckled down so badly. And to add insult to the injury sustained by its readers, it published a few days later a report from the London *Economist* that talks had gone on in Colombo during the Rubber Study Group meetings concerning U. S. aid to Ceylon.

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ATOMIC ENERGY FOR PEACE

President Eisenhower's proposals on atomic energy, advanced in his General Assembly address of December 8, 1953, were received with serious interest all over the world.

In its statement concerning President Eisenhower's address to Russia, the only other country with the hydrogen bomb declared that it was with full justification that the President of the U. S. A. emphasized the danger to the world which the present situation offers unless the governments take measures to stop the atomic armaments race. This is all the more correct today, when, in addition to the atomic weapon, the much more powerful hydrogen weapon has been created and research is being conducted on other new types of armaments, such as rocket weapons which can be employed at ranges of thousands of kilometres, atomic torpedoes, etc. In these conditions the exploitation of atomic energy is a matter of paramount importance to the peoples of the whole world. As pointed out in the statement, "the discovery of practical possibilities for utilizing atomic energy is a supreme achievement of modern science and technology. The possibility has been discovered of utilizing atomic energy both for military and for peaceful purposes. Hitherto it has been sought to employ atomic energy chiefly for the production of armaments. Yet mankind is interested in atomic energy being used solely for peaceful needs and in preventing its use for such purposes as mass annihilation of human beings and barbarous destruction of cities, which is contrary to the honour and conscience of the peoples."

Technical Progress

The need to outlaw atomic weapons follows from the very nature of these weapons, which can be used in an aggressive war for the mass destruction of towns and civilian populations.

Yet it should be perfectly clear that if all the money spent on producing and perfecting atomic weapons were used for peaceful purposes, the whole problem of wide application of atomic energy would have been solved long ago.

The discovery of practical methods of constructive application of nuclear energy offers boundless opportunities for technical progress.

The following are some of these methods and opportunities.

The use of atomic energy for generating electricity is an important and fruitful avenue. Low cost electric power could be made available to regions that have no fuel or hydropower sources of their own. Atom-generated electricity would mean unparalleled opportunities for the development of industry, transport and agriculture, for comprehensive mechanization and automatization of every branch of production, and for the development of new branches of synthetic chemistry capable of producing a large variety of products from cheap basic materials.

For Agriculture

Tracer radioactive atoms, of which vast quantities are made available by the production of atomic energy, present limitless opportunities for progress in scientific and technical research.

A characteristic example of how atomic energy can be used for peaceful purposes is provided by the extensive work of Soviet scientists, who are employing tracer atoms in agricultural research.

This method has also led to new discoveries in photosynthesis. It has been established, for example, that not only carbohydrates, but proteins, too, are a direct product of photosynthesis in leaves, and that the composition and intensity of light changes the composition of the products of photosynthesis.

This, in turn, opens up new practical possibilities for influencing the development and properties of plants, and their accumulation of valuable constituents, particularly in hothouse cultivation.

Tracer atom research can make a valuable contribution also to medicine. Atomic energy will help probe some of the innermost secrets of nature, including the origin of certain hitherto incurable diseases and, consequently, will make it possible to devise methods of curing them.

The prospects nuclear research for peaceful purposes presents for fathoming the secrets of nature and for qualitative transmutations of matter and energy exceed everything so far achieved by science and technology.

Do you know that ?

1 light tank costs	225,000 dollars
1 B-36 bomber costs	5,000,000 dollars
1 navy destroyer costs	45,000,000 dollars
1 armoured division costs	225,000,000 dollars

IN BRITAIN

... a cut of about 3% in military spending out of the 1952-53 budget could give 105,000 university and college students scholarships amounting to about 300 pounds each, far above the present average scholarship or grant.

IN U. S. A.

... a cut of 8% in military spending (the 1952-53 budget allocates 65,000 million dollars to war preparations, or 73% of the entire budget would give scholarships of 2,400 dollars to every college and university student in the United States.

IN FRANCE

... it costs 100,000 million francs to equip and maintain one armoured division. It would cost 9,000 million to provide 3,000 new rooms, 10 restaurants and 706 beds in student hospitals. For the cost of one armoured division, 48,500 new rooms, 120 restaurants and 8,472 hospital beds could be provided.

IN SWEDEN, DENMARK AND NORWAY

... for the cost of six B-36 bombers, scholarships could be granted to every university and college student in these three countries.

IN MALAYA

... only one in every six children of school age receives any schooling; and of these, only a very small proportion can afford to continue beyond the *primary stage*.

Debates Indo-Ceylon Problem

Continued from page 6

consider these as "Inducements" envisaged in the Indo-Ceylon Pact.

The efforts of the Ceylonese planters to prevent any mass repatriation have also been welcomed, as also the statements of Messrs. Keuneman and Goonawardene.

But there is a lurking fear that the Ceylon Government may do something drastic throwing overboard the rules of the game as it were and thus dissipate the already diminishing goodwill between the two countries.

The new chief Minister, Sri Kamaraj Nadar, is most worried about this problem according to sources close to him. Though he has been maintaining his Sphinx-like silence and giving out monosyllabic replies, he is reported to be pre-occupied with the Indo-Ceylon problem.

During his present stay in Delhi, when he is expected to have prolonged discussions with

the Ministry of External Affairs, he is likely to give counsel over the Indo-Ceylon problem in return for taking counsel over the Indo-French problem, the two main items on the agenda. With his personal knowledge of the Ceylon Indian problem gained during his recent visit to the Island, and with his intimate knowledge of South Indian political set up, Shri Nadar is a fit man to give counsel.

His main concern today is to make the Congress a popular party in Madras State. He wants to win the endearing affection of the people for Congress. The withdrawal of the elementary education scheme sponsored by Rajaji was motivated by this basic desire. Shri Nadar is a believer in the principle of "one step backward, two steps forward." And, he has succeeded in a great measure. Now he is proposing to revive the tram service in the city. By these measures he wants to make the Congress Ministry popular and to ensure a safe majority for it.

May 23, 1954

Jag Mohan.

Dacca Riots, Implications

Continued from page 5

this grouping, presumably as an autonomous unit of the Indian Federation. In any event she cannot remain isolated and stand by herself in the modern world. She must be associated with some larger group. What group can that be except the Indian Federation? Association with England is not likely to be profitable, feasible or desirable. Besides, the British Empire is a fading institution.

"Admission into the Indian Federation should not limit Lanka's freedom except in regard to certain minimum federal subjects, such as defence. I am in favour of having a compulsory minimum of federal subjects, as well as, in addition, optional federal subjects. This would enable some of the federating units to have a closer bond and more centralised governments, and at the same time give greater freedom to some units.

The choice should be that of the unit.

Commenting on the Indo-Ceylon issues then existing Jawaharlal Nehru wrote in this letter:

"It is for the younger generation in India and Lanka to get over these petty squabbles and view the future in proper perspective.

"The only picture that future can show is that of a closer union between the two, and the people of the two countries co-operating together in the great tasks ahead."

Now that Nehru's views on a certain aspect of Indo-Ceylon relations is published, I would be interested to know what the younger generation in Ceylon thinks of it. The older generation (if Sir John etc can be called 'older') seem to have pinned hope on American aid and the like.

May 23, 1954

Shibdas Banerji



GERMANY RE-ARMS

The French Parliament was threatened the other day that Western Germany would be allowed to re-arm if France did not ratify the E.D.C. This article by a special correspondent reveals the extent of this threat to European peace.

For over three years now, the discussion in the columns of the world press and in several West-European parliaments has centred on the twin issues of a European Army and remilitarization of Western Germany. Meanwhile, all the conditions are being created of the "sudden" emergence of a West-German Wehrmacht on the European scene.

That is not a bald statement; there are plenty of facts to bear it out. Indeed, what does a nation require to build up a modern army? First, *weapons* for all arms of the service, and the maintenance of their fighting capacity at a definite level; second, *trained contingents*, both for the initial force and for subsequent replenishment; third, a *command*, the "brain" without which no army can function properly.

Weapons

Let us examine the first element, *weapons*. The announcement has been oft repeated that West-Germany's rebuilt war industries are in a position not only to cope with the rather modest task of equipping the 12 West-German divisions provided for by the European Army treaty but to play the much bigger part of arsenal of the so-called "European Defence Community." Theodor Blank, Bonn's *de facto* war minister, frankly stated in the latter part of October 1953 that Western Germany could produce all the "arms necessary for use inside the community."

True, one gathers from the statements of Bonn leaders that Western Germany is not yet in a position to produce certain types of heavy equipment. But recent

press reports speak of a U. S. "military aid mission" to Western Germany to supervise her rearmament. Its prime task, the reports say, "will be to supply German troops and airmen with American heavy military equipment, jet aircraft, tanks and artillery. . ." Nor does the press make any secret of the fact that American equipment is already being assembled at West-German depots and airfields, particularly in the Kaiserslautern area.

But that is not the whole picture. There is every ground for believing that Western Germany already possesses a much larger potential for the production of heavy military equipment than many are led to suppose. For one thing, the big aircraft plants, Junkers, Henschel and others, have already been rebuilt.

Nor is it only a matter of resuming production of heavy weapons. There is also the question of jet and atomic weapons, which the Bonn revanchists hope to be able to produce within the near future. It is no accident that there were reports in the press that Werner von Braun, the well-known designer of the deadly V-2 rockets which destroyed so many British homes, was returning to Germany from the United States. It appears that the facilities for producing V-2's have remained almost intact, and it is believed that new V-2's can be produced in a fairly short space of time.

At any rate the following is undeniable: Western Germany within the near future will be in a position to have a sufficiently powerful war production machine to equip her own army and to

rapidly outstrip her partner in the projected "defence community"

Personnel

Let us pass to the second element—*trained contingents*.

The original plans for a West-German army no longer satisfy the Bonn revanchists. Their new papers openly say that by the summer of 1955 Western Germany may have a standing army of 500,000 effectives.

That this is quite probable may be gathered from the comments of the American press which is well informed. The "Christian Science Monitor" reports that a plan has already been drawn up allowing for the formation of 25 German divisions instead of the original 12, to make up for the 14 divisions which France was to provide.

Western Germany's reserve of ex-Nazi officers and generals with fighting experience is much greater than the actual requirements of the division now being formed. Moreover, Herr Blank has seen to it that all these officers are duly registered.

THUS, the three elements necessary for a rapid build-up of German armed forces and military might are there.

The authors of the plan to rearm Germany are endeavouring to conceal their real purposes by disquisitions on the subject of West-European "defence." But anyone with even a rudimentary knowledge of things militarily will see that the new Wehrmacht will be far removed from anything resembling "defence." *Military science knows no such distinction as "defensive" and "offensive" divisions.* Any military unit can be employed for defence or offence, and every subaltern knows that.

THE TEACHER

Youth is the period through which the individual passes from his birth to the age at which he is able to take an active part in society, not only with his professional capacities but through all the relations in which he will be involved, family, human and civic relations. Youth is also the whole body of individuals of many different personalities who compose the rising generation, the herald of the future.

Education consists in guiding the child and later the young man or young woman through this long and difficult preparation. And upon whom should this responsibility fall?

The answer given to this question by history varied widely with the different types of society and aims of each society.

Teachers Duties

A revolutionary, a friend of Robespierre, Convention member Le Peletier de Saint Fargeau, said in his report on the organisation of education: "*At the age of five years, the nation will receive the child from the hands of nature. At twelve years, he will be turned over to society.*" Nature was the family circle to which was given, only the responsibility for feeding and clothing the children and for their first effective impressions. From the age of five to twelve, the "nation" takes all children in hand to educate them on a perfectly equalitarian basis. After the age of twelve, it turns them out to try their luck in a society sown with economic inequalities.

This unlimited responsibility of the educator, which is supposed to be a substitute even for that of the family, is even vaguer than it is vast. The teacher's duties and rights are not precisely defined nor are the aims even of education itself.

There are two possible definitions of education which are often opposed. One considers it as the transfer through successive generations, of the cultural heritage

***** by *****
 ** PROFESSOR HENRI WALLON **
 ** ONE OF THE GREATEST AUTHORITIES **
 ** ON EDUCATION IN WESTERN EUROPE **

and ways of thought peculiar to a society, a people or a race. It is easy to see the danger in this: traditionalism, conservatism and eventually, racism. The second definition is the opposite of the first: it is essentially individualistic and prescribes the development in each child of his leanings and aptitudes following their spontaneous appearance. This can end in a fundamental egotism, difficulties in social adaptation, in a spirit of fierce competition.

Certainly every child has the right to instruction and an education which is best able to fit him for the society in which he must live and act. But this society is not that of the past — it is that which points towards the future, which is in the process of becoming; the development of which cannot be halted. The teacher, therefore, must not take refuge in the false security of traditions, in the comforts of routine. He must refresh himself forseeing, through events, what is being born. He must not hide himself within his own past and within the narrow limits of his professional habits. He must try not to be overtaken by the needs and aspirations of the new generation.

Aptitudes

Certainly the teacher must also try to discover in each pupil or student, all those tastes and aptitudes which are most capable of developing his intellectual and moral capacities to the utmost, but obviously this must be separated from the common tasks. It must stress the occasion when the pupil will feel or imagine his responsibilities in connection with the education he receives.

The teacher must influence the pupil, above all by his own example. He is the one who educates, and thus he must draw

on his knowledge, and even more to add carefully to that knowledge, every day. The days are gone when a young teacher having finished his last exams, could think that he knew everything he would have to teach for the rest of his life.

It is the teacher who directs the child towards society. And his own links with society should be without question. He should be someone who makes public welfare the law of his life, who will make the dignity of intelligence, of conscience, the right of free examination, the right to reject debasing directives which would demand of him pretence and lies, an object of respect in his own person.

Collaboration

It is the teacher who forms men and he should eventually prove it by not standing aloof from the currents of enthusiasm or indignation which are aroused throughout the world by great human interests or great injustices.

But his example will not bear fruit unless he trusts his students, unless he can help them to unite in their academic, social and human tasks within their scope, unless while teaching them due to his superior knowledge and experience, he knows how to also collaborate with them.

And his collaboration will itself not bear fruit unless it relates its action to that of all the circles in which the student lives — family circle, pupils and students' own circles.

Finally the teacher must know how to struggle for his school and against the shortages which seriously threaten the students' future. He must protest against the scandal of children unable to pursue their studies, not because of lack of ability but because there are not enough schools; of the children who cannot learn a trade because there are not enough apprentice training centres; of the children who grow to adulthood without any professional qualifications, condemned to a precarious and insecure existence, denied any cultural satisfaction.



"Strange"

Running of Court Gallant

by RIDING BOY

Punters finished on the debit side on the second day's races of the Colombo Monsoon meeting. Adhid al Qassif, Persian Shade and Bunge were the only favourites to oblige in an eight-event card.

In the opening event, The Monsoon Handicap, run over 7 furlongs, Little Marvel, was the confirmed tote favourite, but "knowing ones" I understand, licked the illegal bookmakers, operating both inside and outside the course, soundly pouring tons of money on the winner Master Edmund.

And Jack Raffaele, who was astride Edmund, giving an entirely different exhibition of horsemanship from that of the previous week, virtually hacked the opposition with a five length victory.

He went on to complete a lucrative double for his numerous "friends," when scoring an equally facile victory on Adhid Al Qassif, in the next race, The Warakapola Plate.

Make no mistake Raffaele can easily head the championship table of the Ceylon Turf, if only he had the interests of the vast majority of punters uppermost in his heart.

Surprise

When winning the prime event, The Herbert Stanley Cup, Chas. A. M. de Silva's Court Gallant showed a "strange" reversal of form. His past record was two "no-wheres", and followers of form naturally did not give him

even a placing chance. On his good track work up in the hills and his earlier performances, Barman was all the rage in this 1½ mile distance event. But all he could do was to just scramble into third place.

At the rise of the tapes, Appleton hit the front. But approaching the six, Court Gallant drew level with him.

As the field rounded the bend, Somapala gave his mount another strong "reminder" and thereafter the Court Martial gelding was the only horse all the way. He literally flew like a doped animal to snatch an easy 3¼ length victory.

But for the fact that the winner was in a bracket with Chief Justice who was fancied to some extent, he would have indeed returned a nourishing three figure dividend to his few followers.

Court Gallant's "mysterious" running calls for an immediate inquiry.

There was quite a whisper for Palladium in the Maturata Plate Division two, but he received little assistance from Alf Smith. Back him with a change of rider.

When they next run do not neglect: Silvia's Abbot, Mathurin, Qamar Al Rafidain and Qamar. Kalam and Cheeko should, of course, be certain winners if the influences of the "inner circle" are not at work.

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