

# TRIBUNE

CEYLON NEWS REVIEW

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## TOP-NOTCH BRIBE-TAKER —MUST NOT ESCAPE

*"Tribune" learns on good authority that an all-out effort is being made by certain influential parties to save one of the highest paid officials in the land from being charged under the Bribery Act. It is alleged that the Attorney-General has already reported, as required under the provisions of the Bribery Act, to the Prime Minister that a prima facie case has been made out against this highly-placed individual as a result of investigations by the Anti-Bribery Squad.*

It is being whispered that as soon as the report was sent, a certain Government personage could not so contain himself and that in one of the most aristocratic clubs in Colombo he was heard to utter "a big fish has been caught ..... a big fish has been caught... .." But this person was soon silenced by some of his colleagues and friends interested in hushing up the affair.

The allegation on which the Attorney-General is said to have found a *prima facie* case is that a particular Foreign Exchange Bank paid for certain repairs, additions and alterations in the residence of this top-notch official. These payments are said to have been made by cheque to a local contractor who handles a great deal of building operations in Colombo.

It must be said that the public have been uneasy about the rise, career and activities of this high official for sometime. Long before the Bribery Act was even law, large number of public-spirited individuals have made serious allegations against this top-notch whose meteoric rise in the last ten years has, to say the least, amazed thinking people in this country.

If what the *Tribune* has learnt is true, and we have every reason for believing the correctness of the story, the Prime Minister must not delay in giving his sanction for a prosecution in terms of the Bribery Act. The official concerned must be given all opportunities to clear himself of the charge, but if the allegation is proved against him no mercy must be shown.

The public look to the Prime Minister and the other members of his Cabinet to see that efforts to hush this matter and save the official concerned are thwarted.



must press for action

*In this connection, a special duty falls upon Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, presently Minister of Finance. As Governor-General designate and the Minister under whose purview the particular official works, Sir Oliver must press for immediate action. It would be a mockery of the Bribery Act if this official is not charged in the same way as lesser men.*

# THE AFFAIR OF THE PREMIER'S COUSIN

I was under the impression that Mr. D. B. Dhanapala was one of the cleverest journalists Ceylon has produced. Once famous as the great "Janus" and now the Editor of the *Lankadipa*, he has had a reputation of being a worker of wonders in journalism.

But I find to my amazement an article by him in the *Times* begging for a king of communiques to act as a dictator of handouts from the Government in the shape of an Information Officer with the status of an Additional Secretary to the Prime Minister.

No sooner was this supplication on bended knees made for a King Log than a King Stork was given: Mr. P. Nadesan.

The timing of the article and the promptness of the appointment seems to border on sharp practice.

## Friend of Lake House

Perhaps Mr. Dhanapala is not as clever as people suppose. Otherwise he would not help in the appointment as Information Officer an avowed friend of Lake House.

Mr. Nadesan, who has become a power in the land in that he has become the chief adviser to the Prime Minister, will have now all the propaganda machines at his service.

It would now appear that Mr. Nadesan has become so full of his own importance that if his advice on any matter is rejected, the Prime Minister runs the risk of being black mailed.

## Dixon Affair

The full-mouthed howl given in regard to Captain Dixon Kotelawela's appointment is a subtle attempt to show the Prime Minister where he gets off if

Mr. Nadesan does not have his own way. I believe that within living memory there have never been so petty-fogging despicable editorials as in the *Daily News* and the *Observer* as in regard to this affair.

Now, I do not know Captain Dixon Kotelawella from Adam. I have nothing to say about the merit of the cases. I have not much love for the Prime Minister either.



But has journalism in Ceylon come to a such a pass that a man should be attacked like a pick pocket in almost indecent language just because he happens to be the Prime Minister's cousin?

## Why Now?

How is it that not a dog barked when Mr. D. S. Senanayake chose his own son Dudley as Minister of Agriculture? How is it that he was not attacked when he selected three other nephews—Mr. J. R. Jayawardene, Mr. John Kotelawela and Mr. Nugawela—as three of his other Ministers? Mr. Dudley Senanayake selecting the same relations plus Mr. R. G. Senanayake went without protest?

People called the U.N.P. Uncle Nephew Party and had a good laugh. Nobody seemed to mind.

Only when it comes to a poor fellow like Captain Dixon Kotelawela, they let him the works. One would think that he has been appointed to be Governor-General, judging by the ferocious-

ness of the attacks and the seeming importance attached to him.

*The secret of all this fuss, I am told, is a question of ladies!*

Even so, can't these papers have some decency if they cannot have balance and sobriety?

## Sunday Flop

It was a disappointment to find to first issue of *Sunday Pictorial* of Swadeshi Newspapers coming out with an apology instead of the promised 24 pages of pictures and news. Something has gone wrong somewhere.

I have sounded a large number of persons regarding the first impressions of the new papers from "Bake House". I am sad to say that the reactions have been very unpromising.

But of course one cannot judge newspapers from a few days issues.

The labour pains of two dailies are easy to conjecture. I dare say *Guardian* and *Jatiya* must be having enough of these pains. It would be unkind to add to them.

## Yet Another Paper

In the meanwhile, I am told that the *Times of Ceylon Ltd.* is also contemplating a morning daily.

It is said that in the tropics it never rains but pours. When new papers come evidently they just pour.

The idea of another morning paper from the *Times* was in the air for a long time. I remember hearing about it some four years ago. But nothing happened.

Whether what I hear is a mere rumour, I don't quite know yet.

# LAKE HOUSE OBJECTS?

The new daily paper *Guardian* had its first big scoop in its issue of June 3rd when it published details of a Ceylon-U. S. Friendship Pact. The proposals submitted by the U.S.A. are now being studied by the Central Bank, the Customs and the External Affairs Ministry.

"According to these proposals," stated the *Guardian* report, "America is willing to give economic aid to Ceylon provided the Government of Ceylon is prepared to grant certain concessions to her."

## U. S. Proposals

The Prime Minister, the report went on to state, "has asked that the proposals to be examined by all Government Departments concerned, with special emphasis on the tariff proposals put forwards by the American Government."

It would appear that Washington would give Ceylon economic aid if the U.S.A. were given the following concessions:

1. The U. S. should have the right to trade like any other Commonwealth country;
2. The U. S. should have the right to open banks;
3. The U. S. should have the right to establish industries.

In return, the U. S. was willing to grant the similar concessions and rights to Ceylon in her country.

## Not a Damn Lie

This story was not denied.

On the other hand, the next day, the *Times of Ceylon* carried the same story in a slightly disguised form. It stated that the Ceylon Government was examining proposals for "favoured nations" pacts with six countries, U. S., Philippines, Thailand, Burma, Japan and Indonesia.

Ceylon already has trade agreements with Burma and Japan, and one does not know what kind of trade is possible with

Thailand (she exports rice of which there is said to be a surplus in Ceylon) and the Philippines (she completes with Ceylon coconuts). These countries are colonies of the U. S. The only country among the six mentioned with which such a pact is feasible on a big scale is the U.S.A.

This *Times* story confirmed the *Guardian* scoop. Further confirmation came from the *Observer* of June 5th. In an editorial entitled "Yankee Doodle" the *Observer* suggested that U. S. never granted aid without strings and that it would not do for Ceylon to accept such aid.

"As far as Ceylon is concerned," the editorial stated, "America is unlikely to offer us aid without political strings....." It was not happy about such strings and asked: "But at what cost? Under old style colonialism trade followed the flag. Under American colonialism the juke box follows the dollar sign".

## Opposition

The concluding paragraph was the unkindest cut that Lake House has so far inflicted on America. It stated: "The American way of life' has always been pictured in recent years as the highest level reached by human civilisation. We ourselves, however, submit to the widely held view that 'the American way of life' could be better termed 'the American way against life'."

This *Observer* opposition to American aid is strangely significant. Is it Lake House's camouflage, for purposes of circulation, to allay the fears of the Ceylon public which has shown its opposition to American aid (and to Lake House for advocating it) in no uncertain terms in recent times?

The *Guardian* came out strongly against American aid in an editorial on June 4th and declared that "these proposals, if agreed to, can be menace to the freedom of this country".

## U. S. SUPREME COURT JUDGE'S APPEAL

Washington, May 31.

United States' Supreme Court Judge William Douglas said here last night that the only hope of saving Indo-China was in an independent Government for Viet Nam preferably "this afternoon or to-morrow."

"May be that is too late," Mr. Douglas added. "It is a thing that should have been done years ago. But it is the only possible thing. Military measures will not save the country unless it is given its independence. For the Western Powers to go in behind a French Colonial Government would be disastrous."

Mr. Douglas, who has travelled widely in Asia and written books and articles on the subject was interviewed on a broadcast programme. He said Ho Chi-minh, Leader of the Communist Viet Minh forces, was probably the most popular man in Indo-China to-day. "Not because he is a Communist but because he is fighting for freedom and independence", he added.

Ho Chi-minh's popularity could be challenged by a non-Communist leader such as Ngo Dinh Diem, Mr. Douglas said. He said Diem, brother of the Catholic Bishop of Viet Nam, had turned down the presidency of the country three times because he wanted commonwealth status for Viet Nam. "The Government (of Bao Dai)", Mr. Douglas added, "is a French puppet Government. People will not fight, bleed and die for a puppet Government."

# CEYLON FILMS



## IN PRODUCTION

If the winter months are bleak in European countries, summer months are bleak in tropical countries. Now in Madras, only the drawers of water, the hewers of wood and business men are remaining to carry on with life. The Upper 400, most of the Ministers and the Governor are all in the hilly districts. The Parliament was adjourned and nothing much is happening. And, nothing can happen with the daily temperature averaging 104 degrees in the shade.

So this correspondent is at his wit's end wanting a peg to hang this week's despatch. There is no central theme to lavish the usual quota of words. So, I have to resort to small items.

### Exclusive

Item One is an exclusive five-minute interview that I had with Chief Minister Kamaraj—he does not want the caste name appended “Nadar” to be tagged on any more. The King-maker turned King, speaking softly and suavely in Tamil, told me that he was in no panic over the imminent forced repatriation of Indians in Ceylon. “Do you want me to wait for them from now on? Should I start building camps for their reception and stay? Things like repatriation take their own time. Let us see what we can do when it actually happens.”

That is the gist of what he said in Tamil. From the short chat I had with him at his bachelor residence in T’Nagar, I have to conclude that neither he nor the Madras Government is in undue anxiety over the threatened repatriation of Indians from Ceylon. He gave me the impression that he refused to be panicked into any action by the alarmist reports of the representatives of the Indian Mercantile Chamber.

### I. L. O.

Item Two. What Mr. Thondaman said at the Madras airport on his way to Geneva I. L. O. Conference gratified many. Even

though people know that two years ago, the I. L. O. practically disowned the Ceylon Indian workers by saying that the Ceylon Indian problem is a purely domestic problem, it is still hoped that the I. L. O. will be prevailed upon to take up the matter if it wants to live up to its principles and past reputation. Mr. Thondaman's confidence of getting something done at Geneva was infectious.

### Films

Item Three is that I have come across several people connected with the nascent Ceylon film industry here in Madras. They seem to believe that politics is one thing and business an entirely different thing. They are here promoting Indo-Ceylon Co-operation by getting their films produced in Madras studios.



“Beer tastes better in Madras. For the heat there's nothing better .....and the thrill because of prohibition.....”

By courtesy, Shankar's weekly.

It might interest the readers to know that the dancer turned film actor, director and producer, Shanti Kumar, is to inaugurate his new production, *Jeevita Satana*, (Struggle for Life) soon at the Neptune Studios, Adyar. Sita Jayawardana, Editor of *Ceylon Woman*, who has acted in Shanti's earlier film, *That Night*, will be featured in the dual role of a mother and daughter in this film based on Samuel Butler's *Way of All Flesh*. Admirers of Sita as a journalist, dancer, painter, and actress can now look forward to seeing her again on the screen in a few months from now.

One important thing about this film will be that it will be shot by a well-known Dutch cameraman, who has been specially “imported” for the job. He is Mr. J. Vander Hoeven.

### Regionalism

Item Four is that at a meeting held under the auspices of the Young Men's Crescent Society, which is a predominantly Muslim organisation, several Madrassi leaders spoke on the Indo-Ceylon problem. They also passed a resolution moved by Mr. S. M. Fossil demanding the abrogation of the Indo-Ceylon Pact and the recall of High Commissioner Desai from Ceylon. The fact the people of all shades and communities lent their support to this resolution indicates that Madrassis feel that one of them would be a better person to represent Indian interests in Ceylon now. This sentiment was voiced even during the recent Assembly debate. This is one more instance where regionalism seems to be on the upswing, deplorable though it may be.

Jag Mohan

# FAMILY STILL THE UNIT

In Ceylon, the rural population falls into two large categories; those in the plantation industries, tea, rubber and to a smaller extent, coconut, and those engaged in the cultivation of food crops and other miscellaneous agricultural produce.

According to the 1946 Census, 15.3% of the population of Ceylon lived in the urban sector, 12.8% in the estate sector, and 71.9% in the rural sector. The pattern, of course, varies from district to district. Even in the most urbanised area, Colombo, 58.5% of the population belong to the rural sector, 40.7% to the urban and 0.8% to the estate sector. In the Nuwara Eliya District, 62.2% of the population were in the estate sector and only 33.7% in the rural sector.

On the whole, out of twenty districts in the Island, the rural sector claimed 90% in 5 of the districts and 80% in 7 others. This pattern of distribution has not changed, and in 1950, it was estimated that out of 7,550,000 persons as many as 5,428,450 belonged to the rural sector.

## Economic Surveys

Statistical information is still very meagre and inadequate, but there is today something to go on. The first rural surveys were in 1936 and from that time until 1948 there were twelve economic surveys of the village areas. In July 1951, the Department of Census and Statistics issued a "Preliminary Report on the Economic Survey of Rural Ceylon, 1950". Since then, further data has been collected.

The surveys have set out to discover the salient features of rural life in the Island. The matters they have considered are: the population viewed in relation to age, sex and conjugal condition; the extent of literacy; the number of school-going children; the number of earners in relation to both the total population as well as the various age groups; the average size and distribution of the families according to their predominant

*In a series of three articles, a special correspondent examines the position in rural Ceylon on the basis of statistics and reports issued by Government. Readers' views on the problems of rural Ceylon will be welcome.*

— Editor.

economic activity; the average monthly income and expenditure per family; the average value of the property owned; the extent of indebtedness and the causes of such indebtedness; and the ownership of land.

These are some of matters covered in the surveys, but it must be stressed that these surveys have been based on sampling on a widely scattered basis and that the resultant picture is not as comprehensive and exhaustive as one might wish it to be. Nevertheless, these surveys give a fair indication of what the situation approximately is in rural Ceylon.

## The Family

These surveys are based primarily on studies of family units. These reveal that the family, as the characteristic unit in village economy, is now being assailed by forces and factors that arise from modern socio-economic developments.

However, in rural Ceylon, according to the latest of these survey reports "the family still remains the chief economic, protective, recreational unit of the nation, and its reintegration in the changing society is one of the outstanding tasks of social engineering."

It is interesting to note that the surveys reveal a preponderance of males at birth. But, "the figures for the rural sector show that among young children (0-4 years), the school-going population (5-14), and a portion of the working popu-

lation (15-44), there is a slight excess of males over females."

But, it is significant, that between the ages of 15-34, females are in the majority in the rural sector. In the absence of any data relating to sex-selective death rate, it must be inferred that there is a tendency for the younger males to migrate to urban areas in search of employment.

## Conjugal Condition

As many as 639 persons out of 1,000 of the population 15 years and over were found in the married state in rural Ceylon as compared with 597 married persons per 1,000 for the whole Island. This indicates that there were fewer deterrents to marriage in rural Ceylon than in the urban areas.

It was found that 25% of the males and 8% of the females in the age-group 25-34 years were unmarried, the respective percentages diminishing to 5% and 2% in the age group 35-44 years.

Women married at a younger age than men, 69% of the married female population being in the age-group 20-24 years as against 25% of the married male population.

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# THE AGREEMENT

The discussions between Shri Jawaharlal Nehru and Mr. Dudley Senanayake proved inconclusive. It was thereupon agreed between the two Prime Ministers that for the time being matters might be left where they were.

With the change of Government that took place in Ceylon in October last an invitation was once again extended to the Ceylon Prime Minister by the Indian Prime Minister to come and discuss with him outstanding matters relating to the Indian question. The invitation was accepted, and proposals resulting from the discussions and agreed to between the two Prime Ministers have since been ratified.

### Illicit Immigration

Commenting on these proposals it will seen that on the present occasion illicit immigration has been taken up as a part of the Indian question. It is indeed a very important part of the question. During recent years the menace of the unauthorized and clandestine entry of Indian immigrants into the Island has been assuming alarming proportions: the statistics are 930 arrests in 1950; 3,800 in 1951; 9,800 in 1952; 5,120 in 1953; and the estimate is that every single detection made three escape into the country—the decline in 1953 is due to tightening control and closer co-operation in respect of work between the Indian High Commission and the Ceylon Government. In fact the resources of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Police, as well of the local civil authority, have had to be extensively used at Mannar in combating the evil. This is obviously, however, an evil which cannot be effectively dealt with unless both Governments concerned closely collaborate, and under the arrangements now made there will be joint action on the fullest possible scale between India and Ceylon.

### Amendment

Certain very necessary amendments to the law relating to

\*\*\*\*\*  
This is the second and concluding part of the statement made by Sir John Kotelawala in the House of Representatives on March 1st 1954.  
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immigration had also, after they had been passed by the House of Representatives, been held up owing to the London Talks and subsequent correspondence between the Prime Minister of India and the Prime Minister of Ceylon. The object of one of the amendments is to cast the burden of proof on the accused that he is not an illegal immigrant. This device, which varies a certain customary principle of law, is not unknown in other countries and is rendered necessary in the context of immigration by the difficulties of identifying an illegal immigrant unless he is caught in the very act of arriving.

There is however, a safeguard against possible abuse in the provision which states that the prosecution must be sanctioned by a Police Officer of standing not less than that of an Assistant Superintendent, but the amendment evoked protests from India. It is now settled that before a prosecution is launched under the proposed amendment, the Indian High Commissioner in Ceylon will be given an opportunity of satisfying himself that a prima facie case exists for a prosecution (while the actual decision to prosecute rests with the Ceylon Government), and the detection and punishment of offenders will be further facilitated by the preparation of the proposed "Aliens Register".

### Aliens Register

This register is of aliens who are lawfully resident in Ceylon at the time of its preparation. Consultation with the Indian High Commissioner in respect of pro-

secutions has been agreed to both as a matter of courtesy and as a matter of some necessity, because the Indian Government can decline to arrange for the transport to India of an illicit immigrant convicted in a prosecution. The presumption that a person not registered in the Aliens' Register will be deemed to be an illicit immigrant from India if his mother-tongue is an Indian language will have no application to Ceylon citizens.

The main problem, of course, is as regards the one million Indian residents in the country, and here the draft proposals can claim to have made very positive contribution towards a solution of the problem. Not only will the Ceylon Government on its side continue to register qualified Indian residents as citizens under the Indian and Pakistani Residents (Citizenship) Act, but the Indian Government will now, on its side, take active steps to register those who wish to retain their Indian nationality under the provisions of the Constitution of India.

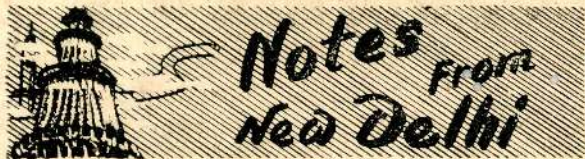
### Indian Nationality

This latter facility available to Indian nationals abroad had apparently not been hitherto known in Ceylon amongst those for whom it is intended and the Indian Government has now agreed to make it known so that it might be taken advantage of as much as possible by Indians residents in the country. Article 8 of the Constitution of India is to the effect that—

"Any person who or either of whose parents or any of whose grand parents was born in India as defined in the Government of India Act, 1935 (as originally enacted), and who is ordinarily residing in any country outside India as so defined shall be deemed to be a citizen of India if he has been registered as a

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Present Governor of East Bengal . . . . . a descendant of



Mirzafar of Murshidabad who sold

Bengal to the British . . . . .

# NEPAL & CEYLON

Though some unnamed diplomatic topnotchers in New Delhi opined that the dismissal of an elected popular government in East Pakistan was no concern of India and that Fazlul Haq's house arrest is totally an affair of Karachi, East Bengal's slipping into total iron curtain under a Military Governor's rule took the Capital by complete surprise.

## Sold Bengal

That American soldiers would so soon be romping into the streets of Dacca was not also expected by observers in New Delhi. It is common knowledge here that the present Governor of East Bengal was the man directly responsible for US-Pak Arms deal at Washington and it is the same man who also recently ran loose at Ankara, but many outside East Bengal do not know that it is this very Ma or General whose great great-grand father was Mirzafar of Murshidabad who sold Bengal to the British.

What is happening in East Bengal now? SHANKAR'S cartoon published alongside may give some clue to it but for one thing there is total censorship in this province and news that trickle through suggest that mass arrests and a hartal of unheard of dimensions is on while dismissed Fazlul Haq is being held by a hundred military men who are staying in and around his house at Dacca.

The United Press report that Premier Ali was undecided till the eleventh hour and that the US Ambassador at Karachi Hildreth was the man to kick the ball rolling would have by itself completed the story, but for the

news of the American chain of bases already established along the East Bengal border linking Burma across which the Viet Minh are giving a hell of a fight to the French.

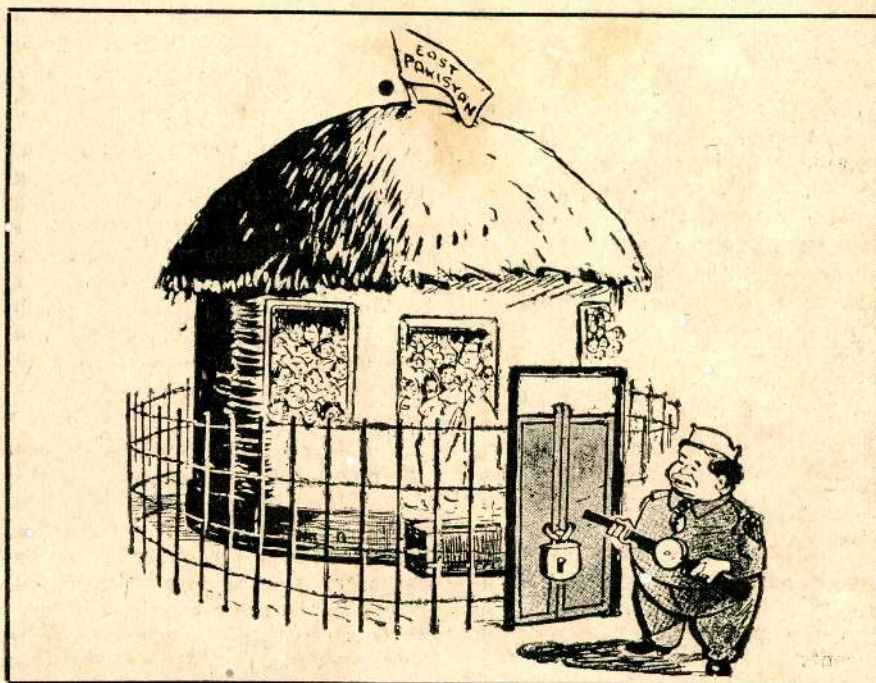
## Nepal

A similar drama to that of Pakistan is afoot in the Himalayas where US spies are roaming about high and mighty. The Indian Parliamentary delegation which has just returned from Nepal is a lesson for all Asia to behold. Invited by the Nepalese government, the delegation went to Nepal on a goodwill mission. On reaching Kathmandu they were met with black flags, filthy abuse and bricks. Truckloads of hefty demonstrators trailed them wherever they went. Who were these demon-

strators? Who were financing them? While Nepalese Premier M. P. Koirala is himself investigating into these, he has already thrown enough light to show that the hands of Uncle Sam are behind the show.

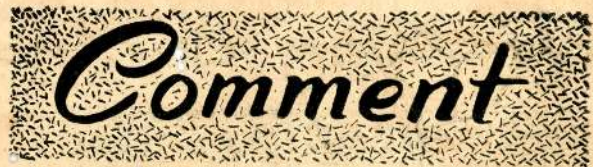
Three years ago when the feudal Rana regime was being overthrown in Nepal, I happened to be there. Strange things happened then before my eyes but stranger things are happening now. The discredited Ranas have been, it seems so clearly, picked up by Dulles for a game south of Tibet. Ceylon will remember that her Mr. Philip K. Crowe (of the US-FBI) accompanied by two top US diplomats stationed in New Delhi paid a surprise visit to Nepal

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By Courtesy : Shankar's Weekly

# RACIAL



# SEGREGATION

According to a report in the *Times of Ceylon* of June 7th, it would appear that Government is taking steps to enact legislation to segregate registered citizens even more than it was intended to by the provisions for separate electoral registers under the Nehru-Kotelawela Agreement. It has always been made out that separate electoral registers were for a temporary period and that they were for the purpose of meeting a special and extraordinary situation.

The new legislation proposed seeks to prevent a registered citizen under the provisions of the Indian and Pakistani Act, from sitting in the House of Representatives or the Senate except as representatives of the Indian and Pakistani Electoral District. What this means in plain language is that registered citizens will have to confine their political activities to the narrow confines of the Indian and Pakistani separate electoral registers. Such persons will not be permitted to participate in the normal and general political life of the country.

If the *Times* report is correct, then it is segregation on racial lines with a vengeance. The main reason advanced for separate electorates for a short period was that Indian settlers in this country had not yet become "assimilated" into the general body of the people of this country. The proposed legislation will tend to widen the gulf.

Moreover, it is an unpardonable infringement of the rights of a citizen, be he registered or otherwise, to curtail his political rights and freedom. At the time the Indian and Pakistani Act was enacted, assurances were given that once a person is registered as a citizen he would enjoy the same rights and privileges as citizens by descent.

To treat registered citizens in this step-motherly fashion and to pursue a policy of racial segregation would meet the approval of only gentlemen like Dr. Malan in South Africa and the White Masters of the U. S. A., who have kept negroes segregated even in schools contrary to the Constitution.

Racial segregation in whatever form, in whatever disguise, and under whatever pretext will spell disaster to democracy in this Island.

## Police State ?

In a democratic state, nothing more deplorable than to utilise police officers to interest themselves in party politics can be imagined. Press reports and questions in Parliament this week reveal that certain police officers have thought fit—or were instructed—to involve themselves in the matter of the proposed formation of a new political party in Kandy. This action on the part of the police is unfortunately part of a new trend in this country which savours of fascism. The *Times of Ceylon*, in an editorial on June 8, entitled "Democracy or Fascism" was constrained to declare: "Uneasy doubts have been gaining currency in this country among those who value the freedoms of democracy—doubts which we think it is necessary (painful though it would be to the Prime Minister) to make clear. These doubts are concerned with the brand of democracy that is being practised by the Government."

The *Times* drew attention to the affair of the Globemaster, the deportation of the wives of two citizens, passport curbs, the move to abolish local authority in army cantonment areas and to train the Police in the use of military weapons as instances where the Government was resorting to un-

democratic practices. "The way to deal with undemocratic influences is hardly to adopt undemocratic methods of countering them," was the view expressed in this editorial. And it went on to warn Sir John "not to allow himself to be dazzled by the glitter of dollars."

## Bank of Ceylon

The Government must be congratulated on its decision to make the Bank of Ceylon the national bank of the country in every sense of the word. This decision is all the more encouraging because it was made in the face of a strong demand by the Central Bank that all Government deposits should be in its care and that the Bank of Ceylon should be in no better position than any other foreign Exchange Bank or even the Co-operative Federal Bank.

A great many sinister allegations have been made about this move by the Central Bank. It has been said that some of those who control the destinies of the Central Bank are enamoured of the idea of permitting an American Bank to operate in Ceylon, and also that they have a soft corner for particular Foreign Banks now functioning in Ceylon.

To the credit of the *Ceylon Observer* it must be said that it has extended unstinted support to the Bank of Ceylon in this matter.

By this decision, if it is fully implemented, the Bank of Ceylon will acquire certain monopoly rights in regard to the banking business of the Government. This will undoubtedly give a great fillip to its already widespread activities, but there is also the danger that the Bank of Ceylon might develop maladies associated with monopoly. Such a danger can be easily prevented by public vigilance and frank criticism.



# JUST BRIEFLY

by

## SERENDIB

# The Diplomat In The Well

I find that the question of tapping telephones which I raised in this column last week was taken up in Parliament this week. The Parliamentary Secretary, it would appear, pleaded ignorance and stated that he would inform his Minister about the question.

The Minister is busy fighting an election petition, but I can assure the Parliamentary Secretary that persons close to the Minister are aware of this tapping business and that I would be most surprised if the Minister does not know much more about it than what he would care to admit.

## Faulty

Speaking of telephones, I know a great many subscribers who feel that they are being over-charged in regard to the calls made by them.

It is bad enough paying for wrong-number calls, but if the fears and suspicions of subscribers I know to be careful and meticulous are true, then many people in Colombo are paying for calls they never make.

This is a matter which even the Parliamentary Secretary could proceed to look into without waiting for his Minister to finish the election petition.

## Crime

During last week-end, the daily papers reported that there six murders and several more injured seriously as a result of criminal activities. Murders and crime seems to be on the increase

With all this increase of crime in various parts of the island, and with all the complaints of a shortage and dearth of police constables and officers, one finds policemen assigned to totally unnecessary jobs. I can quote many instances, and am sure every reader too can do so, where policemen are simply

wasted. But I shall confine myself to one glaring instance.

It is reported that two policemen are permanently on guard in front, or by the side of the house of senior Permanent Secretary. Why this high official wants police protection in one of the most aristocratic of streets in Colombo is something that surpasses imagination!

The policemen concerned also (two or three shifts of them) are totally fed up with this job of guarding a house against which nobody seems to harbour any hostile intentions.

## Policemen

Policemen seem to be in the news this week. The first case under Bribery Act is against some miserable wretches accused of having received santosams of Rs. 10 and Rs. 5. Undoubtedly, policemen should not accept bribes, but policemen as well the public feel that the Bribery Act should be used in first instance against bigger fry.

It is a mockery of the Bribery Act to let the big bribe-takers alone and concentrate solely on little men.

## Birla

On May 28th the *Ceylon Observer* splashed its front-page with the story that the Birla family was ready to invest money in Ceylon. The report was fairly lengthy and went into details of the kinds of industries Birla's were proposing to start in Ceylon. According to this report, the Birlas were anxious to have a cement factory, a sugar plantation and refinery, a tea chest manufactory, and a silk factory.

According the *Observer*, the the Birlas only wanted certain assurances from the government regarding foreign capital before dumping a few crores of rupees into the business.

The *Observer* report appeared on May 28th, but on the following day, the *Madras Hindu* published an interview with the same Birla who came to Ceylon in which he categorically declared that he had not the slightest intention of investing any money in Ceylon.

*Who is the damn liar in this instance?*

## Diplomat in a Well

In the very first issue of this paper, dated May 1st, I broke the story of the diplomat in a well. It was the first time that the story had come out of the palmyrah curtain that had been imposed upon it.

On May 11, Tatler's *Diary* in the *Times of Ceylon* referred to this same story of the erring diplomat who missed his step.

On June 4, the *Ceylon Observer* used this story with the heading "Diplomat fished out of a well." The *Observer* reporter, who claimed to have traced this story, declared that it had happened "some days ago." (It really happened many, many weeks ago.)

Who can say that TRIBUNE is not being read?

## Tail-piece

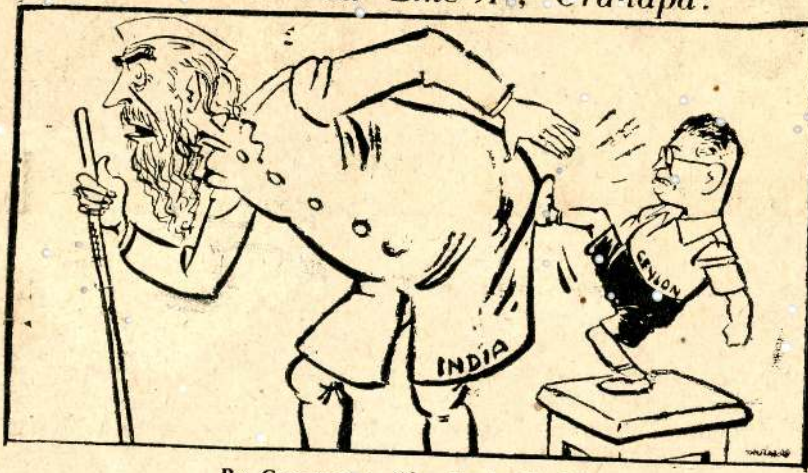
It is reported that the C.W.E. lost 49 lakhs in 1952. Out of this sum, 23 lakhs, it is stated, have been written off because the auditors feel that they were "not normal trading losses."

If they were not normal trading losses, what were they?

Was it black magic that made all this money disappear just like that?

In the meantime, investigator Dr. Wickremasinghe is said to be doing a thorough job on the C. W. E. books, assisted by Mr. B. E. Pinto who was in the Treasury until he retired recently.

"How Do You Like It, Grandpa?"



By Courtesy : Shankar's Weekly

## NEPAL & CEYLON

Continued from Page 7

sometime ago. As I write these notes, the Government of India have intercepted some US military transmitters and receivers meant for delivery to the Rana leaders.

### Ceylon

The Indian press as a whole has commented by now on the Kotelawala Government's vendetta against the Ceylon Indians. While national big papers like Amrita Bazar Patrika, Hindustan Standard, Jugantar, Hindustan Times, Times of India, Hindu, Ananda Bazar Patrika have come with scathing criticism of Sir John's moves in Colombo, regional papers like National Herald, Pioneer, Free Press Journal, Indian Nation, Searchlight, Leader, Assam Tribune, and a host of others have not hidden their disgust at the high-handed way Sir John has violated the Delhi Pact. The editorials of these papers, if anything, show what cartoonist Shankar paints under "How DO YOU LIKE IT, GRANDPA?"

June 5, 1954

Shibdas Banerji

### RADIO TRANSMITTERS SEIZED

KATHMANDU, June 4.

General Mrigendra, a prominent leader of the Gorkha Parishad, a right-wing organisation named by the Nepalese Government as being partly responsible for anti-Indian demonstrations here on Friday last, was to-day taken into police custody. He has been detained under the Public Security Act, pending further investigation.

According to the authorities a parcel of four sets of American Army wireless receivers and transmitters had been addressed to General Mrigendra and intercepted by the police.

### SOCIETY GIRL

A newly married society girl was determined to prove to her husband what an accomplished cook she was, and on the servant's day off, set about cooking a chicken for dinner. She plucked the fowl carefully, arranged it neatly in a pot and put it in the oven.

Two hours later, she heard a loud banging on the oven door. Investigation proved that the disturbance was being made by the chicken. "Lady," it cried piteously, "either give me back my feathers or turn on the gas. I'm freezing to death in the oven."

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# OUT OF WORK

by EMILE ZOLA

The worker is outside, in the street, on the sidewalk. He has pounded the pavements for eight days without finding any work. He has gone from door to door, offering his hands, offering his arms for any sort of job, the most loathsome, the most difficult, the most dangerous. Every door was closed against him.

Then he offered to work for half pay. Still the doors were not opened. This is unemployment, the terrible unemployment that tolls the knell of the garrets. Panic has brought industry to a standstill, and money, base money, has hidden itself away.

At the end of eight days all is over. The worker has made a supreme effort and he comes back slowly, empty handed. Rain is falling; Paris is muddy and funereal. He walks through the downpour without feeling it, conscious only of his hunger, pausing so as to get home less quickly. He leans over a parapet on the Seine; the waters flow with a continuous rumbling. He keeps leaning there; the huge stream passes below, hurling a furious appeal at him. Then he tells himself that that would be cowardly, and he goes away.

The rain has stopped. Gaslight blazes in the windows of the jewellers' shops. If he broke the glass he could have fistfuls of bread for years to come. The restaurant kitchens light up; and behind the white muslin curtains he sees people eating. He quickens his pace; he comes to the outskirts of the city, passing eating houses, butchers' shops, pastry shops, where the whole of gluttonous Paris can be seen in the hours of hunger.

When his wife and the little girl wept in the morning, he promised them bread for the evening. Until night-fall, he has not dared come to tell them that he lied. As he walks he wonders how he will face them, what he will tell them to make them have patience. But they cannot

go on much longer without eating. He could try to but his wife and the little girl are too wretched.

And, for a moment, he gets the idea of begging. But each time a lady or a gentleman comes by and he thinks of holding out his hand, his arm stiffens, his throat tightens. He remains rooted to the pavement.

The worker's wife has come down to the doorway, leaving the little girl asleep upstairs. The wife is very thin, in a cotton dress. She shivers in the icy wind from the street.

She has nothing left at home, she has pawned everything. A week without work has been sufficient to empty the house. The night before, she sold a junkman the last handful of wool from her mattress; so the mattress has gone, and now nothing remains but the ticking. She has hung it in front of the window to keep the air out, because the little girl keeps coughing.

Without telling her husband, she has also been looking for work. But unemployment has hit the women even harder than the men. On her landing there are some unfortunate women; she hears them sobbing in the night. She met one of them on a street corner; another one died; another disappeared.

Luckily she has a good husband, a man who does not drink. They would live in comfort if the dead seasons had not stripped them of everything. She has exhausted her credit; she owes money to the baker, the grocer, the green grocer, and she no longer even dares pass their shops. In the afternoon she went to her sister's to borrow twenty sous; but she found such misery there as well that without saying a word she began to cry, and both of them, her sister and herself, wept together for a long time. Then when she left she promised to bring a piece of bread, if her husband came back with anything.

Her husband does not come back. The rain falls; the wife takes refuge in the doorway. Big drops splash at her feet; the damp seeps through her thin dress. For a moment she is overcome with impatience; in spite of the pouring rain, she goes out; she goes to the end of the street to see if she cannot make him out in the distance, on the road. And when she comes back she is wet through; she passes her hands over her hair to wipe it dry; she tries again to be patient, shaken only by brief shudders of fever.

Opposite, there is a bakery, and she thinks of the little girl sleeping up-stairs.

Then when her husband at last appears, slinking along beside the houses like a miserable wretch, she rushes forward, she looks at him.

"Well.....!" she stammers.

He does not answer, he hangs his head. She goes upstairs first, deathly pale.

Upstairs, the little girl is not sleeping. She is awake; she is thinking, gazing at the end of the candle that stands on a corner of the table. And no one knows what sadness passes across the face of this seven-year-old youngster, who has the serious features of a mature woman.

She is sitting on edge of a box which serves her as a bed. Her bare feet hang down, shivering; with hands like a sickly doll's, she pulls the rags that cover her over her chest. She feels a burning there, a fire that she would like to put out. She thinks.

She has never had any toys. She cannot go to school, because she has no shoes. When she was smaller she remembers that her mother used to take her out in the sunshine. But that was a long time ago. They had to move, and since then it seems to her that a great chill has blown through the

Continued on Page 12

# BRUTALITY

We reprint here portions of an article from the "LONDON DAILY MIRROR." It is an interview with young kid of twenty, named Peter Bostock, of Nottinghamshire who served in the Kenya Police. No better evidence of the inhuman savagery being used against the African people is needed than these extracts from a Tory News paper.

— Editor

His name is Peter Bostock and he is only 20.

He declares: "You are right to suspect the worst in the way of ruthlessness from many of the white police officers in Kenya. I know, I was one of them . . . .

"I am writing this article to try and make you sentimentalists in this country understand that we need MORE ruthlessness, not less, to end the reign of terror in Kenya."

Here are some examples given by this kid from the Midlands:

"We had captured six black gangsters. . . We bundled our captives into the back of a truck for the drive to headquarters. The two wounded men were in agony. Every bounce and roll of the truck made them cry out.

"I and the other police officers just grinned. We did not dream of showing the slightest sympathy with them let alone attempting to do anything for their wounds.

"As a matter of fact, had had there not been a senior officer with us, our two wounded captives would have been shot out of hand. Why waste time taking them back for interrogation?"

Bostock describes the one act of cruelty that ever revolted him:

"With two other Europeans, I was questioning an old man. His answers were unsatisfactory. One of the white men set his dog at the old fellow.

"The animal clawed him to the ground, ripped open his throat, and started mauling his chest and arms.

"In spite of his screams, my companions just grinned. It was five minutes before the dog was called off.

"I can still hear that old man's screams. But if I had been in Kenya as long as the others, perhaps I should have been as indifferent to them as the others were."

Some security forces have apparently devised "quite unofficial" tortures for unco-operative villagers!

Says Bostock:

"I know of one police officer who threatened to allow his black troops to rape the women of a 'non-co-operative' village. .

"The savages take notice of such threats. They do not understand kid-glove methods.

"If the Army does not behave in this way, I am sure it is largely because the soldiers cannot understand the terrible hatred for the black terrorists which burns in the hearts of the white settlers and those of us who have lived and worked with them in the Kenya police."

Bostock sees himself as "a typical young Englishman who hates suffering and injustice, and who, without making too much fuss about it, tries to carry out Christian teachings."

After three months in Kenya he declares that "savages have to be dealt with savagely." Mau Mau atrocities must be answered in kind—that is the blind reasoning.

Bostock is back in Britain. But how many more bloody minded white police officers are left? What is being done—"quite unofficially"—in our name?

The "Mirror" has more than once demanded an inquiry into ALL anti-terrorist operations in Kenya.

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## OUT OF WORK

Continued from Page 11

house. She is never happy any more; she is always hungry.

She reaches depths that she cannot understand. Is everybody hungry, then? She has tried to get used to the idea, but she cannot. She thinks she is too young, that one must be grown-up to understand. Her mother will know about this thing which is kept from children. If she dared she would ask her.

And it is so ugly in their house! She looks at the window where the mattress ticking flaps, at the bare walls, the broken furniture, the whole shameful garret that unemployment has soiled with its despair. In her ignorance, she thinks she must have dreamt of warm rooms with beautiful shining ornaments; she closes her eyes to see them again; and through her transparent eyelids the light of the candle becomes a great golden illumination where she wishes she could go. But the wind blows; such a draught comes through the window that she is seized with a fit of coughing. Her eyes are full of tears.

Once she used be afraid when they left her all alone; now she no longer worries, it is all the same to her. As they have not eaten since the night before, she imagines her mother has gone down to look for bread. Then this idea amuses her. She will cut her bread into quite small pieces; she will eat them slowly, one by one. She will play with her bread.

Her mother comes back, her father closes the door. The little girl looks at the hands of both of them, very much surprised. And as they say nothing, after a moment she repeats in a sing-song voice: "I'm hungry, I'm hungry."

Her father has taken his head between his fists, in the shadow, in the corner of the room; he stays there, crushed, his shoulders shaking with harsh, silent sobs. The mother, stifling her tears, has come to put the little girl back to bed. She covers her with all the rags in the place; she tells her to be good, to go to sleep. But the child, whose teeth are chattering from the cold and who feels the fire in her chest burning hotter, becomes very bold. She hangs on her mother's neck, then softly:

"Tell me, mummy," she asks, "why are we hungry?"



# MONEY CONSERVED

by RUPEE

So far in this series of articles I have argued the Ceylonese bankers have left untouched vast sums of potential banking deposits in the country which lie outside the narrow mercantile, estate and staff-officer groupings. I have attempted to show that for each deposit account in which a big businessman keeps an average balance of Rs 10,000/-, there are 1,000 clerks who would maintain (if admitted as customers) average balances of Rs. 100/- Each group of clerks would provide the Bank with one lakh of rupees as a basis for loans to Ceylonese entrepreneurs.

## Advantage in Numbers

Similarly for each small businessman or staff officer maintaining an average balance of Rs. 1,000/- (I wonder how many do) there are in the country well over 1,000 peasants and workers who would keep average balances of Rs. 10/-. Each such group would increase the banks's resources by Rs. 10,000/-.

There is further advantage for bankers (and for their borrowing clients) than the quantitative superiority of Rs. 1 lakh over Rs. 10,000/- or Rs. 10,000/- over Rs. 1,000/-.

There is the advantage in numbers. A bank, in considering its lending potential, must look not only to its average total deposit holdings, but also the likelihood of sudden fluctuations in the balances. The greater the number of depositors, the greater the safety with which it can predict the future on the basis of the present.

And that is not all.

## Back once Again

*It is an old established theory of banking that money drawn from banks eventually gets back to the banks again.*

Thus the cash drawn on the payroll cheque goes to the clerk, who gives part to his landlord, who in turn pays his milkman. This man pays the retail forage merchant who in turn pays the wholesaler who puts it back in the bank.

In Ceylon at present, with all its dearth of banking facilities, the cash yet gets back to the bank. But it takes a long time about it. There is always a large quantity of money floating around the country on its slow, but sure path back to the banks.

*This floating money reaches an enormous peak level at the end of each month. Ceylon banks are denuded monthly by the salaries and wages flow. Their deposits get back to normal only by the middle of the month. And since the bankers' ability to lend depends not on the normal, but on the minimum level of total deposits, their power to finance industrial and agricultural projects is thus severely reduced.*

## Evenly Spread

If all these monthly "floating" transactions (and the number of such transactions throughout the island must run into millions monthly) were effected by cheque, no money whatsoever would flow out of the banks in large periodic fluctuations. Cash drawings from the banks would be small, and would be evenly spread throughout the month to meet the individual's petty cash requirements.

Thus, by embracing all stratas of the people among their constituents, Ceylonese bankers would add to their resources, firstly by the huge quantitative increase in deposits, secondly by the safety in numbers of depositors, and thirdly by the elimination of severe monthly drops in total deposit holdings.

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## DELETION FROM HANSARD

**Mr. C. Suntharalingam** (Vavuniya): With your leave, Mr. Speaker there is a remark which appears in column 170 of the Hansard of May 3, which is an interruption attributed to the Rt. Hon. Gentleman, which I should like to read out: This is it:

**"The Rt. Hon. Sir. J. Kotelawala:** They are the fellows who are spoiling the students, fellows like Ludowyke and Swine like that."

Then I went on to say:

**"Mr. Suntharalingam:** I must beg of you, Sir, to call for an explanation of that term."

**"Mr. Speaker:** Will that hon. Member please go on? I did not hear it."

Mind you, you did not hear it and that should not, therefore, appear in the Hansard. That must be deleted.

**Mr. Speaker:** I order that those words be deleted.

**Mr. Suntharalingam:** Thank you Sir.

from Hansard May 6



*"If Thanu Pillai can form a Government with 19 members, why can't I pass with 19 marks....."*

By Courtesy: Shankar's Weekly.

## CHINA

"When we arrived in China," a lady, back from a world cruise, told her friends, "we went riding in one of these jinrickshas, and believe it or not they have horses that look just like men."

## JUSTICE DOUGLAS WARNING

Buffalo, New York State,

May 28.

Associate Justice William D. Douglas, of the United States Supreme Court, said here last night that all of Asia would turn Communist if the United States sent troops to fight in Indo-China.

"It would be a sheer disaster—an awful thing" he said.

"We would lose not only Indo-China but all of Asia if we sent American boys in there."

Mr. Douglas spoke before a meeting of the Buffalo Council of World Affairs. He said it was too late to save Indo-China "unless there is a non-Communist Indo-Chinese Government formed around which the people can rally."

Mr. Douglas who has travelled widely in the Far East said U. S. difficulties in Asia would be lessened by an increased foreign aid programme and by an exchange of cultural ideas.



**ROBIA** REGD

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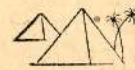
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# THE AGREEMENT

Continued from Page 6

citizen of India by the Diplomatic or Consular representative of India in the country where he is for the time being residing on an application made by him thereof to such Diplomatic or Consular representative, whether before or after the commencement of this Constitution, in the form and manner prescribed by the Government of the Dominion of India or the Government of India".

It is anticipated that under the proposed arrangements a good many Indian residents who do not now possess Indian passports will register as Indian citizens. They are in the first place likely to do this out of a natural desire to acquire the right to go back home if they fail to acquire Ceylon citizenship. Next, it is proposed that they should be actively encouraged to register themselves as Indian citizens by being offered special "inducements" to do so.

## Inducements

Those inducements will have to be considered and worked out later, but they will be both direct and indirect. A direct inducement would be the offer of passage back home and compensation to Indians who registered themselves as Indian citizens within stated period and who were prepared to go back home within a stated period. Indirect inducements would be the practical withdrawal of remittance facilities to India from all except those who have registered themselves as Indian citizens, and the stipulation that any person wishing to travel to India should hold either an Indian or a Ceylon passport (estate labour does not now travel on passports). The Exchange restrictions will apply to other countries as well.

There will now be Indian residents who acquire Ceylon citizenship and Indian residents who get registered as India nationals under the provision of the Constitution of India. It will also be seen that the draft proposals do not debar Ceylon from taking

whatever action, in the economic sphere, she might think it necessary to take from time to time in the interests of her own nationals.

## No Numerical Settlement

It might be added that a principal endeavour of Ceylon has been to avoid being committed to a numerical form of settlement. Such a settlement would have been injurious to interests of the country. So far as the registration of Ceylon citizens under the Indian and Pakistan Residents (Citizenship) Act is concerned, there cannot also be any anticipation of the numbers that might result: all that can be said is that the Act will be strictly and impartially administered.

A noteworthy feature of the draft proposals is the provision, to which India has given her concurrence that Indian residents who acquire Ceylon citizenship under the Indian and Pakistani Residents (Citizenship) Act should be placed on a special Electoral Register for ten years. The object is to ensure that the political interests of the country are not injuriously affected until new citizens have had time to assimilate themselves in some degree in to their environment. The constitution of Ceylon will have to be amended in order to give legal effect to this provision.

The reference to "the language of the area" in proposal No. 5 is a statement of fact that the bulk of these citizens have not mixed with the permanent residents of the area.

*Mr. Suntharalingam (Vavuniya):* Fiction!

*The Hon. Sir J. Kotelawala:* It might be so to you.

## Language Question

It is not intended to imply an alteration in the policy of Government that Tamil and Sinhalese should be the official languages of the country. The proposal for a separate Electoral Register exempt from this provision marginal areas where the number of new citizens is not so large as to affect existing electoral arrangements. The number of seats related to the Special Electoral Register is to be determined in consultation with the Prime Minister of India. The concurrence of India will not be necessary, but the number determined will be an equitable number. The advice of the Delimitation Commission will be sought.

The draft agreement provides for periodical consultations between the two Governments in respect of matters affecting their mutual interests regarding this problem. The object is to ensure the continuance of the very harmonious relations that were established at the talks that took place between the two Prime Ministers.

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#### Method :—

Coat each fillet of fish separately in the following batter, and fry till nicely browned balance **COCOLENE**. Place on plate together with chips. Serve with tomato sauce.

#### Batter for frying fish :—

4 ozs. flour

$\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon salt

1 egg

about  $\frac{1}{4}$  pint milk, or coconut milk.

#### Method :—

Seive flour and salt into a bowl, add egg, next milk gradually. Mix till smooth and creamy, use as required.

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