



TRIBUNE

CEYLON NEWS REVIEW

Vol I No. 8

COLOMBO, JUNE 19, 1954

15 Cents.

HANDS OFF THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Newspaper reports of the efforts being made to save Dr. Festus, now under interdiction as a result of action under the Bribery Act, by a member of Parliament, and other reliable reports of attempts by persons of ministerial standing to save the "big fish" about which "Tribune" wrote last week, have caused great concern and anxiety in the public mind.

It must be stressed that there is no provision under the Bribery Act for the Prime Minister or any other person (except the Attorney-General), to investigate or cause to be investigated, or interfere or intervene, either in response to appeals or otherwise, on behalf of any suspect arraigned under the Act. Any such appeal should be directed to the Attorney General and the Attorney-General alone.

If this Government is not to forfeit its right to call itself democratic, it must keep clear of the path and course of the Attorney General, for he is the sole power and authority under the Bribery Act.

Small Fry

There is no use pursuing constables and other minor fry if the BIG FISH and bigger fishes associated with that BIG FISH are to be let off to save yet bigger fishes and THE WHALE himself!

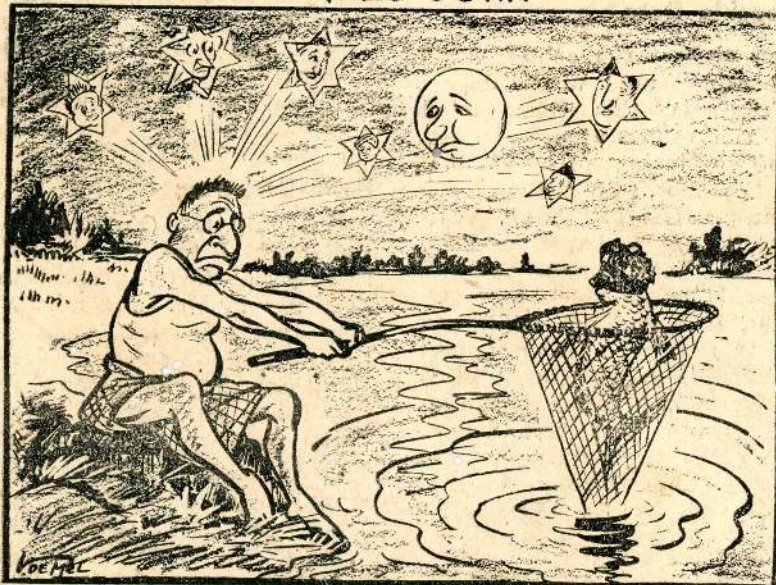
History has many lessons of democratic governments which have crumbled and crashed as a result of corruption eating into the bowels of the democratic system. The China of Chiang-Kai-Shek is a historic and unforgettable example of such collapse through corruption, despite American financial props, subsidies and largesse.

The Bribery Act was enacted to check corruption, and if pressure is to be used to save BIG FISH, then the Act might as well be scrapped. A great responsibility rests on Members of the Cabinet and the Government Parliamentary Party to see that the Bribery Act is not reduced to a farce.

In this connection, the public look to the Minister of Justice who has a special interest in the matter of the administration of law, to see that Bribery Act is not tampered with. *Will he countenance interference with the Attorney-General in the exercise*

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MALU JOHN!



WHAT WILL THEY DO WITH THE BIG FISH ?

CEYLON JOURNALISM

Mr. H. D. Jansz is perhaps the best known of our humorous writers. When he used to edit the *Observer*, the light leader of the *Sunday Observer* was looked forward to by a large circle of readers for its flashes of humour that had a quality of illumination. The thing was funny without being bitter. It was impersonal and therefore did nobody any harm.

The modern way of journalistic humour seems to have changed. Nowadays you cannot laugh without hurting somebody. Besides the point to humour at present seems to be to make somebody to consult his lawyers.

At Oneself

The latest in humour seems to take another turn. It is to laugh at oneself. The leader of the last *Sunday Observer* was so funny, I could not help holding my sides. It was entitled "About Your Paper" and started off as follows:

"READERS will forgive us for our seeming immodesty in itemising a few recent instances of the vigilance with which this newspaper watches the interests of the public. Your newspaper, the "OBSERVER" has had a very successful bag of Press victories this season and we feel, what we hope will be regarded as justifiable pride in these achievements."

Personally I straightaway forgave the leader-writer, whoever the poor devil may have been, for the sheer fun of the thing. I specially chuckled for a long time while lingering over the words "seeming immodesty". Note also the words "justifiable pride," even if you did not notice the "very successful bag of Press victories."

Now is the time to play "See the Conquering Hero Come" as a celebration for this wonderful start of leader that should go down in

history as one of the funniest ever penned in Ceylon journalism.

Now comes a little lecture on the "business" of a newspaper:

"A newspaper's business is not merely to record the events of the day and to present them in an attractive form. It has also the inescapable duty of guiding public thought and guarding the public's interests and civil liberties. The abiding motivating principle behind the 'Observer's' steadfast and sometimes impartially ruthless examining of public affairs has been in the interests of the nation."

I am sure that you could not have missed the appropriate word "business" used here instead of "duty". It is the funny touch giving lots away. Only a leader writer of this kind could have attained this level of humour usually associated with Mark Twain or W. W. Jacobs. While not drawing special attention to the increased difficulty of selling the paper, the word "business" tells between the lines what the exact line is!

Inescapable Duty

Then observe the subtle word "inescapable" used with "duty" not "business" this time, mind you. You cannot accuse the paper of not trying to escape this duty. It cannot, admittedly, escape this duty. If it had been "business", it might have tried to escape it. You cannot as well have said "inescapable business." Besides, it would not be funny. After this comes the promised 'itemising' to be worn as medals in the rest of this hilarious leader written with a broad grin. Here is the first item printed with a big blob of ink, so that so that you could not miss it:—

"The OBSERVER" was in the forefront of the campaign to enact the antibribery law.

"The Brbery Bill which was the outcome of these efforts is now in operation."

Anti-Bribery

This reminds me of the Russians claiming to have invented electricity, the radio, the cinema, and all the other modern signs of civilisation. Likewise the *Observer* has been responsible for the anti-bribery laws. Perhaps it is not that much serious. It is really funny because it has been "in the fore-front of the campaign to enact the anti-bribery law". When one considers that the *Observer* has been in existence for over a hundred years and the campaign has been going on for almost that length of time it certainly must have been in the fore-front.

With big blobs, the itemising carries on in a funnier vein, with each item. This "seeming immodesty" is really very charming. When we arrive at the bottom blob, to the item of pawn broker's business, I simply could not help the tears that welled up in my eyes.

"The 'OBSERVER' suggested last week that the Bank of Ceylon should help the public by taking over the pawn-broker's business and establishing it on sound principles. "Today we are happy to announce that the Bank has decided do just that."

Pawn-Brokering

Not only the *Observer* leader-writer but I too am happy for this special favour granted to the *Observer* by Mr. Loganathan, that very understanding and sympathetic General Manager. Not only the *Observer*, but I too have a few things to pawn.

But even if I have no money I have manners. Therefore, I allow the leader-writer to do "business" (not duty) with the Bank first. He came there first. It is an inescapable duty with him, I suppose.

“ there are ugly rumours of horse-trading ”



and manipulation regarding

allocation of stock ”

LONDON LOAN

The reluctance of the Government to give any information at all about details and particulars of the £ 5-million pound loan raised in London has created a great deal of public misgiving and suspicion. The answer given in the House of Representatives that it is not in public interest to do so has not convinced anyone.

What people cannot understand is why a National Loan publicly raised should be shrouded in so much mystery. There are a few matters that need urgent clarification, and this is what Members of Parliament have been at pains to find out from Government benches,

Sold at a Premium

This loan was raised in the last week of March. The *Economist* of March 27 had some interesting comments to make about this loan. The loan was issued at £ 97, and although only part of the subscription was called for at that time, by the middle or end of April, when trading began, according to the London *Financial Times*, the stock in this loan was being sold at a premium. *If within a fortnight or so, the stock value of the Ceylon loan could appreciate, the question many persons are anxious to know is why the loan was offered at £ 97 and not at par?*

On the same day the Ceylon loan was offered, according to the *Economist* of March 27, the I. C. I. issued an unsecured loan at par and this was as enthusiastically over-subscribed as the Ceylon loan.

What is important is that if a loan that is issued at £ 97 shoots up £ 102 or £ 103 in a few days, then, persons who got the original allocation had a wonderful chance of making quick money. That is why the question asked in Parliament about the original list of subscribers is so importantly relevant.

by
Our Financial Correspondent

What people want to know is whether there has been any cornering of the issue at the start so that a few original subscribers can make easy money in a short time?

It must be remembered that the Ceylon Loan was raised on the most generous terms. The interest paid is higher than what has been offered to Ceylon investors in Ceylon. Four per cent at £ 97 gives a return of 4.5% or £ 4.4 s in the pound.

Cornering ?

In Colombo city circles, there are ugly rumours of horse-trading and manipulation regarding the allocation of the stock. The Government will do well to publish all particulars and details about this matter without delay. Otherwise, these rumours are bound to be widely believed and it will not reflect to the credit of the

Government in that it refused to lay all the cards about the loan on the table.

It might be mentioned that there is a persistent rumour that three Colombo Foreign Exchange Banks through their London offices were able to secure about half the total issue at £ 97. One bank is said to have secured the value of Rs. 15 million, another Rs. 10 million and the third Rs. 5 million. Another bank, a small firm in London, whose name figured in Parliamentary cross-talk, is alleged to have got an allocation of about Rs. 3 million. This small bank is alleged to have been bought up a well-known firm of Colombo proctors who dabble a great deal in high finance.

If there is the slightest foundation for these rumours, then the public have more than a right to believe that there has been some cornering of stock that has been offered too low.

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EMPLOYMENT

A predominant feature of the rural population in Ceylon is that it is a younger population than the urban population. Among other things, this is suggestive of a greater reproduction rate in the rural areas. The following table shows the relative position.

Age Groups	Urban (percentage of the total population)	Rural
Population under 5	10.3	15.6
School going (5-14)	19.6	26.7
Employable (15-54)	63.0	49.8
Retired (55 and over)	7.1	7.9

Though there is a high concentration in the younger age groups, it must be remembered that in rural areas children help their parents in farm work.

Family Size

The average size of the rural family is 4.67 persons.

This means that a typical family in a Ceylon village has about 4 to 5 persons with a weightage in favour of 5. This average was obtained with half the families consisting of 3.5 persons and about a third having over 6 persons to each family.

It must be noted that the statistics were based on the economic unit and not the biological unit. Families were calculated only on the basis of children living at home and not total number of children born to family, some of whom may have died or may be permanently detached from home.

Gainful Employment

It is significant that in the rural areas, only about half the male population and about a fifth of the female population are gainfully employed. But even this does not convey a true idea of the situation.

The majority of those gainfully employed pursue agricultural occupations and periodic spells of unemployment occur regularly. Periodic unemployment and under-employment in our villages are due to several factors: the

amount of cultivable land in the district, the availability of irrigational facilities and the vagaries of the weather.

Furthermore, as the report of the 1950 survey put it, "there is a volume of involuntary idleness among rural workers which could be usefully employed in subsidiary occupation." This is characterised as problem which exists in all countries where "peasant agriculture is associated with a multiplicity of holdings most of them of an uneconomic size."

Many will not agree with this official view of the employment situation—in our rural areas. Landlessness, the primitive system of land tenure and the absence of proper vocational education for the rural population would be some of the causes said to be responsible for the situation in our villages.

Three Classes

Earners in our rural areas were classified in three categories: (1) those working on their own account, (2) paid employees and (3) unpaid family workers.

Those on the first category included not only one-man concerns but also persons who employed others to assist them. Thirty four percent of the earners in the rural areas belonged to this category.

This is the Second of a Series of three articles on the conditions in rural areas. The first article appeared in our issue last week.

Fifty three per cent of those gainfully employed were paid employees whilst thirteen per cent were unpaid family workers.

A further breakdown in these categories showed that among males 37 per cent were workers on their own account, 55 per cent paid employees and 8 per cent unpaid family workers. Among the females the ratios were 26 per cent, 46 per cent and 28 per cent respectively. This reveals the extent to which women in rural areas assisted the head of the household in the business of earning a living, in addition to carrying out their usual duties as housewives.

Occupational Activities

The rural surveys so far carried out are extremely meagre and unsatisfactory. For the surveys were based on a sampling at random and the percentage distribution may not conform to the predominant occupational activity of the whole rural population.

Moreover, these statistics do not indicate that the old feudal pattern of occupational activities still dominates life in the rural areas. Handicrafts are still associated with particular castes and are therefore often concentrated in certain villages.

However, these statistics revealed that 54 per cent of the families were predominantly engaged in agriculture, 7 per cent in trade, 5 per cent in handicrafts and 14 per cent non-agricultural labour and a residuum of 20 per cent dependent on other occupational activities.

ABSORBABLE MAXIMUM

The Indian problem in Ceylon is a problem of long standing with a long history and many ramifications. In dealing with this Pact, I do not propose to go into the past history of the problem at length, although one is tempted to do so particularly after the Prime Minister devoted a part of his statement yesterday to a resume of that history....

Not Merely Franchise

I will examine how far these statements made here so categorically are reflected in the actual terms of that agreement and the interpretation put upon the agreement by the Prime Minister himself on various occasions after his return from Delhi.

The historical aspect goes on to another point of importance, in paragraph 5,

"When the Indian problem was under discussion between 1923 and 1947 it was thought of almost entirely as a problem of the franchise—"

That is not accurate. I refer to Sessional Paper IX of 1941 containing the discussion at Delhi between the Ceylon Delegation consisting of the late Mr. D. S. Senanayake, myself, Mr. Huxham and Mr. Corea and the Indian Delegation headed by Sir G. S. Bajpai. It is not correct to say that till 1947 it was only a question of the franchise. This is important and that is why I refer to it refer to it. I am reading from page 7 of the Sessional Paper referred to. These remarks were made by,

"It is of course difficult to decide offhand the particular quantum—"

Absorbable Maximum

I was dealing with the absorption maximum which was urged at the conference by me—

"but obviously the absorption of what corresponds to to one sixth of the total population of the country

In our last two issues we published the statement made by Premier Sir John Kotelawela in the House of Representatives on March 1. We now publish relevant parts of the speech made by Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike in the debate that followed. Mr. Bandaranaike is the Leader of the Opposition, and the President of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party. It will be remembered that Mr. Bandaranaike was among the first to raise the question of Indians in Ceylon in the year 1934 in the State Council. He has held definite views on this question as President of the former Sinhala Maha Sabha and also as a Vice-President of the U. N. P., until his resignation three years ago to form the S. L. F. P. The extracts from Mr. Bandaranaike's speech made on March 2nd and 3rd will appear in three instalments.

with the stranglehold that that they have now on business and capital, as well as employment, would undoubtedly lead to the possible result, as many of us see it, of the extermination of our own people."

I was particularly referring to the Sinhalese, to the extermination of our own people.

"The position I have indicated does exist. It is really becoming now a stark question of survival. We are perfectly prepared to go as far as we reasonably can, while preserving those essential interests of ours."

So that, it is not correct to say that till 1947, that is up to the point we achieved independence, the question was purely a matter of the franchise. And the other ingredients, the social, economic and others were considered so far back as 1942. That is all I have to say about past history.

The Problem

What precisely is the problem with which we are now faced? Here I must say this. I am now casting the blame upon some of ourselves who made a certain, perhaps *bona fide*, a grave initial blunder. There was an impression among some of us that for

our estate economy, particularly the rubber and tea estates, Indian labour was indispensable. It has been my task to fight that belief from the start.

There was in the minds of many of our leaders who had to deal with this problem earlier the belief that Indian labour was indispensable for our plantation economy. I refused to accept that position earlier than 1940, and at the Delhi talks. My attitude was that we must be prepared to face that issue fairly.

Work on Estates

I did not feel then, nor do I feel now, that there is any insuperable difficulty for our people to work on estates under suitable conditions of living, emoluments and so on. There was no insuperable difficulty in that. In the light of the most serious issues involved I felt that it was our duty, even at the risk of some temporary dislocation of work on estates, to solve this problem once and for all. At Delhi our points of view—there were divergent points of view towards the end of the discussions—were clearly brought out.

At that point, a clear division of opinion developed between my point of view and the other point of view put forward by

Continued on Page 11

CAN OLD AGE BE POSTPONED?

Everyone would like to know just what old age is, and how it can be postponed. Questions of this kind are often asked me by people in different occupations, including many working women.

Hardening

What is old age? Old age consists of the different stages of the body's development which precede physical death. We usually think of old age as the last stage in the in the body's development. Yet a distinction must be made between old age and aging as a process in the development of old age. We see this process of aging in the fact that within the body, which is composed of cells and of living matter, the living matter as well as the cells age.

What, then, are the changes produced during aging in the living matter in the simplest organisms, for example in the cells, and within the whole body? In every living organism, and its parts, i.e., in the cells and the living matter, a hardening of the protein particles, a coagulation of the protein, a hardening of all the parts of the cells, including their membranes, takes place. This impedes metabolism, which is the most substantial and the most indispensable process, maintaining the vitality of the whole organism.

The hardening of the protein particles in the organism and the slackening of metabolism, which intensify constantly with age, make the human being weak.

Postponed

Must every organism pass through the stage of aging to death? Yes, death and the old age that precede it are inescapable. But old age does not come all at once; its development has a history. This is why the question arises whether old age could not be postponed,

***** BY *****
* This article by Olga Lepechins- *
* kaya, Member of the Academy of *
* Medical Science, U. S. S. R., has *
* appeared in several journals in the *
* United Kingdom and Western *
* Europe. We are reprinting it *
* because we feel that our readers *
* will be deeply interested in the *
* subject. *

and up to what limit life could be prolonged? Don't we die too soon?

The Academician Bogomoletz wrote in regard to the length of life that the possible life-span of a human being is no less than 200 years. In the Ukraine, the biologist Chefiro collected 40,000 cards of information on people over a hundred years old, and he cites cases where old people of 155 even went on working.

Then why do the majority of human beings fail to attain 155 years of age and die, in most cases, before 70 or 80? To answer this question it is necessary to study old age in its development scientifically, to study the organism not outside of its environment but in the sum of its conditions.

Sclerosis

What lies at the basis of the organic changes due to old age? How do the changes make themselves chiefly felt? In the cells and in the living matter of every organism, as we have already said, under the influence of the most diverse causes, the process of aging begins, i.e., the hardening of the protein particles, the hardening of the protoplasm and of the cell membranes, which has an influence on the whole body, on all the tissues and organisms, especially

on the metabolism, that is, on the vitality of the whole body.

The clearest index of old age is the increasing development of connective tissue. Everybody knows that old meat is tough because a great deal of compact connective tissue has developed in it. This hardening is called sclerosis. It is in old age that all the organs, particularly the blood vessels, are more or less inclined to hardening or sclerosis.

Factors

The hardening of the proteins, the vascular walls, and all the organs is accelerated by different factors. Syphilis, alcoholism, tobacco, infectious diseases and other factors precipitate the development of compact connective tissue; sexual excesses, gross overwork, irregular eating, fear, and other causes also hasten old age. In his book, Academician Bogomoletz quotes the opinion of a scientist who said that no lazy person could grow very old. All the people who do are those who have led an active life. According to this same scientist, laughter is the most healthful physical movement. It is good for digestion, circulation, and the activity of all the organs.

Thus there are many factors contributing to the hardening of the protein particles in the cells and

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By Courtesy: Shankar's Weekly

PRINCES,



An Ambassador & Spying

I spent a good deal of my last week's time travelling in Rajasthan where the mercury moved mercilessly between 112 to 115 degrees. During the pre-independence years, Rajasthan was the happy home of a number of extravagant loose Prince who ruled their States as they pleased and were responsible only to the British Political Agents. These Agents, on their retirement, joined the tribe of "England's Richest Men", became personal friends of Lord Beaverbrook and wrote 'Memoirs' for publication.

Despots

The Princes of Rajasthan under direct patronage of the then Paramount power ruled their States as only the despots in the 16th century did. Theirs was a reign of anarchism where women lived behind the veils and the rulers married as many times as they desired. Exploitation of people was an unhindered game in these States. Political movements were crushed here as easily as were the beautiful wives of citizens snatched away on pain of

death. It was in the prisons of these Maharajas only were a Gandhi or a Nehru insulted most, and hit hard.

I have been to Rajasthan quite often—before and after our independence. The "Highnesses" have now been almost completely liquidated for which the one individual solely responsible was Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel who is no more. I have used the word "almost" because one "Highness" still remains in Rajasthan in the garb of a new name Rajpramukh. He is the handsome thrice married Maharaja of Jaipur.

Rajpramukh

The institution of Rajpramukh in India—they are quite a few of them who head most of the Class C states—is hated by the States there is an active movement for their total ejection.

Last year Jawaharlal Nehru, India's Premier, sent out an unfruitful private appeal to these Princes requesting them to volunteer a small 12% cut in their privy purses. These purses range between tax free 10 to 25 lakhs of rupees a year with the exception of the Nizam of Hyderabad who pockets annually over a crore of rupees, meaning, about a million rupees a month, without any kind of tax whatsoever.

The constant talk in "C" Class States is the talk of their "Highnesses" harems and other exploitations. Quite a few of these favoured citizens of India have pumped our their hidden gold to countries in Europe and America where mostly they lived their present life. It has been easy for them to smuggle out huge funds because they have been indiscretely provided with diplomatic immunities in keeping with a certain clause which enabled Sardar Patel divest them of their ill-gotten States.

In Europe

Last week when I was in the capital of Rajasthan, I found the Rajpramukh absent from duty, as usual, on his 4 month holiday in Europe, accompanied by his third wife Gayatri Devi. The Capital of Rajasthan was, I found on my arrival, teeming with little lords, the *jaigirdars*, who are about to be stripped of their estates under a legalised compensatory scheme. These *jaigirdars* met in camera conferences, discussed their personal future, and almost *en bloc* took to Gandhi caps in order to save what little they still could. It was a pathetic sight but yet I enjoyed every minute I stayed in this romantic city of Jaipur where peacocks and monkeys roamed carefree on the broad asphalt roads and ex-Maharajas drove their swanky limousines through dark alleys.

Ambassador Allen

On my return to the federal capital I find the U. S. Ambassador, George Allen, out in Nepal, confabulating. His statement that no American instigated the demonstration against the Indian Parliamentary Delegation visiting Nepal that no American, official or private, citizen tried to smuggle US Army transmitters and receivers into Nepal will only fool the fools, for who expected Allen to officially own his Agents and Spies?

The US activity in Nepal has of late increased many fold. Missionaries, Mountaineers, Botanists, Anthropologists, Journalists these are some of the recognizable garbs that many of the American spies in Nepal wear. There are others who are officially stamped as librarians of USIS in Nepal whose job, I am told, among other things is to induce visitors to USIS libraries even by paying them cash, if necessary.

Continued on page 10

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FASCISM ?

The proposed Indian and Pakistani (Parliamentary Representation) Bill is a piece of legislation that should not find a place in the Statute Book of Ceylon. It is legislation that any country that calls itself democratic should be ashamed to enact. This Bill segregates a particular community on racial lines and introduces the vicious system of communal representation thereby curtailing the political rights of persons who become citizens of Ceylon through registration. The reason given for this kind of avowedly discriminatory legislation in respect of the Ceylon Indians is that this community in the 1947 Elections chose and supported candidates who were opposed to the U.N.P. Time and time again, the leaders of the present Government have emphasised that the Ceylon Indians have tended to support candidates whom the U.N.P. could not approve. Under the garb of solving some of other problems that arise from Indian immigrant labour being brought to Ceylon by British planters, the Government now seeks in the best style and manner of the great Malan to isolate and segregate a community that has contributed a great deal to the development of this Island so that it would be politically ineffective.

The Indian and Pakistani (Parliament Representation) Bill is nothing but the thin end of a wedge through which fascism can begin to dominate this country. It must not be forgotten by some who have been instilled with an obsession against "Indians" in Ceylon, that by agreeing in principle to the curtailment of the political rights of the Ceylon Indian community they are opening the door to similar disenfranchisement and political crippling of other sections of the people of this country whose

politics do not meet with the approval of the bigwigs of the U. N. P.

Already the Premier has threatened that he would "de-nationalise" and "de-citizenise" all citizens of this country whose politics appear to him to be "un-Ceylonese." The recent circular sent to Government Parliamentary Party Members asking them to submit urgent matters to be attended to in their constituencies and the consequent threat to disinherit and disenfranchise all those constituencies which returned opposition members is a grim reminder that this country is on the verge and brink of naked fascism.

• Public outcry and criticism in all the daily papers warning the Government against fascist tendencies compelled Sir John Kotelawela and some of his colleagues in the no confidence motion last Friday to go back on the replies that had been given to the Member for Bingiriya, only a few days earlier, —when the Premier openly declared that Opposition constituencies would be punished until they returned Government candidates.

Further, if newspaper reports are to be believed, and there is no reason for disbelieving them in the light of recent experience, Sir John Kotelawela is contemplating the formation of pseudo-fascist military units in the police and the public services as well as the setting up of screening committees in the McCarthy tradition.

Thanks to the democratic steadfastness of the ex-Premier Dudley Senanayake, the Government Parliamentary Party is said to have turned down an attempt to introduce legislation to penalise all those whose politics were different from those of the Party in power.

DEMOCRACY

- Q:** What is Parliamentary Democracy according to the Gospel of Sir John ?
- A:** All those voted for the U.N.P. are Democrats. All the rest are in the pay of the Kremlin.
- Q:** But isn't Parliamentary Democracy based on a Government and an Opposition ?
- A:** Not this one.
- Q:** Why does Sir John hate totalitarianism ?
- A:** Because it is a one-party system of Government.
- Q:** Then what is the difference between Parliamentary Democracy according to the Gospel of Sir John and Totalitarianism.
- A:** Don't ask unpatriotic questions.

—Fly By Night in "Sunday Observer", June 13.

The Indian and Pakistani (Parliamentary Representation) Bill must be resisted by all persons who believe in democracy and the democratic system.

This Bill, apart from racially segregating persons of a particular community who have acquired citizenship of this land, will introduce into the political life of this country neo-fascist tendencies which will undoubtedly destroy the very foundations of the democratic way of life.

If this Bill were accepted, it will be political precedent and a legal excuse to introduce similar legislation curtailing the political rights and liberties of other sections and groups in the Island.

The people of Ceylon must be warned that if legislation such as the proposed Indian and Pakistani (Parliamentary Representation) Bill becomes law, the doors will be thrown wide open for fascism and that Hitler totalitarianism will soon overwhelm this Island.

Richardsons Emile

Central Bank

A New Foreign Bank

JUST BRIEFLY by SERENDIB

London Share-List Mystery

The name Richardson & Co has been in the news recently. It figured rather prominently in the House of Representatives when certain questions regarding the London Loan were asked. The Member for Vavuniya and the Member for Matugama seemed to believe that this firm had a great deal to do with the London Loan.

Generations of Ceylon students in London will remember Richardsons as bankers and agents responsible for their allowances. It is now popularly believed that the well-known law firm of de Silva and Mendis of Colombo together with some of their friends have bought up Richardson & Co. This story may be completely unfounded, but I am passing on to my readers information that is going round the top circles in Colombo. The firm of de Silva and Mendis have a great deal to do with the Times of Ceylon Co. Ltd. One of its partners, Mr. C. X. Martyn, is now the deputy Chairman of the Times of Ceylon Co. Ltd. (formerly Mr. Noel Mendis was on the board, but now he is believed to spend most of his time in London where it is said that de Silva and Mendis have a branch office).

Emile

The name of Richardsons also figured in the news when the papers reported that this firm was willing to stand surety "up to any amount" for Mr. Emile Savundranayagam against whom a warrant of extradition had been executed in London.

Emile, as many people know, is the popular, genial soul who is a Director of Tuckers (and probably one of its most substantial share-holders) and is also well known, like his friend and kinsman Sir Chittampalam Gardiner, for his philanthropy. Emile

has among other things is said to have built a wonderful convent somewhere near Kandy.

Emile is young, but he made his millions before he was thirty. (He is 31 now, according to press reports from London). The deal on which he netted his first big fortune was an oil deal with Red China. At a time when nobody was willing to trade with the Communists, Emile plucked up courage and arranged for a shipment of oil (or was it aviation spirit?). On this deal he made more money than very successful businessmen make in a whole life-time.

Emile is now said to be disillusioned about the Communists. The totalitarians are said to have denied receiving the oil after it was properly shipped with the assistance of a Swiss Bank. Nobody believes Communists and their lying tales, and Emile must count himself lucky for not having been done in the eye for his money by the Reds.

Sir Chittampalam Gardiner is expected to fly to London shortly to see what he could do about Emile's little misunderstanding with the Belgian authorities.

Central Bank

In the House of Representatives, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance stated that the names of the subscribers to the London Loan could not be disclosed as it was against the "public interest". He quoted a letter from the Central Bank as authority for this dictum.

This is most surprising. The London Loan was raised by an Act of the Ceylon Parliament, and the Parliament is entitled to have the fullest information about it.

A loan is not a military matter which should be shrouded in secrecy. The tax-payers of Ceylon have to pay this loan (Parliament having to vote it) and if any-

body is entitled to know all about the loan, the taxpayers are.

I understand, however, that the Central Bank was reluctant to release the information even to the Treasury. It is believed that the Treasury officials pointed out to the Central Bank that the Treasury was responsible for the loan and its re-payment and not the Central Bank. After this the latter are said to have sent to the Treasury a list of subscribers with a qualification that the list was not fully "authenticated". What does this mean? Authenticated by whom?

Is it that even in London the list is still held incomplete without "authentication"? Unless, the public are very soon furnished with complete information about this loan, I am certain that there is going to be a national outcry. *Friends tell me that there will be a bigger hullabaloo if the names are published.*

Foreign Bank

Collette of the *Observer* had a cartoon this week depicting Central Bank's N. U. Jayawardene as building a super-colossal foreign bank to overwhelm pawn-broker Loganathan of the Bank of Ceylon. From inquiries I have made, the scheme to have a foreign bank on a colossal scale had reached an advanced stage recently, and that the demand to concentrate all Government funds in the Central Bank was part of the tactics in order to set up a rival to the Bank of Ceylon.

Not only has Mr. N. U. J.'s name been connected with this foreign bank, but also those of much greater men. In fact, well-known "capitalists" belonging to different communities in this island had been "approached" to serve as Directors of this new bank.

Continued on page 15

PRINCES, AN AMBASSADOR & SPYING

Continued from Page 7

Spying

Why is this sudden increase of US activity south of Tibet? Washington has found out that Katmandu is not very happy over Lahsa's stoppage of the age-old Rs. 10,000 annual "bakshish" to Nepal. When Nepalese Premier Koirala asked for Nehru's advice on the matter he was counselled to pipe down, for a treaty enacted hundred years ago between two sets of different governments which begot Nepal the annual grant from "mysterious" Tibet could hardly be expected now to be binding on a people's government, there. Washington is busy planting discord between New Delhi and Katmandu because Koirala took to Nehru's advice and stopped picking an unnecessary quarrel with Tibet.

Spying on Tibet from Nepal is easier than from the mountain retreat of Kalimpong in northern Bengal where the government has ceased to be unvigilant over foreign spies who have taken a special interest on the spot. The US subsidized Ceylonese monthly JANA'S reference to Kalimpong (in the June issue) as where donkey's seem to talk has an ugly insulting tinge, for I know Kalimpong more intimately than any US sources could possibly do which has supplied the magazine its lying dope. If Lake House is interested in materials on India, U. S. A. is hardly the ideal place to look for them.

Shibdas Banerji

June 13, 1954.

DALADIER

BLAMES U. S.

Speaking earlier former French Premier Eduard Daladier declared that since May 29 the Geneva Conference had not recorded any progress and the war continued. There was a talk of a final breakdown of the conference towards June 5, following a more or less disguised ultimatum. "So this will end in an internationalisation of the conflict which could inevitably lead the world towards a catastrophe."

He attributed the failure of the Geneva Conference to a hardening of an important faction of the United States delegation there. In spite of President Eisenhower's zeal for moderation, the China lobby was playing a preponderant role in Washington. He said the leaders of this lobby were Mr. Richard Nixon, the Vice-President, Admiral Arthur Radford and General James Van Fleet.

The former Premier declared that the undisguised aim of Gen. Van Fleet was to knock out the Chinese Communists, not by a land attack, but by the use of the Atom Bomb. Under such conditions, how can we be astonished by the fears of Chou En-lai, Communist China's Premier, who could quite well think that during a long armistice period Indo-China could be used for the establishment of American bases from which anti-Chinese attacks could be launched."

M. Daladier expressed the wish to see Communist China take its place in the United Nations. He wound up his speech by asking that France's policy should aim at establishing together with Britain normal and balanced relations between the two blocs.

For the full background story of the China
Pact and the attempts to sabotage it

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FIGHT AGAINST COMMUNISM

BEVAN URGES BETTER LIVING CONDITIONS

MIDFONER (North
Somerset) June 5.

Mr. Aneurin Bevan told a miners' gala here to-day why he thought the British Labour Party was visiting China in the Autumn. The delegation of eight will include Mr. Bevan and Mr. Clement Attlee.

"We believe that the only people who can talk the same language as the peasants and workers of China are the representatives of the peasants and workers of Britain," he said. "They have been bottom dogs for a long time and we were bottom dogs for a long time."

Mr. Bevan said he did not think that China was conspiring with Russia to unleash a Third World War on the West. "I don't think the Kremlin is as good as all that. I think they are seeing the world wrong."

On Egypt, Mr. Bevan made this forecast: "Before many months are over unless we evacuate the Suez Canal Zone, you will find headlines in the British newspapers describing Communist activities in Egypt."

Mr. Bevan added, "India, China, Indonesia, Pakistan and now the Middle East are beginning to throw off the yokes we have imposed on them—and that nature has imposed on them over countless centuries."

"From Britain alone will come the leadership that will enable these people to live peaceably with us and prevent a Third World War. It will not come from the United States."

Mr. Bevan declared that the United States believed in fighting Communism by military action. He believed in preventing the spread of Communism by giving people better conditions.

ABSORBABLE MAXIMUM

Continued from Page 5

Mr. Huxham and, I think, supported to a great extent by Mr. Senanayake.

Both Ways

It was an attempt to eat the cake and have it, to keep these people here because it was desirable or convenient for us to do so for purposes of labour—to keep them indefinitely, for all time, without extending to them those rights which, in those circumstances, with a certain amount of justification they quite cogently demanded.

Before these discussions took place, I remember a very important leader of India telling me this. He is one who is holding an extremely high position in India today. When I was discussing the question of the absorbable maximum, he said:

"Bandaranaike, what does it matter to us to have back the three or four or five lakhs of Indians in your country. It is but a drop in the ocean when we think of the 400 million of our population. But if you want these Indians for your essential work and you cannot be without them, it is a matter for the honour of India. . . ."

his own words,

"that you should have them and have them also without those rights of citizenship and other privileges to which they should be entitled."

That is the line I wanted to be followed. On that line of thinking, decide on whatever you wish. After all, it did boil down to a question of liberty. You cannot get away from that. However much you might camouflage it, that was really the issue even in the mind of the Senanayake at the time.

Past History

I wish to face the position frankly. Let us have some survey on which we can arrive at the absorbable maximum, and let the rest go back. Let us face

the difficulty on our estates, if any arise, so that we can manage our own affairs without being dependent on others to carry out the essential work in our country.

Mr. Senanayake also shared my view during the discussions but he wished to achieve the object I had in mind in a somewhat circuitous manner, namely, to say that we did not want to send anybody back, that they should be allowed to stay behind and work, but that restrictions of such a strict nature should be imposed on the franchise and other rights that, in fact, the object is achieved, namely, limitation of numbers—the limitation of numbers apart from the actual qualification.

I am telling you this because I do know the whole of that early history. It may be that Mr. Senanayake was perfectly *bona fide* in putting forward that view just as much as I was perfectly *bona fide* in putting forward mine. Indeed we agreed fundamentally on the position. His approach to what he considered to be a better solution was somewhat fundamentally different to my approach of the problem. It is very important to bear this in mind in the light of subsequent developments.

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CAN OLD AGE BE POSTPONED?

Continued from page 6

the formation of compact connective tissue or sclerosis.

Prevention

How can we fight against premature old age? How can we postpone it, how can we treat it?

Old age must first of all be postponed by eliminating the harmful influences already mentioned. Then every remedy must be studied which may prevent the hardening of the protein particles, i.e., the development of sclerotic phenomena. These remedies would be any substances that increase the degree of dispersal of the proteins and thus extend the surface of the protein for contact with the surrounding matter, which increases metabolism.

In studying the influence of different chemical substances on the membranes of animal cells, I came upon a very interesting phenomenon; under the influence of a weak solution of bicarbonate of soda the membranes of an adult frog's red blood corpuscles became as porous as those of a young frog. They were rejuvenated. Modifications in the density of the membrane took place because the proteins were scattered about, their surface was extended, and metabolism was increased, which involved the vitality of the organism.

Bicarbonate

This increase in the density of the membranes gave me the idea that the density of membranes was closely related to age.

On the basis of this observation we proceeded to a series of experiments with the influence of a solution of bicarbonate of soda on the red blood corpuscles. These experiments enabled us to conclude that a more prolonged action of the bicarbonate of soda solution causes greater dispersal of the proteins, while a 40 minute duration of action almost entirely disperses the membrane.

Experiments on tadpoles showed that the bicarbonate of soda solution can increase their vitality and accelerate their development. We found the same phenomena in experiments on eggs during incu-

bation. Having injected two drops of a one per cent bicarbonate of soda solution into eggs during the first ten days of incubation, the chicks in these eggs and later the adult chickens were bigger and stronger than the others.

All these experiments led us to the conclusion that bicarbonate of soda effectively strengthened metabolism and raised the vital activity of the whole organism.

Experiments

This shows that man can influence nature in the vegetable and in the animal Kingdom.

We believe that these experimental and theoretical deductions which we have arrived at should be put in practice in medicine and agrobiology. And we decided to check our observations on the human body. I made the first experiment on myself: I began to take bicarbonate of soda baths. I put 60 to 80 grams of bicarbonate of soda in a bath at a temperature of 93--95 degrees Fahrenheit and remained in it for 15 minutes. I bathed in this way two or three times a week. Fifteen baths in all. After an interruption of one or two months I bathed once a week,

What changes were discovered in my body under the influence of the bicarbonate of soda baths? The whole organism grew noticeably leaner, particularly the fat on the stomach began to disappear. This phenomenon is certainly closely linked with the increase in metabolism. The baths had a good effect on my general condition. Muscular fatigue disappeared completely after the baths, which can be explained by the fact that bicarbonate of soda neutralises the lactic acid which creates the sensation of fatigue.

Scars

I accidentally noticed still another interesting phenomenon: the influence of bicarbonate of soda on the resorption of scars. After tuberculosis of the lungs, every time I was X-rayed, a great many scars in the lung tissue were seen. After the baths the X-rays showed considerable decrease in these scars. This phenomenon can also be explained by the increase in the

degree of dispersal of proteins in the scar tissue and their absorption under the influence of bicarbonate of soda.

I have only given the scientific principle and the theory of increasing metabolism, on the bases of which bicarbonate of soda can be used, but not being a practising physician I do not treat anyone. Several dozen medical institutes in different parts of our immense Soviet Union are now engaged in studying the question of bicarbonate of soda baths. Also, by order of the Ministry of Public Health of the U.S.S.R., the control of this method has been assigned to several institutes and hospitals. The results of experiments on the therapeutic effect of bicarbonate of soda on different ailments will in due time be communicated to specialists.

Continued on page 14

TALKS WITH RUSSIA CHURCHILL VISUALISES POSSIBILITY

* LONDON, June 9.

Sir Winston Churchill said "it is the duty, and also the interest of both the Communist and the Free world that they try to live together in peace and that they strive untiringly to remove or outlive the odious thing as the years pass swiftly by.

"Humanity stand day at its most fateful milestone. On the one hand, science opens her yawning chasm of self-destruction. On the other she displays a vision of plenty and comfort of which the masses of no race have ever known or dreamt.

"We in the West wish that we could only reach it but we preserve eternal vigilance. While persisting in great sacrifices and building up our military strength, we must never lose sight of the hope of a peaceful, and I hope friendly, settlement of our differences with Russia."

POPULATION AND FOOD

LIMITS OF THE EARTH by Fairfield Osborn (Faber & Faber, 12.6)

Ever since the end of the second World war an unending flood of articles, pamphlets and books has appeared warning us of the dangers of unchecked population growth outstripping the available resources of food supply. The "Limits of the Earth" is the latest addition to this literature of despair and gloom, and its author, Fairfield Osborn, is an ardent votary of the creed of Neo-Malthusianism.

Malthus maintained, in 1798, that population, if unchecked (by wars and pestilence and natural calamities), increases in a geometrical ratio while food supplies increase only in an arithmetical ratio. Hence there is a constant tendency for population to increase beyond the means of subsistence.

Optimum

The Neo-Malthusians, in our own day, claim that preventive medicine and better sanitation have enabled us to win the fight against disease thus removing one of the most potent natural checks to excessive population growth. They warn us that unless immediate steps are taken to stabilise the world population, more or less at its present level, starvation and disaster on an unprecedented scale cannot be averted.

Mr. Osborn's main theme is that for every region there is an optimum population, the most desirable number of people who can live in that region to the maximum satisfaction and welfare of all. "Any optimum figure", he admits, "would continue to be theoretical if it were not based upon a series of carefully studied quotas of constituent regions and countries". The absence of any such carefully studied quotas does not, however, deter Mr. Osborn from making his own pessimistic conclusions.

According to Mr. Osborn Europe had passed the limit of its optimum population in 1925 and has now a surplus of more than twenty five millions; Australia, Argentine, Canada and the United

States are rapidly losing their position as food surplus countries the obstacles for the development of undeveloped regions in Africa or the Amazon are almost insurmountable. These are some of the conclusions of this prophet of doom.

Increase

Any future estimates of the food situation of the world based on current yields are bound to be pessimistic. According to the Report of the F. A. O. for the year 1952 world food supply increased by 9 per cent while population increased by 12 per cent. This failure of food production to keep pace with population growth was widely acclaimed by the pessimists as a vindication of their population theory. However, a recent conference of the FAO found that "food output is now about 23 per cent more than before the war and for the first time has caught up with the growth of world population".

By efficient methods of land utilisation and selection of better varieties of seeds output from the existing cultivated areas can be greatly increased. In 1800, grain yields in Europe per hectare of land averaged only twenty four bushels. By 1850 yields had

risen to nearly fifty bushels in Germany and by 1906 to more than seventy five bushels in England. To-day in Denmark the average figure is about 110 bushels per hectare.

Extension

With the introduction of hybrid varieties of yellow maize, yields in Italy have increased from fifty to 220 bushels per hectare. It has recently been demonstrated in India that by the introduction of the Japanese method of cultivation rice yields can be increased by an average of fifty per cent. Further, by irrigation, land reclamation, re-forestation and utilisation of underground water in arid zones more acres can be brought under cultivation.

In large parts of Asia, Africa and Latin America one crop plantations, invariably owned by foreign interests, and absentee land-lordism are mainly responsible for the rapid impoverishment of the soil. Those who attempt to assign an upper limit to the world's capacity for food production are in reality attempting to conceal those very forces tending to restrict expansion of food production. What is needed urgently is not a World Population Policy but co-operation and mutual help to increase the world's food supply.

STRICTLY FINANCIAL

The Central Bank at the end of March enthusiastically published figures of our External Assets when there was a sudden slight increase. But no figures have been published for April and May. Why? Is it because the assets have dropped considerably? Or is there any other reason.

These figures are usually published at the end of every month, and no reason has been given for their non-publication so far. "Tribune" would also like to know whether there is any truth in the rumour that Ceylon has not paid for its rice purchase from Burma for the last three months. Are these purchases being effected on credit? If the value of these purchases are also taken into account, what will foreign assets really be?

"Tribune" hopes that it will not be stated that it is not in the public interest to disclose all this information.

CAN OLD AGE BE POSTPONED?

Continued from page 12

Beneficial

I have already received a great many letters from people who have been using bicarbonate of soda on their own initiative. These letters show that for ailments like hypertension, eczema, sclerosis, boils and diseases of the nervous system, the use of bicarbonate of soda is profitable. One ointment, particularly, containing two percent bicarbonate of soda in vaseline, was very helpful in curing various ulcers and wounds, as well as eczema.

It is understandable that different ailments can be treated with bicarbonate of soda, since it increases metabolism, and builds up the organism's resistance to disease.

Further, all the letters and opinions from doctors emphasise that the bicarbonates of soda baths make the patient feel extremely well, contribute to the flux of vigor and energy, and develop the capacity for work. And all this points to the strengthening and rejuvenation of the organism.

Basing myself on the fact that bicarbonate of soda increases metabolism and accelerates the development of the organism, I made an experiment soaking beet seeds in a one per cent solution of bicarbonate of soda for 34 hours. The control seeds were soaked for the same period of time in plain water. Both were planted at the same time and under the same condition.

These were the results: the seeds soaked in bicarbonate of soda produced a crop increase of 40 per cent over those soaked in water.

Agriculture

These experiments have been carried out by certain school institutes and even by collective farms. Letters from the Novgorod and Poltava regions, from the Kirghiz S.S.R. and from other places tell us that these outdoor experiment sometimes on several hectares of land, have produced good results. The harvest was increased 30 to 50 per cent. Experiments of the same kind were made with plantings of carrots, melons, pumpkins, cucumbers, sunflowers and they all produced a 20 to 50 per cent increase in the harvest.

It has also been discovered that soaking beet seeds in a bicarbonate of soda solution results in an increase of the beet sugar. Watering flowers and bushes with a weak solution of bicarbonate of soda hastens the grow of the plants and helps them render them resistant to cold and drought.

Much of the information we receive proves the beneficent influence of bicarbonate of soda, through the addition of alkali to the food, in fattening up cattle, and in the fight against sterility in cows and mares.

More Research

But these experiment are still inadequate for drawing definite and precise conclusions, although all these cases show that bicarbonate of soda acts very strongly and also very positively on the body.

Work along these lines must be wisely developed and this interesting question of influence of bicarbonate of soda on the metabolism and the vitality of the body must be studied by biologists and physicians too.

The question of the increase of metabolism in the body must be studied not only in the interests of medicine but also in that of agronomy. Our first, still uncompleted experiments, must be a stimulant to the meticulous and thorough study of the influence of other substances increasing the degree of dispersal of proteins and at the same time increasing the metabolism and vitality of the body in this way. The substances which increase the degree of dispersal of proteins in the case of bicarbonate of soda can play a big part in the fight against old age against hypertension and against other ailments as well as in increasing crop yields.

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HANDS OFF THE A. G.

Continued from page 1

of the latter's powers under the Act? The Minister of Justice has a nation-wide reputation as a strong silent man who will act without fear or favour. Will he brook oily, eely and greasy attempts to thwart the course of justice?

Dudley Senanayake

The country also looks to Mr. Dudley Senanayake to act fearlessly in this matter. He must remember that the voters of this island returned the U.N.P. in 1952 with its steam-roller majority pinning their faith upon the honesty and integrity of its leader Mr. Dudley Senanayake.



a duty to discharge

He must also remember that it was on his instructions and directions that the Bribery Act was drafted, and that as Prime Minister he approved the draft enactment. The Act was in response to the public outcry against the inroads corruption had made in so many forms upon the the members of the public services and the government itself.

Mr. Dudley Senanayake, therefore, has a duty to discharge to the people who returned this Government, and the people at large, to see that the Bribery Act is not tampered with by interested parties.

He has also a supreme duty to see that the Attorney-General is allowed to pursue relentlessly all bribe-givers and takers, whether they are government officials or Ministers or others in high places as the purge of all bribe-takers is the only salvation if democratic government is to survive.

ANOTHER DIXON AFFAIR?

It is rumoured that a post of Deputy Chairman, Port Commission, is being created for the benefit of a blue-eyed favourite of the powers that be. The person said to have been selected for this signal honour was a Labour Inspector not very long ago and in that capacity did some welfare work in the harbour. He was presented with a scholarship to study in England, and is at the moment in a College in London. Even the fact that the reports about his academic progress are most disconcertingly disappointing does not seem to deter the Grand Caliph of this land.

It is whispered that the Public Services Commission is not enthusiastic about appointing a person to a post without calling for applications through open public advertisement. Further, it is stated that even the Treasury has pointed out that no provision has been made for this post in the budget. But none of these things seem to be of any consequence to the Grand Caliph.

It is believed in the best circles that the Public Services Commission has been "ordered" to make the appointment. The Public Services Commission is expected to be an independent body according to the Constitution of Ceylon. Will it be able to resist the Grand Caliph and prevent another *fait accompli* like the Dixon affair?

This Deputy Chairman, Port Commission, designate, the "Tribune" learns is a brother-in-law of a popular U. N. P. Member of Parliament for a constituency in the Western Province.

London Share-List Mystery

Continued from page 9

But all's well that ends well. It is said that N. U. J. and his friends have temporarily dropped the idea of the new bank until certain other more pressing matters are disposed of.

The local papers made out that the only C. M. G. in the last

birthday honours list was Mr. Gunasena de Soyza. If rumour is to be believed two leading personalities in Hulftsdorp were offered C. M. Gs, but they are said to have declined same because they felt they deserved better. Probably they did, compared to what certain others have got!

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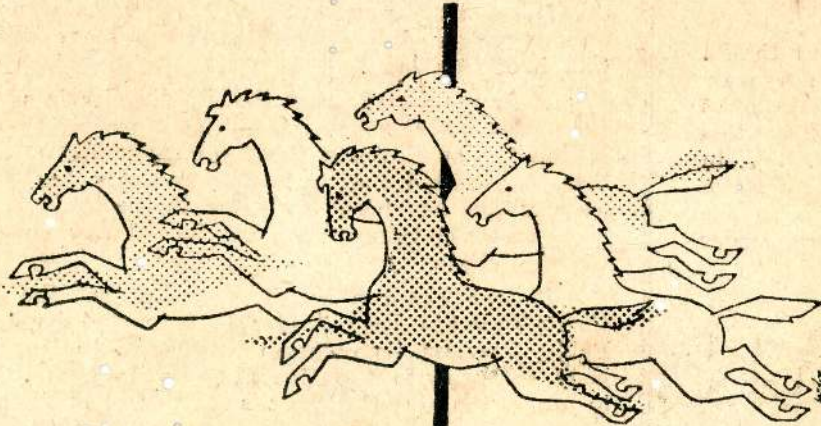
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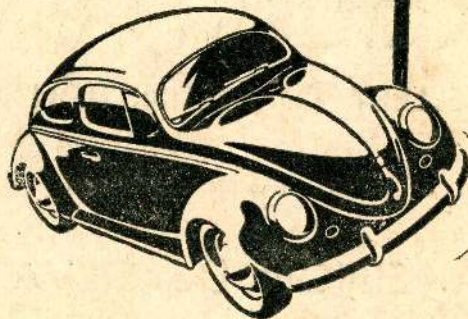
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