

TRIBUNE

CEYLON NEWS REVIEW

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COLOMBO, AUGUST 28, 1954

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ANOTHER TRIAL AT BAR

WILL "OBSERVER" BE CHARGED?

There is great deal of speculation among political and other knowledgeable circles whether the Editor of the "Ceylon Observer" will be tried at the Bar according to the provisions of section 440A of the Criminal Procedure Code for the report that was published on August 18, 1954, stating that the Attorney-General had written to the Prime Minister that a prima facie case of bribery had been made out against an M.P.

The report in the *Observer* was categorical about what it stated. An M. P. had been caught by the Bribery Squad and that the Prime Minister had been informed. Though the paper declared that it was not divulging the name at that stage, other Members of Parliament and large sections of the public immediately indentified the M.P. concerned. Long before the discussion took place in the House in the afternoon regarding the question of privilege, the city of Colombo was buzzing with the news that Mr. Iriyagolle was the M.P. concerned.

No Sanction

It transpired in the House that the Speaker knew nothing about the matter and that his sanction had not been obtained for an investigation by the Attorney-General. The Bribery Act specifically lays down that "the Attorney-General shall not, without the consent of the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House of Representatives, as the case may be, hold an investigation of an allegation of bribery against a Senator or a Member of Parliament."

In these circumstances, there is no doubt that the report is incorrect. If it were correct and the Attorney-General has carried

Continued on page 15

.....facsimile of the front page of the "Ceylon Observer" of August 18, 1954 alleging that an M. P. has been caught in the net cast by the Bribery Squad.....





Notes from
New Delhi

INDO-CHINA

RUSSIA & DANNY KAYE

The two-way traffic between Moscow and New Delhi and Peking and New Delhi is presently jammed to the schedule. I can remember vividly the not so distant days when the traffic was thin and all roads from New Delhi led to Washington. During the past few years, I do not exactly remember how many delegations and lone individuals have traversed the once forbidden road. They must be many times more than what can easily recollect.

The latest is the Cultural Delegation to Russia led by Mrs Maragatham Chandrasekhar, Union Health Minister. The Delegation includes top ranking musicians like Ravi Shankar, the young Sitar genius. The Cultural Delegation is in reciprocation to the last year's Soviet Cultural Delegation which took the country by storm.

Bouquet

I remember the evening when Prime Minister Nehru, highly animated and pleased, ran to the floor and pressed a fine bouquet of gorgeous colours down the hands of Miss Maya Plisetskaya, the ballet virtuoso from Moscow. She had just done her finest number, the *Dying Swan* and the entire house was spellbound and then the thunderous cheers, what appreciation, what hilarious requests for a repetition of the treat!

Later, when I asked Maya of what she felt of the Prime Minister's compliments, she was all smiles, animated herself and said, "I am going to remember it all my life." And so are many tens of thousands of people who were lucky enough to get tickets to the Soviet performances. The treat was unforgettable, unbelievably aesthetic and satisfying.

How will our Cultural Ambassadors fare in Soviet Russia? How will the Russians who are

known for their consummate love for ballet, concert, and musical solos take our performances?

I do not think it is very risky to predict a generalised answer. Almost all the members of the Russian troupe, which was here last year, acquainted themselves with their counterparts here. Their comments then was, to say the least, an acknowledgement of the fact that India has not stopped singing since Tansen, and dancing since Urvashi.

Indo-China

There is yet another kind of traffic which is rather one-way just at the moment, but it might turn into a two-way traffic before long. We have had thousands of years of contact with South East Asian countries. But for a couple of centuries, Time seemed to have had stopped in India. The hands of the clock are moving once again.

Planes and ships are carrying Indian administrators, soldiers, and clerks to all sorts of places in Indo-China. Soon hundreds of Indians will settle there doing a peaceful full time job for a period of two years. Planes are just zooming about. Men are packing, women folks and children are children are seeing their dear ones leave. Everybody working in the Secretariat is talking about who is going to Indo-China and who is not.

Here it is a different kind of going abroad. Formerly India sent only cannon fodder to fight the whitemen's battles and some 'yesmen' civilians to do the dirty work of 'representing' India in the British sponsored conferences, and now if an Indian soldier leaves the shores it is only for peace work and if a civilian attends a conference it is mostly for holding two fighting sides into a peaceful confabulation!

Danny Kaye

Not that our traffic with America is only limited to "donors" and Dulles. There is an occasional departure. And when there is a departure people are not slow in making the best of it.

One such departure was the recent visit of Danny Kaye, the comedian wizard. His presence in the Capital was a healthy balm. His manners were absolutely informal, unassumingly humane. The way he went about and mixed with the underdogs, and shunned 'sociables' was something which New Delhi shall hardly ever forget.

Danny Kaye's meteoric rise from slum to Beverly Hills, like Charlie Chaplin, was no favour done to him by Hollywood Grand Mughals. That underdog feeling in him, that lonely character, the oppressed looks, the hilarious sides-trampling laughter, and fine portraiture of reality brought him where he is, the gold-digger. His visit to New Delhi was such a happy occasion. He is a true American, the American of Abraham Lincoln's kind, the American of George Washington fame, the American who refuses to be nose-roped by John Foster Dulles.

August 22, 1954 Shibdas Banerji

Next Week

MORE ABOUT THE A. I. C. C.

— held over from this week

EXCHANGE CONTROL DEPT.

— scandal hushed

INDIAN ENGINEERS VISIT CHINA

SPEED OF CONSTRUCTION UNIQUE

A delegation of Indian engineers consisting of Shri Kanwar Sain, Chairman, Central Water and Power Commission, and Dr. K. L. Rao, Director of Designs was sent to China to study flood control measures adopted on the rivers in that country. As flood control works on the Kosi river are to be started this year, it was considered desirable to get information on similar rivers such as the Yellow River in China. The delegation toured China for two months covering nearly 7500 miles and studied various projects. They visited important laboratories on river basins like the Yellow, the Huai, the Yangtze, the Yunting and the Pearl.

Flood Control

Most of China's population i.e. more than 400 million people live in these basins. The most important problem in these basins is flood control and prevention of inundation of vast fertile and low lying lands. Year after year floods were causing in the past damage to the crops in large areas. The flood control measures were intended to eliminate this annual loss of crops and damage to the habitations.

The engineers studied various flood control works done so far. The works consisted in strengthening and adding, where necessary, dykes on either side of the rivers in a continuous and methodical manner.

The Indian engineers observed, in particular, that the work was being done with excellent speed. The main irrigation canal known as the North Kiangsu Canal in the Huai Basin is 420 feet wide and 100 miles long which carries 25,000 cusecs—the biggest of its kind in the world. The entire work was done in 80 days by peasant labour which comprised 1.2 million people. Similarly, some of

their diversion works such as the Chingkiang Sluice, nearly five eighths of a mile long on the river Yangtze were all done in very short periods.

Speed

Although the magnitude of the work involved, in general, is less than in some of the projects in India, the speed of construction attained in the projects in China is unique. All this work has been done mainly with human labour and with very little of machinery. The main reason for the speed is stated to be the enthusiastic co-operation of peasant workers.

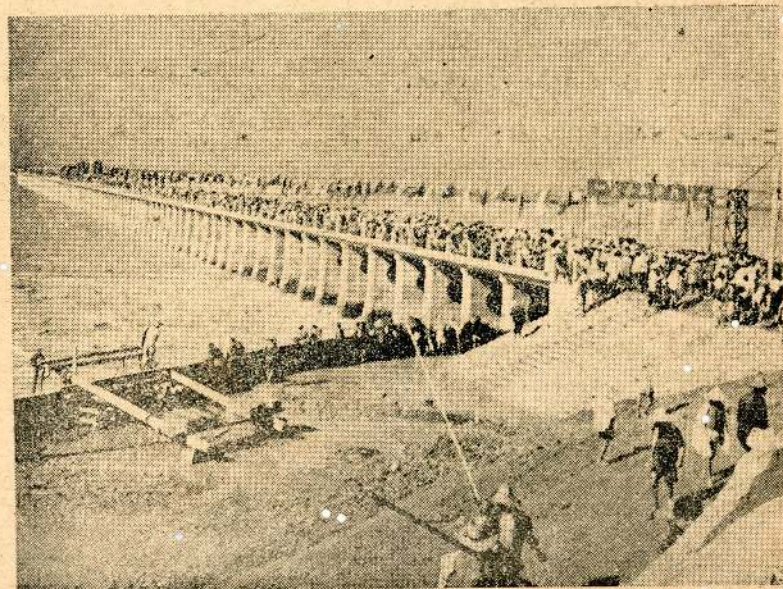
This is achieved by educating and acquainting the worker with the

objects and details of the work which make him feel that he is an equal partner in a great undertaking. Combined with this education, many amenities are provided at the site such as libraries, theatres, music, photo display, medical and educational facilities.

The careful flood control studies made on different river systems in China lead the Indian engineers to conclude that the Kosi plans as now drawn up are quite sound and consistent with the experience gained on the rivers in China. It is felt that if the cooperation of the people in the Kosi area is forthcoming as on the Chinese projects, the Kosi project can be speeded up and the benefits of flood control reaped even earlier than estimated.

From New India—a Bulletin published by the Indian High Commission in Colombo.

HUAI RIVER PROJECT



*Ceremonial Opening of the North Kiangsu Canal in the Huai Basin.
It is the biggest of its kind in the world.*

FRENCH HONOUR

Mr. SUNTHARALINGAM : I want to know what was the reason for the conferment of the Croix de Guerre de Legion d'Honneur on the fight hon. Gentleman. I want to know what was the great meritorious service that was rendered by the right hon. Gentleman to France deserving of such an honour.

The Hon. Mr. E. A. NUGAWELA (*Minister of Health*) : Will you pronounce that correctly? Your pronunciation of it is all wrong.

Mr. SUNTHARALINGAM : My pronunciation of it is perfectly correct. I am referring to the conduct of the right hon. Gentleman. The head of the Government of this country, the person who occupies a position next to the Governor General, accepts a foreign honour. Why has this honour been conferred on him?

Mr. KEUNEMAN : For services rendered!

Mr. SUNTHARALINGAM : I want to know why he was given this honour. Why did he not reject it?

The Hon. Major JAYAWICKREME : Why should he reject it.

Mr. SUNTHARALINGAM : I am glad you are twisting your tongue in that way. An honour is conferred for one of two reasons— as a recognition of meritorious service or as a bribe.

The Hon. Mr. J. R. JAYEWARDENE : The Queen received a foreign honour.

Mr. SUNTHARALINGAM : The Queen received a foreign honour because she is a constitutional monarch, and she returned it!

The Rt. Hon. Sir J. KOTELAWALA : What about Sir Winston Churchill?

Mr. SUNTHARALINGAM : Sir Winston Churchill received a foreign honour and he conferred back a similar honour. What is

An Extract from Hansard of
August 3, 1954

the honour my good Friend is going to bestow on the Government of France?

The Rt. Hon. Sir J. KOTELAWALA : A Maha-Mudaliyarship!

Mr. SUNTHARALINGAM : Is he going to confer a Maha-Mudaliyarship on the President of the French Republic? And if he does so, what is the *quid pro quo*? Is it because the *Croix de Guerre* was conferred on him? This is not a laughing matter. I repeat that the charge has been made on a public platform, and it has been repeated in the international field, that my good Friend the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister got this great award for service rendered. That service was the granting of permission to the Globemasters, which were carrying French paratroopers to Indo China, to touch down in Ceylon. And what is still worse, he is the one who speaks about communism and irreligion but, yet, he was responsible for dealing death to those unfortunate Buddhist and Catholic people in Viet Nam. They were the victims of this murderous act of his.

I must go a little further. You see, Mr. Chairman, we are now in a very difficult world. My good Friend spoke about a communist stooge but he knows that there will never be one in this country.

The Rt. Hon. Sir J. KOTELAWALA : You are a lunatic.

Mr. SUNTHARALINGAM : He calls me a lunatic, Sir. I may be a lunatic according to him but in my view he is worse than a lunatic; he is a villain.

The Hon. Major JAYEWICKREME : You are a fool.

The Hon. Mr. J. R. JAYEWARDENE : Order!

The CHAIRMAN : The hon. Member must not use the word "lunatic".

Mr. SUNTHARALINGAM : I used the word just by way of juxtaposition, Sir; a sort of *quid pro quo*.

The CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members should not use such words in this House. It is very improper. There is a certain dignity attached to this House and it is up to hon. members to uphold that dignity. I find that, very often, I have to call certain hon. Members to Order. Please keep in mind that the dignity of this House has to be maintained at a very high level and also remember that that is what I expect from hon. Members.

Mr. SUNTHARALINGAM : I thank you, Sir, but please forgive me for that because it was prompted by a remark made by my good Friend over there. I apologize.

The CHAIRMAN : Those on the front Benches of both sides of the House should bear in mind that they have to set an example to the backbenchers and maintain a very high standard of debate. But they are not doing that. I must congratulate the backbenchers because they have always kept to a high standard.

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LONDON "TIMES" WARNING

That all the thirteen Cypriot newspapers published in Greek should agree to suspend publication, in protest against an alleged threat by the Government of the island to their freedom of expression, is a gesture that cannot be ignored in an Empire that prides itself upon promoting liberty of thought throughout its dominion. The public conscience in Great Britain will be the more sensitive because this act of repression, if such it is found to be, follows so closely upon the promise of a constitution for Cyprus that it can be represented as a corollary.

Enosis

The promise is, of course, linked with the recent explicit declaration by the British Government in the House of Commons that the demand for union with Greece, or *Enosis*, cannot be granted now or in any future that can be foreseen. Cypriot nationalists must reconcile themselves to this declaration of policy.

The three British outposts in the Mediterranean — Gibraltar, Malta, and Cyprus — are all key points in world strategy. The obligation to give their peoples good government is absolute, but the United Kingdom would be false to vital interests if it surrendered its control of these strongholds.

It should not be assumed that even the Greek-speaking majority in Cyprus are unanimous for *Enosis*. Certainly the Turkish minority are predominantly against it. There are moderates of both races who are ready to co-operate in working the new constitution; and much the most honourable reason yet given for what at first sight appears the new policy of repression is that it is intended to protect these against persecution by controlling the excesses of the fanatics of *Enosis*.

Seditious

The policy has been inaugurated by a statement in the *Gazette* of the island for August 2 to the effect

We publish in full an Editorial that appeared in the London "Times" on August 10, 1954 entitled RIGHTS OF CYPRIOTS. We draw special attention to the insistence that even when political passions run high, questions of fact on political matters should be decided by a jury: and also to the emphasis on the principle that "the liberties of the subject should depend directly on the law, and not on the forbearance of the executive."

that the past indulgence in connexion with seditious conspiracies and seditious utterances or publications and unlawful associations will not be continued and that offenders will henceforth be prosecuted. The ATTORNEY-GENERAL, who thus paraphrases the official notice, addressed representatives of the Press the same day in defence of his thesis that the restrictions on their freedom, which they had good reason to apprehend, were no more than the enforcement of existing law.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL, was able to show that it is not only in Cyprus but in the United Kingdom that the law defines sedition in broad terms. It is a misdemeanour in Britain to publish matter with a seditious intention, and according to STEPHEN'S *Digest of the Criminal Law*, which is followed almost textually by Section 3 of the Seditious Publications Law of Cyprus:

a seditious intention is an intention to bring into hatred or contempt, or to excite disaffection against the person of, Her Majesty, her heirs or successors, or the government and constitution of the United Kingdom, as by law established, or either House of Parliament, or the administration of justice, or to

excite Her Majesty's subjects to attempt, otherwise than by lawful means, the alteration of any matter in Church or State by law established, or to incite any person to commit any crime in disturbance of the peace, or to raise discontent or disaffection amongst Her Majesty's subjects, or to promote feelings of ill-will and hostility between different classes of such subjects.

Intention

In general it is difficult to construe the words so as to bring into peril the rational advocacy of any change, as distinct from threatening a breach of the peace. This is equally true of the corresponding form of words in the Cypriot Law, which, however, adds to the English definition "an intention . . . to bring about a change in the sovereignty of the Colony."

In the conditions of the present moment this phrase will mean to any Cypriot the advocacy of *Enosis*; and this is clearly what it means to the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, who was asked by the Correspondent of *The Times* at Nicosia whether it would be an offence to distribute in Cyprus an English or foreign newspaper containing an article in favour of *Enosis*. He replied that it was technically an offence, though he added that there would in practice be no prosecution unless there were "an obvious seditious intention."

Jury

Now it is ultimately for the Courts in Cyprus to pronounce upon the rather startling proposition that it is even technically, an offence in itself to advance a reasoned argument for a policy to which a large part of the people are devoted. But they will undoubtedly attach great weight to the pronouncements of the Courts at Westminster, of which one hitherto considered authoritative was delivered by MR. JUSTICE COLERIDGE in the case of *Rex v. Aldred* in 1909.

Continued on page 14

DR. OTTO JOHN AND U. S.

NEW YORK, Aug. 12

There is something, bordering almost on the childish, in the way Washington and Bonn are trying to minimize the blow to security and prestige which the Adenauer Government has suffered by the defection to the Communists of Dr. Otto John, Chief of the West German secret police.

Though they do not publicly admit it, it is indeed the biggest set back that the Bonn Government has suffered and many political analysts fear it may cause serious damage to chances of West German re-armament.

No Mystery

Ever since Dr. John crossed the Berlin rubicon, American commentators, obviously fed by those mysterious "well informed official sources," have been building up a story that he must have been kidnapped or lured under false pretences and was being used by the Communists for propaganda under duress.

The Otto John case as reconstructed by these Pressmen looks like a Sexton Blake mystery with the only difference that here the villains have got away with their plot. A few hours before Dr. John held his Press conference yesterday, tens of thousands of Americans were reading a report by the columnist, Marquis Childs, from Berlin, which American officials place great confidence and which has proved remarkably trustworthy in the past as saying that Dr. John had committed suicide several days ago; perhaps, this source will now claim that the man who held the conference was not John but his double.

Even after the Press conference, Washington officials had been trying to discount what Dr. John had said by suggesting that he was being forced to say such things and must have undergone Communist brain washing for three weeks.

British Warning Recalled

However, the *Herald Tribune* correspondent, Coblenz, who

We publish below with acknowledgements to the Madras "Hindu" a despatch from K. Balaraman on the significance of Dr. Otto John's crossing over to East Berlin.

covered the Press conference says that later he and two British reporters, who had known John, had a private talk with him for 45 minutes and "it was clear Dr. John was talking of his own volition." After the Press conference one would be justified in shelving the Washington and Bonn theory of kidnapping. These two capitals are apparently trying to cover up what has happened in order to sustain the morale of their camp.

Washington has particular reason to be red-faced because it seems that British intelligence warned the United States Government that Dr. John was not reliable and yet Dr. John was later received warmly in Washington and had long discussions with Mr. Allen Dulles, Chief of

the American Secret Police, and Mr. Edgar Hoover, Chief of the F. B. I., both of whom, it is understood, had taken Dr. John into confidence. At the Press conference, Dr. John tried to make the point that it was after his American visit that he decided to go East.

Significance of Episode

Some neutral observers at the United Nations suggested to me that Dr. John's defection may be an index of the growing sentiment in West Germany that unification can be achieved only by negotiating with the Communists; the same point was made by the former German Chancellor Bruening and Luther recently,

The John episode also focusses attention on re-Nazification which has been quietly going on in West Germany. It may also make Western European Powers pause and examine the wisdom of counting West Germany as a staunch political ally; there is an old theory that Germans stand for Germans and for nobody else.

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CONSULTATIVE COUNCILS

As a step forward towards democratization of the Indian Railways, Local and Regional Railway Consultative Committees have been formed in place of the old Advisory Committees, with a Central Consultative Council at Government of India Headquarters. These are composed of representatives of all sections of the public, viz. trade and industry, the local bodies, the general travelling public of the area and so on.

At a recent meeting of the Railway Users' Consultative Council, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, the Union Minister for Transport and Railways, declared that the Government would discuss all matters of interest with the Consultative Council.

Discussion

A large number of important subjects have been referred to the Council. These matters are referred at times to the regional councils for report. Interested parties are invited to send in their proposals to the National Council as well as to the Regional Councils.

"One of the matters," stated the Minister in his speech at the meeting, "I have been frequently emphasising is as regards the sort of relationship that should subsist between the travelling public and the Railway staff. We are impressing the railway staff their

The Minister of Transport and Works should set up similar committees in Ceylon. The Indian set-up with modifications will provide the Minister with an organised body of informed opinion on problems connected with rail transport in the island. At present, the Minister is at the mercy of railway officials and other bureaucrats in regard to what is considered good and proper for the travelling public.

—Editor

various omissions, the necessity for their rendering satisfactory and courteous service to the public, but I want the public also to co-operate with the Railway Staff in all possible ways, especia-

in checking ticketless travel, eradicating the beggar nuisance and so on. If they both understand and appreciate their mutual problems it will facilitate matters allround. You could also help us with your views in these matters.

"May I hope," he added, "that the National Council at the Centre, as also the Zonal and Regional Consultative Committees will become forums for constructive criticism of Railway working and that in their re-constituted pattern they will become instruments of goodwill and understanding between the Government agency providing rail transport in the country on the one hand and those having to use it on the other? The advice tendered by the council will naturally command utmost consideration from the Government."

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

READ

RICE AND RUBBER

the Story of China - Ceylon Trade

by

S. P. AMARASINGAM

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the need for correct appraisal of the economic policies which underdeveloped
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TRIAL BY SLANDER

The *Observer* report that a prima facie case had been made out against an Independent Member of Parliament is something that should not be lightly dismissed. Apart from the question of whether the report is a breach of privilege of the House, there is no doubt that there can be no foundation for the story, because the Bribery Act lays down that the Attorney-General should obtain the sanction of the Speaker before making any investigations about a Member of the House of Representatives. The fact that Speaker has declared that no sanction had been obtained taken together with the fact that the Attorney-General is meticulous about legal procedure can lead only to one inference that the story is incorrect.

It is not for us to be interested in the question of how the *Observer* came by the story. But it is in the public interest to remind the *Observer* that when certain other newspapers and we ourselves published stories about bribery in high places and about big fish, the entire gang of Lake House publications made a hue and cry about "false and libellous stories," about "trial by rumour and slander" and the like. High personages in this country thought it necessary to describe us as the "gutter press". However, their vituperations were short-lived. Our stories were proved correct.

But now, when the *Observer* publishes a story that is inherently incorrect and obviously defamatory, these high personages are silent and quiet. There are no protests. There is no campaign about "trial by rumour".

What is sauce for the "gutter press" should be sauce for Lake

House too. And if alleged defamatory statements in the *Trine* should lead to such fateful consequences as a trial at Bar under section 440A, then if the *Observer* has transgressed the law it should also be dealt with in the same way. The Minister of Justice should in fairness to all concerned look into this aspect of the matter.

Police

The public is daily growing more and more concerned about the inability of the police to deal with problems of crime detection. The Wellawatte double murder case is only an illustration of the inefficiency that seems to characterise the crime section of the police.

We had occasion to commend the good work done by the police during the recent Municipal Elections, and it is a matter to be regretted that the police are not able to organise their crime section to provide the public with better service. The foundation of society rests, among other things, upon the ability of the State to restrain its anti-social elements from preying upon the rest of society. It is one of the main functions of the police force to keep such elements in check just as it is also a duty incumbent upon the State to take measures to prevent crime arising from economic factors and to reform sections of the community which have slipped into anti-social ways owing a variety of factors that stem from modern civilisation.

In this connection, it is necessary to draw attention to the fact that the import and sale of American crime comics and murder thrillers of a cheap variety

constitutes a danger that does not seem to be recognised by the Government. Whilst the authorities are quick to ban films of good quality for apparently political reasons, no action seems to be forthcoming in regard to publications and films that corrupt youthful minds and drive them to crime as an easy way out of earning an income or as a solution to unemployment.

Housing

Government spokesmen are crowing from the house-tops about the wonderful feat of building forty houses in twenty five days. Or is it twenty five houses in forty days? It does not really matter whether it is twenty-five or forty. What matters is that the Government is quick in blowing its own trumpet about minor feats, but is silent where great defaults arise.

When four thousand, nay four hundred houses, have been put up in double quick time at low rates, then it is time enough to talk about the great progress in house-building. It is also significant that this housing scheme is in the electorate of a former Minister of Finance. The public of Colombo is anxious to know why this splendid feat of building forty houses could not be put into operation in Mallika Lane or Kuppiawatte. Is it that only good U. N. P. electorates will get the benefit of such building schemes, or is there some other mysterious reason for this phenomenon?

Whilst the Minister is bragging about more houses, house rents in Colombo for tiny new houses for the middle classes has reached fantastic limits. Decontrol of rents for new houses has created new problems of living.

JUST BRIEFLY
by
SERENDIB

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POLICE RAILWAY SECURITY

FRAME-UP?

Last week the *Observer* spread-eagled Independent M. P. on its front page with an thrilling account of how the Attorney-General had sent a report to the Prime Minister that a *prima facie* case had been made out against "an Independent M. P." Very graciously, the *Observer* confided to its readers that the name could not be divulged.

But in the lobbies of the House of Representatives the *Observer* story led to many repercussions. An Independent Member put up a notice with the names of all ten Independents in the House with a title THE SUSPECTS. Very shortly after that, a particular M.P. charged a very high personage with having endeavoured to frame him up because of political opposition to a clique.

In the House itself, it transpired that the Speaker, who should have been informed before an investigation was launched, admitted that he knew nothing about it. He stated that he would inquire into the matter—for the newspaper report involved a question of privilege.

Undoubtedly, the *Observer* had dropped a brick, and a big one at that. The question people are asking is whether the story had been inspired by some one or whether the *Observer* had been made a sucker?

Many far reaching consequences are expected to flow from this *Observer* story. Events in the next few weeks will show—they may reveal themselves even before this column appears in print.

Madras

A friend writing from Madras gives the following information about the Ceylon Office in that city.

".....is manned by a Chief Clerk, one Mr. Jayaratnam, who appears to be a senior clerical servant and one who seems to

know his work. The PRO, Mr. Doraisamy from Delhi, visits Madras on an average of once in two months for a few days and goes back. Then, there is a Steno and a peon. Between the Chief Clerk and the Steno, most of the work is being carried on.

"There is an additional member of the staff, a wonderful creation who goes by the name of Sabapathy. He is said to have joined the Ceylon Government Service only very recently at the age of 46. It is said, however, that he has so far tried 26 other jobs before he joined the Ceylon Government Service. His present job at the Ceylon Office in Madras is supposed to be the translation of articles from Indian Tamil papers on matters connected with Ceylon. His is a futile occupation because all these Tamil papers go to Ceylon regularly. For this work he gets a salary of Rs. 100 and allowance of Rs. 400—making a total of Rs. 500.

"I wonder why the Ceylon Government incurs an expenditure of Rs. 500 on a person who can do the same work in Colombo for less. I understand that this post was advertised and the minimum qualification stipulated was S.S. C. There is a suspicion here that this gentleman has not got that requisite qualification. A properly qualified person can not only keep in touch with the papers but also assist in the office in other ways....."

This is a matter into which the big-wigs at the External Affairs must look into. My Sherlock Holmes is himself inquiring into the matter.

Free Asia

The Free Asia Committee is very much in the news, particularly after the *Times* turned the spotlight on it. Last Sunday, the *Times* re-

vealed that this organisation was setting up Youth Councils in different parts of the country and that government servants were freely participating in their activities which were political in every sense of the word.

There is a suspicion in certain knowledgeable circles that an attempt may be made by certain interested parties to turn over some of the State Farms which have been closed down to the Free Asia Committee to be utilised as centres for their activities.

A reader has drawn my attention to the fact that this Free Asia Committee is registered as a business concern in the U. S. A. *The Committee for Free Asia Inc.* has its registered address at 105 Market Street, San Francisco, California.

Now, this is a most peculiar kind of business concern. Distributing aid and *largesse* on an international scale is usually a Governmental affair. There are no doubt private charitable organisations which render assistance on a limited scale, but an incorporated company which takes Asia for its sphere is something that must be investigated.

University

The Free Asia Committee is also attempting to infiltrate the University Campus in a big way. Mr. Holdbrook Bradley is a frequent visitor to the Campus and he has many proteges even among the staff. Certain members of the University teaching staff who have been recipients of American Scholarships serve as his propagandists and they seem to have propagan da material in unlimited quantities.

When the Government is so careful about permitting literature from certain countries, how is it that tons of material from a different power bloc area is allowed to pour into the island?

Continued on page 10

FRAME-UP?

Continued from page 9

Effigy

Lake House has entered into the game of burning effigies with a gusto that should really be reserved for better causes. Prominence of a very high order has lately been given to the affairs of certain members of the Municipality who had refused to toe the Sir John—Sir Ukwatte line.

Readers will recall that after the last General Elections, a number of gentlemen who successfully contested seats as Independents against official and unofficial U. N. P. candidates "crossed over" to the U. N. P. no sooner the results were announced.

Did the Lake House utter one word of comment about the *betrayal* of these worthies? If a section of their constituents wanted to burn their effigies with the assistance of V. I. P.'s from other areas, would Lake House have given them the publicity now being accorded to the Ramanayake affair?

The double murder at Wellawatte and the police efforts to trace the murderers is now the main topic of conversation among people in the city. The amateurishness of the manner in which the police have set about the task has astounded the public. Furthermore, the naive and lame excuses that are being trotted out to explain the delay in finding the second body and the money are the biggest jokes for the year.

A wit has declared that the best place to commit robbery and murder in Sri Lanka would be on a main street in a building preferably next to a police station. Policemen then could, he stated, practice antiquated methods of detection without disturbing themselves too much.

The Watch

A friend of mine, a government official, recently went to one of the police stations in the city and complained that he had lost a valuable wristlet watch. The police chieftain at this station looked him up and down and asked him:

"Who are you? What name?"

The answer satisfied the policeman that the complainant was one

in whom he could take a little interest, but evidently from what followed the gentleman was not V. I. P. enough for him to pay serious attention.

My friend, the complainant, was then put through a regular cross-examination. First the usual questions, his full name and address, his occupation and the like. And then came these brilliant examples of crime detection.

"Do you suspect anyone?"

"Well," said my friend, "I sacked a servant boy this morning and I found the watch missing in the evening. You see I returned from office and left the watch on my dressing table and went out for a walk. When I came back, I found the watch missing. That is about fifteen minutes ago. I have come straight here"

"Can you identify the watch?" was the next question.

"Well, I suppose I could"

"Did you know the number on it?"

"No!"

"Then, I think it is going to be difficult We will see what we can do" and the police officer was on the verge of ending the interview.

"Are you sending anyone to look for finger-prints?" asked my friend.

"Too late tonight," was the reply. It was about 8 p.m.

My friend returned reconciled to having lost the watch. And he was right, for he heard nothing more about the matter.

What amazed him was the totally lackadaisical manner in which this officer interrogated him. No attempt was made to get a description of the dismissed servant boy. No effort was made to take any action. It would seem that a watch was too small a matter to bother our policemen.

I hope that the police officer concerned would read this column and do his duty better the next time he receives a complaint. The only reason why the name of the police station is not being mentioned is because it would be unfair to particularise one when the attitude in any police station is the same.

What is needed is a general improvement all round. Providing scapegoats to satisfy higher-ups really does no good. The higher-ups themselves must wake up.

Railway Security

In sharp contrast to the Police, is the new force known as the Railway Security. I must say that they have succeeded in doing a good job of work. Railway losses through thefts and pilferages have been reduced from about six lakhs to about rupees thirty thousand a year.

Friends of mine who had occasion to make complaints have received the promptest attention from security officers at different stations in the island. And what seems unusual is that these officers—most of them are ex-army men—are models of courtesy and good behaviour compared to the police force on whom a vast amount of our national revenue is spent.

Even in the detection of theft, I think the Police can learn a thing or two from the Security service.

Jaffna Meeting

I met an important U. N. P. worthy from Jaffna today. He is full of complaints about the Press in Ceylon. This time, all the papers have acted unfairly, he declared. It would seem that a big public reception was organised at Myliddy in the K. K. S. Electorate to welcome Mr. S. Natesar. Two M. P.'s were speakers and the meeting was presided over by a Senator. Mr. C. C. Raza Ratuam, an Advocate from Colombo, an adherent of the U. N. P. and who is now taking a livelier interest in politics than before, was also another speaker.

The U. N. P. stalwart's complaint was that the meeting was most unfairly reported by all papers, including the *Virakesari*. It would appear, he said, that there was a virtual press blackout.

I told him that the trouble may be due to the local correspondents of these papers having their own parochial axes to grind. He said, No. He cited the instance where the local correspondent sent a full report, but what was published was something different, probably supplied from other sources.

The only consolation I could give him was that the ways of the big newspapers were as mysterious to me as they seemed to him.

SOPHIA

Sophia's mother prided in her little daughter's head of hair—It was long and black. Long like a river—like the Kelani river into which she dropped the first lock so that the river goddess would make it long like Kelani. It was black. Black like the night in which she was born.

Sophia's mother cleaned it daily. Washed it, combed it, and oiled it. It shone sleek and black, the envy of the village girls and the pride of her mother's heart. It was plaited into one long pigtail that dangled right down her spine. When Sophia ran at school it took curvacious form like a long plithe snake.

When Sophia left school and when she was sent to Colombo as a servant her mother made her promise to look after her hair. To clean it and comb it daily.

Sophia came to Colombo in her one and only frock. It served her during her last year at school. It was washed every Sunday and the constant washing had taken the colour off it. It was a smudge of faint green and blue and yellow. Down this drabness was her rich black hair—the long plait that hung like a rebellious lot of wires forcefully tied together.

Sophia came to Colombo and her mother stroked her head and left her. She had to change into a bright coloured cloth and white jacket. Sophia looked at the many bright coloured flowers on it and her heart beat a little faster with joy. She looked at her white jacket so new and so nice and felt happier that the days of the drab frock were over.

She had to undo her plait and tie a bun at the back of her head. She cleaned it and oiled it and tied a bun high at the back of her head as her mistress asked.

Sophia felt happy. No more of that dirty washed out frock, no more of plaiting together

rebellious hair and no more of bathing it daily.

She felt like purring with the cat that sat under the kitchen table. Her mistress later called her and told her that Sophia was not an easy name for the little babies. She would be called Jane instead.

Yes Jane was happy. Sophia knew that Jane was happy; would continue to be happy. Happiness could not stay with drab clothes, empty stomachs, and leaking roofs. She look at the kitchen table full of fresh vegetables, eggs and beef. Happiness moved among these.

Jane touched a red flower on her cloth. She traced its outline with her finger and felt that the sun shone and birds sang outside.

She dilated her nostrils and took in the fragrance as she carried dishes to table. As she fed the little children her mouth opened and took the shape that the little mouths opposite her took. As the mouth closed on the spoon of rice she felt her mouth water too. The food on the plate stared at her.

How different it was. Sophia saw the plate of manioc her mother placed before her. It was nauseating. The red sambol was only chillies and salt.

Jane brushed the children's hair before putting them to bed. Sophia remembered mother washing, oiling and plating her hair.

Jane sat down in the kitchen to eat and looked at the plate of long grained rice and the little bit of dry fish. There were vegetable, eggs and beef on the table.

Jane eat down on her haunches and ate.

Next day Jane washed the children, cleaned the rooms and served at breakfast.

When the table was cleared Jane sat again on her haunches in the kitchen for her breakfast. There were two slices of dry bread and last nights dry fish

curry. Jane looked at her bright coloured cloths and saw that it looked a little dirty. The flowers were not so red. They looked brown and the white jacket had streaks of dirt on it.

At lunch she fed the little children and felt her mouth water. Her cloth had a stain of gravy on it.

She carried the dishes to table. When nobody was looking she put her finger into the meat curry and put it back into her mouth.

Jane! Jane! she was wanted at the lunch table. She rushed from the kitchen feeling self-conscious and shy. The lady pulled out something from the meat curry. What was it? Did Jane think these people were pigs? Whose was this hair? She knew what to do. After lunch she would see her.

After lunch Jane stood before her mistress. There was a long pair of scissors in the Lady's hand. Was she going to cut her hair? No! No! No! No such thing. She was going to cut her a new blouse. How Jane had dirtied this blouse in a day's time.

Her mistress pulled her by the arm and pulled down her badly tied knot of hair. It tumbled down meandering along her spine like the Kelani river winding along.

Snip! Snip! Snip! long strands of black hair fell on the ground. Sophia's long black hair looked like a loose lot of wires thrown carelessly about.

VALLI.

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INDIA AND SEATO

A MEETING of the Colombo Powers to discuss the attitude towards the projected South-East Asia Treaty Organisation is now ruled out, in view of India's feeling that it is unnecessary. The Ceylon Government, after receiving word from Burma, Indonesia and India that they were not interested in the plan, has informed Britain that Ceylon also would not be able to attend the talks at Baguio in the Philippines which will take place between America, Britain, France, Australia, New Zealand, Thailand and possibly Pakistan.

Baguio

What is the purpose of these talks which have been sponsored by the United States? Speaking to the Senate on July 21, Mr. Dulles, the Secretary of State, stated it was necessary to defend South-East Asia against Communist aggression, and that there was a good chance of preventing a major disaster following the loss of North Indo-China. The method he proposed was to draw a defence line which would run north of Burma, include all of Laos and Cambodia and Viet Nam.

Dyke

The above nations themselves might not be able to join a military alliance but America and her friends could draw a line and agree to react to transgression of it. Mr. Dulles, however, added that while a dyke against advancing Communism had to be built "the only thing we have to build the dyke with is money, at least from the material standpoint." In other words, though Mr. Dulles was talking in military terms, he was thinking primarily in terms of economic support of countries threatened by Communist penetration.

This basic confusion between a military and an economic policy has beset American policy ever since the Republicans took office and makes it hard for other countries to know exactly what America promises to do.

We reprint below an editorial from the "Hindu" of August 14, 1954 which will be of special interest to our readers.

Refused

We may note further that the U.S. Government has refused to subscribe to a fund to assist underdeveloped countries through the United Nations. Her current policy appears to contemplate the giving of funds to countries who will hoist the anti-Communist flag. Coupled to this policy is the belief the no compromises should be made with Communist countries. Washington extracted a promise from Britain that SEATO should be organised even before the conclusion of the Geneva Conference on Indo-China. The French solution of the Indo-Chinese problem was not approved by the U. S. She, however, agreed not to interfere with the settlement. But her deep-seated distrust of the Geneva plan is reflected in her anxiety to build up a common front of countries interested in South-East Asia even before the final settlement has been made.

Colonialism

The refusal of the Colombo Powers (save Pakistan) to agree to American policy flows from the belief that settlements cannot be made on the basis of rival alliances. These countries do not agree with the Americans in thinking that the Indo-China was a case of simple Communist aggression. It was in essence a colonial war, which must be ended with the transfer of full independence to Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia. That process can only be concluded by free elections and it cannot be assumed in advance that the promises made by the Communist side at Geneva will be broken. While Mr. Dulles assumes that the Communist Powers have obvious designs on

Burma, the Colombo Powers have taken note of the declaration made by Mr. Chou Enlai in Rangoon that China would respect the territorial integrity of Burma. The Colombo Powers believe that China should be admitted to the United Nations and that agreements respecting Asian countries should be entered into on a basis of mutuality.

Africa

The independent countries of Asia are acutely conscious of the history of European colonialism and they are not reassured by European promises of support at a time when counties like Malaya are still under the colonial yoke. It may be noted that Indonesia is anxious to call a conference to discuss Asian-African problems. While so many African countries suffer from European exploitation, it appears incongruous that the Imperial European Powers should come forward to defend Asian independence.

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DELHI WEEKLY ON CEYLON'S PRO

Democracy!

Mr. J. C. T. KOTELAWELA
No useful purpose is served in having as Head of the Department an officer who takes no steps to meet the complaint we make every year that large sections of the population are being disfranchised. This problem arises in an acute form in the rural areas. In a recent village committee election I came across a case where there were only five voters in a ward. What is the election that you can have with only five voters? The names of a number of eligible voters have been left out.

I may mention that in the elections to the Koslanda Urban Council there was one ward with only five voters and another with six. For the first ward there were two candidates and one of them who happened to be a rich mudalai, bought up those five votes; the other candidate had no supporters. The other candidate, however was able to impersonate three of the voters and he won. This is an actual fact, Mr. Chairman. The Department is really aiding and abetting people to commit election offences.

The Hon. Mr. J. R. JAYEWARDENE: Who won?

Mr. SUNTHARALINGAM: The man who impersonated, like you.

Mr J. C. T. Kotalawela: The man who bought up the five votes went there at nine o'clock in the morning without a care in the world to find that the other man had been there earlier, at eight o'clock, and three of the voters had been impersonated, with the result that the latter was returned.

From Hansard August 3, 1954

New Delhi Housing scandals in the Capital in which landlords vie with estate agents to fleece the poor and unfortunate tenants have been further aggravated, we understand, by certain persons of the Diplomatic Corps who are currently under a police probe.

We have it on unimpeachable authority that the Public Relations Officer of the Ceylon High Commission in New Delhi has been implicated in a series of infringements of rules framed by the Estate Office of the Government of India who have taken up the matter with the Ceylon Government.

Sublet

The short and sweet story of Shree Yogendra Doraiswamy, the Ceylon P. R. O., is that he sublet his official flat in Kotah House between 1951-53 to a string of high officials for sums of money which to put it mildly, were exaggeratedly prohibitive.

His victims, we understand, included the first Secretary to the Royal Thai Embassy, Mr. Iswarbakti and Dr. C. T. Williams of the World Health Organisation who happens to be the father of Miss Irene Williams, the famous Ceylon sportswoman.

Mr. Yogendra Doraiswamy is alleged to have not only sublet his official flat in Kotah House but also drawn his actual house rent allowance while staying at the High Commissioner's official residence during the period of subletting.

Nobody's Charmer

On enquiry, we learn, that Mr. Yogendra Doraiswamy is certainly
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Below we publish a report from "BULL'S EYE," a Delhi Weekly, in its issue of August 8, 1954. We have had occasion to refer to this member of Ceylon's Diplomatic Service in our columns before.

not endowed with the charm of making friends or keeping them by virtue of his unprovoked arrogance. Journalists in Delhi have often had cause to exchange hot words with the P.R.O., who in the newspaperman's parlance has a happy knack of making a nuisance of himself.

The dislike for Mr. Doraiswamy is not restricted to the newspaper crowd alone. Enquiries reveal that Mr. Doraiswamy and the first Secretary of the Ceylon High Commission in India are having a battle royal that is, making the High Commission's work more and more difficult.

Bolted

So acute, it is believed, was the dissension, that recently when the High Commissioner was absent from India, Mr. Doraiswamy, rather than take orders from the First Secretary, bolted to Madras, where he stayed till the Envoy's return.

All this and a lot more that we do not feel would be discreet to print in these columns, gives us the impression that the time is not long before Mr. Yogendra Doraiswamy will be invited to take his abode amongst the tall trees and plantations of Lanka where he is reported to belong.

LONDON "TIMES" WARNING

Continued from page 5

Having observed with evident approval that "A prosecution for seditious libel is somewhat of a rarity. It is a weapon that is not often taken down from the armoury in which it hangs, but it is a necessary accompaniment to every civilized government," the learned Judge went on to lay down that the expression of abstract opinion was free. A man was at perfect liberty to argue for despotism, or oligarchy, or a republic, or even no government at all. Only "if he makes use of language calculated . . . to incite others to public disorders . . . there would be evidence on which a jury might, on which I think a jury ought to, decide that he is guilty of a seditious publication."

Not Forbearance

This few must be allowed great weight in interpreting those parts of the law which are common to Great Britain and Cyprus. The

question appears to be whether the particular clause which is peculiar to Cyprus, relating to change or sovereignty over the island, lies outside the limitation of the law to words calculated to provoke to violence. It would hardly seem so since such an argument would hardly go beyond—what MR. JUSTICE COLERIDGE expressly mentioned—the advocacy of a republic in KING EDWARD'S dominions.

It is, of course, easy to believe that the political passions at present run high in Cyprus, and that a good many of the wilder expressions of nationalist opinion are capable of provoking a breach of the peace. That would be for the jury to decide in individual cases.

For the Enotist newspapers the worthiest course, according to English ideas, would be to continue the sober exposition of their doctrine, inviting prosecution in a test case, and relying on the defence that there was no open or covert incitement to violence.

Any issue thus precipitated would be explicitly between them and the Government, for prosecutions under this law cannot be launched without the fiat of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL. He has promised to approach each case "in a free, bold, manly, and generous spirit." That is very proper so far as it goes. But the British tradition is that the liberties of the subject should depend directly on the law, and not on the forbearance of the executive.

COMMUNITY

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WHITHER TURF CLUB ?

RACING MUST BE NATIONALISED

The majority of the members of the Government Parliamentary Party are probably members of the Ceylon Turf Club. These gentlemen in a number of matters of vital national interest insist on a policy of Ceylonisation. Nobody can quarrel with such a policy as long as it is non-discriminatory and is not made a cover for the political advancement of a clique. In fact, a fair and broad based policy of Ceylonisation in respect of all those who have made this island their permanent home is something to be encouraged and supported.

Everything Foreign

Unfortunately, however, the one place where there has been no effort at comprehensive Ceylonisation is in the Turf Club. *The vast majority of the jockeys are aliens on temporary residence permits. The horses are imported. All equipment, horse food and the like is imported. In fact, everything connected with racing in this country, except a handful of jockeys, apprentice jockeys, riding boys and trainers, is alien. Millions of rupees of hard external assets and foreign exchange of this island are utilised on items of expenditure connected with racing.*

No proper statistics are available with regard to the expenditure on items connected with racing. But a cursory survey takes it into the region of a few millions.

Why not Locally?

At a time when our finances and external assets are strained to the utmost, it is nothing short of a crime to waste so much foreign exchange on horse racing. If the horses cannot be bred here, if the jockeys cannot be nationals, if saddlery and other equipment cannot be made here, if horse food cannot be grown and prepared here, then the only thing to do is to abolish racing altogether.

But, as far as one can see, there is no reason why racing cannot be Ceylonised. What people seem to want is something to place bets on not wonderful specimens of horse flesh or beautiful saddlery.

Betting can as well take place on Delft ponies as on thoroughbred

By
A SWINI

Arabs. But there may be no need to resort to Delft ponies if the Turf Club will take steps to develop breeding centres and thereafter develop small industries to manufacture saddlery and the like. It is difficult to understand why Ceylon cannot produce horse food with a little research and experimentation.

In India, racing has been almost completely nationalised. Ninety-five percent of the jockeys are nationals, the vast majority of horses are Indian bred and practically all

ANOTHER TRIAL AT BAR

Continued from page 1

out investigations, then he has acted outside the scope of his powers; but knowing what a stickler for procedure the Attorney-General is, there is no reason to believe that the Bribery Commissioner had slipped.

The report published in the *Observer* is on the face of it defamatory. An Independent Member of Parliament, easily indentified, has been accused of accepting a bribe and the *Observer* stated that investigations by the Attorney-General had shown that a *prima facie* case existed.

Action

Apart from the question of what action the Speaker will take regarding the question of privilege, there is the vital question that Mr. Iriyagolle's reputation and character has been brought into hatred, contempt and ridicule.

A Member of Parliament is as good as a Senator; and if a report against another person who was at the relevant times only a Senator, published in the "Trine", should lead to a trial at Bar under section 440 A, there is no reason why the Attorney-General and the Minister of Justice should accord the "Observer" any other treatment.

If the Minister of Justice is not to be accused of discrimination

of the equipment and food is Indian.

There has been agitation for sometime in this country for the abolishing of racing because it encourages gambling. It is not possible to eradicate evils like gambling and excessive drinking through legislation or prohibitions. Social and economic factors alone can bring about a control of such practices.

But there can be no excuse for not Ceylonising the racing industry in this country. If the Turf Club continues to be the cause of draining vast sums of money out of the country each year, the public will have no alternative but to demand the liquidation of a Turf Club which follows anti-national policies.

he should readily grant a certificate under section 440 A that the Editor of the *Observer* should be tried at the Bar.

Furthermore, investigations should be carried out as to who was responsible for inspiring the story against Mr. Iriyagolle. If such investigations reveal that certain person or persons had conspired to defame Mr. Iriyagolle they too should be charged together with the Editor of the *Observer*.

It is on record that Mr. Iriyagolle, though he is a Member of the Government Parliamentary Party, has severely criticised certain aspects and policies of the present Government. Mr. Iriyagolle has gone so far as to declare that it was time Mr. Dudley Senanayake should take charge of the affairs of the country once again.

It is necessary to state that *Tribune* is not anxious that editors of newspapers should be dragged to the courts of law on the slightest provocation or pretext, but what it wants to emphasise is that if such action is taken there should be no discrimination between papers supporting the Government and the papers that do not. As far as the *Tribune* is concerned, the Editor of the *Trine* is as much a fellow journalist as the Editor of the *Observer*, but what is important is that the Executive should not be allowed to mete out differential treatment.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST COMPANY

DIRECTOR

An ex-employee, now working elsewhere, of a big Landing Company operating in the Colombo Harbour has written, under his own name, to the Commissioner of Income Tax about certain irregularities in the accounts of this company which are tantamount to deliberate and wilful evasion of income tax. Copies of this letter have been sent to all persons who may have an interest in the matter.

A copy of this letter dated January 28, 1954 may be seen in the file of this Company in the Registrar of Companies by any member of the public who pays fifty cents and makes a search in that file.

Allegations

This letter contains serious allegations against a Director of the Company. It states that a very large amount of the profits of this landing company are paid out to a "dud" business firm registered in the name of the Director. These payments are allegedly for work done, but no work is really done. In this way, several lakhs, over a million rupees it is asserted, has been spirited away over the last few years.

There is no doubt that this matter is primarily of interest to the shareholders of the company and the income tax authorities, but it must be stated that the public too are vitally interested in it. A Landing Company is a public utility concern and the costs of all imported articles are to some extent dependent on the rates levied by the landing companies.

Landing Rates

In the last four or five years landing charges have been increased on two occasions, and at present there is agitation by landing companies that rates should be further increased. One of the reasons put forward in support of higher rates is that landing companies are running at a "loss". Bus companies too made similar claims, but some of the revelations at the Bus commission sittings throw a different light on the whole subject.

In the same way, the allegations against this particular company makes it necessary for a thorough inquiry before the demand for higher rates are even considered.

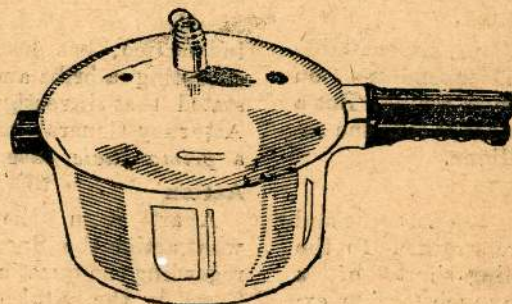
Share Holders

It is believed that the Auditors of the Company in question have not yet agreed to certify the accounts for 1951 and 1952. Many queries they raised in respect of payments to the "dud" concern probably still remain unanswered. It is for the shareholders of this company to take the necessary steps to protect their interests just as much as the Income tax authorities must, as we are sure they will, relentlessly pursue their inquiries to find out if the allegations are true.

But, if there is any move to demand that landing rates be increased because landing companies are not operating profitably on the present rates, or if there is an attempt to hush up the affairs of this particular company owing to pressure from important people, "Tribune" will not hesitate to place before public what facts it has regarding the finances and working of not only this landing company but others in the Harbour as well.

In point of fact, the Colombo Port Commission must investigate whether the present rates cannot be reduced.

PRESTO



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