

# TRIBUNE

CEYLON NEWS REVIEW

Vol I No. 21

COLOMBO, SEPTEMBER 18, 1954

15 Cents

## ROBERT SENANAYAKE

*Dramatic developments are expected to develop from a letter which "Tribune" is able to reveal has been written by Mr. Robert Senanayake to the Registrar of Companies concerning a company which was mentioned in last week's issue of this paper. Readers will recall that one of the companies listed by our Special Investigator as one of those connected with Mr. Emil Savundranayagam was EASTERN TRADERS LTD. The letter relates to this company.*

The letter dated September 11, 1954 reads as follows:

"Dear Sir,

I have read a report in the issue of the 'Tribune' dated September 11, 1954 in which a reference has been made to me as one of the Directors of the Eastern Traders Ltd. With a view to checking the correctness of this report. I have caused an examination of your file to be made and I am informed that my name has been submitted as a director of this company, and that the form containing the names has been registered by you in file No. PVS 852.

### Disclaims

"I am now writing officially to inform you that the report in the 'Tribune' was the first intimation I had that my name appears on the

### DID NOT KNOW

list of directors of Eastern Traders Ltd. I would wish you to note that I disclaim being a director of this company. I would also wish to state that my consent was never sought or obtained for election as a director of Eastern Traders Ltd. I recall that the Memorandum and Articles of Association of Eastern Traders Ltd, was brought to my office at Ceylon Theatres by Mr. Cyril Gardiner and I was requested to sign these documents as one of the subscribers and I acceded to that request and duly signed the Memorandum and Articles of Association. My share-holding in this company was one Rs. 10/- share

### SUB JUDICE

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and there was no call for the payment of the money due on this share which up to date remains unpaid by me.

### Delete

"I would also wish to add that I never attended any directors meeting of this company nor have I received notices of such meetings, or the copies of the minutes of such meetings or any other meetings that may have been held by this company. I am now very surprised to learn at this late stage that my

name has been registered as a director of this company. I would, therefore, request you to be so good as to cause my name to be deleted from the list of Directors of Eastern Traders Ltd, for the reason that I have never consented nor agreed to be a director of this company.

"In this context, I think it is proper that I should point out that mistakes of this nature would not occur if the necessary provision exists for obtaining the written consent of persons whose names are submitted for registration as directors of a company.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) R. P. Senanayake"

We believe that the Registrar of Companies has forwarded copies to this letter to the other directors of the company, who are Sir Chittampalam A. Gardiner, Mr. K. Mahendran, Mr. Cyril Gardiner, Mr. Sangarapulle Sellamuttu, Mr. Emil Savundranayagam and Mrs. Savundranayagam for their comments.

### Serious

Mr. Robert Senanayake's letter contains a serious allegation against certain promoters of the Eastern Traders Ltd. In this connection, we cannot too strongly endorse the last paragraph of Mr. Robert Senanayake's letter. The absence of a provision stipulating written consent of persons appointed or elected as directors is a major anomaly in

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# U. S. LAW FIRM AND Housing Scandal

The following extract from the American magazine TIME of September 6, 1954 — shows that racketeers and racketeering law firms are found in the U. S. A. But, it is a healthy sign of public morality that the U. S. Government does not hesitate to order a probe into allegations which have prima facie validity. "Tribune" earnestly hopes that the Ceylon Government would follow the American example in this healthy and dynamic aspect of American democracy.—Editor.

In Manhattan last week a one-man Senate investigating committee spaded up some fresh dirt on postwar apartment projects backed by the Federal Housing Administration (TIME, July 26). Called to the stand by Connecticut's Republican Senator Prescott Bush was Lawyer Thomas Grace, who was New York State FHA director from 1935 to 1952.

## The Lawyers

Grace testified that while in office he had received \$48,500 in fees from his family's law firm, Grace & Grace. He admitted that the firm did most of its business representing clients before FHA, and from 1946 to 1953 the firm processed applications for FHA loan guarantees totaling \$84,771,030. Asked Chief Committee Counsel William Simon: Did Grace know that it was unlawful for an FHA director to accept fees charged on FHA cases? Replied Grace: "No, sir, I did not."

## Friends in the Game

The committee was curious about the help that Grace & Grace had given loan applicants. A Pelham, N. Y. builder named Warren Schaller who applied for a loan guarantee in 1949 waited six months for FHA approval. The FHA granted the guarantee, said Schal-

ler, two months after he hired Grace & Grace on the advice of "friends in the game." But Grace said the sequence of events had no significance; the handling of the application was routine. The committee cited another builder whose application for a \$325,000 guarantee had been turned down by the FHA. When Grace & Grace handled the request, however, the guarantee was approved for \$485,000.

The committee also turned up a new group of builders who had made millions in windfall profits. A whopping gain was made by Real Estate Dealer Alexander Hirsch and several other shareholders in Brooklyn's 2,496-unit Farragut Gardens apartments. Hirsch testified that the group had put up only \$15,000 of its own money to receive an FHA-insured loan of almost \$22 million, the promoters pocketed the \$4,000,000 difference. A committee investigator who had looked over the apartments found leaking roofs, cracked plaster, and testified that unless extensive repairs are begun soon "the buildings will not be standing in 30 years."

## Cash in Question

Senator Bush was also suspicious about large amounts of cash that the Farragut Gardens builders had paid out, called the projects lawyer, Abraham Traub, to the stand to find out who got it. Had any of the cash gone to Clyde L. Powell, former assistant FHA commissioner who resigned last April and has dodged behind the Fifth Amendment to escape testifying? Traub said that none of it had, but he could not explain who had got the money. The committee ordered him to bring in his books, but at week's end both Traub and the books were missing.

Other builders summoned to the stand told how they had also made big windfall profits under the now defunct Section 608 of the housing act. Among them:

- Builder Harry Osias cleared \$4,879,258 on five New York City projects on a total investment of \$20,000.

- Builder Isreal Orlian put \$27,400 into nine apartments in New York City and North Bergen, and netted \$1,200,000.

- Long Island Builder Morty Wolosoff cleared nearly \$500,000 on a \$3,000 investment; Builder Alfred Wohl also made close to \$500,000 on a \$6,000 investment.

## Plugging the Holes

This week FHA moved to plug loopholes in the housing law that had made it possible for builders to make such windfalls in the first place. Henceforth, they will be obliged to certify their actual construction and property costs at the projects end, and return any excess mortgage money. FHA also set out to try to recover some of the millions already pocketed. The charters of the apartment-building corporations formed under 608 prohibit unearned income (i.e., windfalls) from being handed out to shareholders, said Housing Boss Albert M. Cole. The firms that did so, declared Cole, were in default of their guarantee agreements; therefore, FHA had the right to take control of them and sue for recovery.

The first target was Linwood Park, In., builder of a Fort Lee, N.J. project which netted the builders a \$2,466,821 profit. If FHA could successfully take over the corporation and get back the windfall cash, it planned to go after all the other windfall profiteers.



# SUGAR TENDERS

The Government is now at pains to state that it is taking steps to reduce the price of wheat, sugar and rice. On reason for such efforts is the general lowering of world price levels.

In this connection it is necessary to see whether the system of Government purchases of these three commodities is such as to obtain for this country the best at the lowest market rates.

There is no doubt that it is the good intentions of the Food Department that they buy at the most favourable terms. The Food Department carries on the war-time practice of being sole importers of these three commodities. If properly conducted, wholesale Government purchasing can be the most economic method of obtaining these food supplies, and also of distributing them. But, the question is whether the Food Department lives up to these expectations.

The method of purchasing sugar, wheat and rice differ. In the case of rice, Ceylon is bound by the China and the Burma Agreements. In the case of wheat, the International Wheat Agreement is an important factor. The purchase of these two commodities will be dealt with in subsequent articles.

## Sugar

In this article, it is proposed to examine the system that operates in relation to sugar. The system is that every month a tender for about 10,000 tons is called for and the order is placed with the cheapest tenderer. In principle this is excellent, but what is more important than the principle is the manner in which it is given effect to.

As a result of the weaknesses of the present system to which attention will be drawn in this article, and in subsequent articles, it is a fact that the Government has often entered into contracts with buyers who have defaulted in delivery with the consequent result that the Government has lost its expenses for cables, keeping open letters of credit and the like, which amount to considerable sums.

By

Our Commercial Correspondent

**"Tribune" Commercial Correspondent has for sometime now been investigating the system of purchasing used by the Food Department which is the sole importer of wheat rice and sugar. Our Commercial Correspondent will keep our readers informed of developments in the sphere of the Food Department activities. This week he begins his series with a note on Sugar Tenders.**

## At Random

At present, tenderers send their offers say on the 31st of a month. The first weakness in the present system is that there is no list of registered tenderers for each commodity. Tenders are entertained from anyone who chooses to send in a tender. This is most unsatisfactory. There have been instances when mushroom companies which are not recognised dealers have sent in tenders at prices at lower than world market rates. The Food Department has often accepted these tenders.

The sellers armed with a firm order from the Government of Ceylon then attempt to purchase the supplies. If the market drops, as they hope it will, they obtain the supplies and send it to Ceylon. If the market turns against them no delivery is made. The Government is asked for extension of credit, and it is invariably given, but more often than not, no delivery is ever made.

## Bonds

As a safeguard, the Government insists on a performance bond with a deposit of 2% to be forfeited in case of default. It would be interesting to know in how many instances these bonds were waived. It is no doubt an international practice for even Governments not

to ask such big world suppliers like Czarnikows in London or Lobo's from New York for such bonds, but one wonders whether the Food Department takes the necessary precautions in checking up the credentials of all the companies to whom such concessions have been given. How many of the companies from whom performance bonds were not obtained ultimately defaulted? Has the Food Department learnt the necessary lessons from its past experience?

## Time

Another unsatisfactory feature is that often a week or more is given to these companies to execute these performance bonds. The usual practice is for a bond to be completed within 48 hours of the confirmation of the order. *To allow time for the execution of the bond is to give a company without the capital or the capacity to make delivery time to speculate on the international market with a firm offer from the Ceylon Government.*

Some of these difficulties will be obviated if there is list of approved tenderers for each commodity. Firms can be registered after their credentials have been checked through the banks. Government has registered shippers, registered contractors, and one is surprised why no official notice has been issued for the registration of tenderers for the Food Department. The one test for each firm is whether they can deliver the commodities they tender for even if the market goes against them after the contract is signed.

## Baited

It is possible to detail a number of instances where the Food Department have contracted with small firms, which have baited the officials with seemingly low quotations, but which defaulted in delivery. It is also possible to refer to at least one instance where the prices were adjusted after the tenders were closed (but even with this the seller defaulted in spite of extended credits—and there was no

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# SCRAP BURMA PACT

There is one other matter that I would like to deal with arising out of this. The Hon. Minister of Food and Agriculture had occasion to speak about the rice position at the present moment, the amount he is committed to buy and the difficulties he is placed in.

## Agreements

Now, when these agreements were entered into we were informed that we needed 460,000 tons of imported rice. The Chinese Agreement covered 270,000 tons. The original proposals brought from Burma by the then Minister of Agriculture and Food were for a minimum of 250,000 tons going up to a maximum of 600,000 tons. That figure was brought down because I personally felt that it went beyond our requirements. But the most we could have reduced it to was 200,000 tons. So that we were adequately covered by the two agreements. On the one hand we had 200,000 tons from Burma and on the other we had 270,000 tons from China making a total of 470,000 tons which was a slight increase on our import requirements. In the case of the Burma Agreement, if the China source was cut off we could go up to 600,000 tons if we wanted that amount.

## Burma

I think I am right in saying that the extra amount we are to get is at the same price and not at the prices agreed upon. That is to say, if we had to buy anything beyond 200,000 tons it was to be at the world market price. So that there was that safeguard as well.

The conditions were such that we had to think of the possibility of safeguarding the food position. But this is where I cannot agree entirely with the position taken up by the Minister of Agriculture and Food. There are these two Agreements creating difficulties for you. Why do you prefer to break the China rather than the Burma Pact?

## IF NECESSARY

*Extract from Hansard of  
August 11, 1954*

Mr. SUNTHARALINGAM: Better break the Burma Agreement.

Mr. DUDLEY SENANAYAKE: If you look at the two, you will see that the China Pact is not going to create any difficulties for us. Why do you seek to revise or modify the China deal in preference to the Burma deal?

Mr. N. H. KEERTHIRATNE (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Post and Broadcasting): People like the Burma rice. [Interruption.]

## Prices

Mr. DUDLEY SENANAYAKE: I would not advocate the breaking of any agreement, but if you are seeking any modifications—I am sure the countries concerned would be prepared to consider such modifications—surely the one that has to be modified is the Burma Agreement, not the China Agreement. The China Agreement, as I said earlier does not create any difficulties for us. There is an annual price revision provided for under which it is possible for us to get the terms that we consider to be fair in the matter of prices. If the world price of rice is £40 a ton—I think the Minister must examine even that figure more carefully—

Mr. SUNTHARALINGAM: £ 38.

Mr. DUDLEY SENANAYAKE: £ 40 or £38, it is a matter for adjustment. As for the quantity that has been offered to us outside the China Pact, would the Hon. Minister tell me what it is?

The Hon. Mr. J. R. JAYEWARDENE (Minister of Agriculture and Food and Leader of the House): 200,000 tons.

Mr. DUDLEY SENANAYAKE: I wish the Hon. Minister would consult the previous Minister (Hon. Mr. A. Ratnayake) before he decides on these matters, because our experience with such offers has been most disappointing indeed. If the Hon. Minister would examine the records, he would find that time and again, offers of this type were made to us in the past, but they failed to materialise at the right time, and we were placed in considerable difficulties. I believe the world price at the moment is nearer £45, but that does not matter. I am not concerned with the price as such.

## Chinese

In regard to the respective merits of China rice and Burma rice, let me tell you my own experience. I was in my constituency very recently, and because I had read the papers that the people did not like China rice, I walked into a few Co-operative stores to find out the position for myself. I saw China rice in stock I asked the Co-operative stores people, "Is this China rice selling?" They replied, "Of course." I asked again, "Are the people buying this rice?" The answer I got was, "Of course they are buying it." So you see, the people are not only buying China rice, they are also eating it. It may be that Burma rice is better, but if you are looking at this question from the point of view of the country's difficult financial situation, you should rather seek a modification of the Burma Agreement—

Dr. N. M. PERERA (Ruwanwella): Quite right.

Mr. DUDLEY SENANAYAKE:—and leave the basis of the China Agreement intact. That is the point I want to impress on the Hon. Minister...



# BLACK MAN IN U. S.

PEONAGE is a subtle crime. Legally, it is defined as the use of indebtedness to compel a person to labour. In the Southern States, in spite of remarkable changes in Negro status, it differs so little from the traditional share cropping arrangement for farm labour that peon and master alike can actually be unaware of their illegal liaison. Illiteracy, isolation and a racial caste system are prerequisites for peonage. They also form high barriers for successful prosecution in the courts, however skilled and sincere the prosecutor. The Civil Rights Section of the Justice Department, at the peak of its concern with the problem, brought only 20 cases to court and secured convictions in only one-half of them during the years 1941-7.

## Peonage

Southern peonage can be benevolent in intention. Suppose Jim, a tenant, goes to town one Saturday, gets a little drunk and lands in jail. Deep South penal code for Negroes is one week's hard labour for such an offence. Late on Sunday afternoon Jim's wife comes to Miz. Blank's back stoop and tells her the trouble. After supper, Mr. Blank gets into his Oldsmobile cursing, and drives to the jail. "Now look here, you black scoundrel. This is the last time I'm doing this. And if you aren't out there fixing my henhouse roof tomorrow morning, I'll take it out of your hide." That is the benevolent way. Mr. Blank has "bought" Jim's "days." In return for this freedom he demands an amount of labour.

There is another, coldly calculated system of peonage that is the heir of the 1890's, when Mississippi prisoners were assigned to turpentine camps and the Tennessee Coal and Iron Company leased that State's penitentiary to get miners. At a county work-gang a friendly camp boss may call a neighbouring planter when he has a "likely lot." The planter comes over, sizes up the assembled prisoners and propositions those who seem to be good workers.

The Public Relations Officer of the American Embassy who recently stormed into the office of the Editor of the *Ceylon Observer* made the claim that there have been no "lynchings" in the U. S. A. since 1950. Below we reprint an article entitled "The Deep South" which appeared in the English weekly *The News Statesman and Nation* of August 21, 1954. The article is by a correspondent in Alabama and vividly describes the real conditions that exist in the Southern States.

## Buys

He offers to buy their freedom if they will come and live on his farm and tend a patch of cotton. They can pay him back out of their "share" of the crop. Perhaps the camp boss may help "persuade" some to accept the invitation. The rub is that rent and food are charged to the liberated prisoner—at interest rates sometimes amounting to 10 per cent. a month. These expenses are taken out of the "share" before any money is applied to the original debt. Since the planter both markets the crop and keeps the books, the peon is lucky if he is not deeper "in the red" at season's end than he was at the start.

A more informal, more direct means of recruiting peons lies in the rural Justice of the Peace courts. A planter sees one of his tenants growing restive or else is desirous of obtaining the services of an especially good worker in the neighbourhood. He trumps up charges of some sort against the Negro; the compliant J. P. hands down the maximum sentence permitted his court...then paroles the defendant to the planter. If the victim flatly refuses to work, violence is the simple remedy. "There are some landowners who are humane," a venerable Negro lawyer in Mississippi told me. "They can't bring themselves to be brutal. So if

they can't get work out of a man they sell him to someone who can."

## Brutal

Forty-five years ago, this lawyer's first case was the rescue of a runaway tenant's wife and children who were being held as starving hostages by a landlord who alleged that the tenant owed him money. In 1951, in Laurens County, Georgia, a White attorney was beaten up by a sheriff for his part in assisting a family in similar straits. More recently, a terrible series of occurrences were reported in an indictment handed down by a Federal grand jury in Birmingham, Alabama, last September. Seven farmers were accused of bringing into "slavery, involuntary servitude and peonage" three Negroes and of kidnapping a fourth. Two of the men were held for four and six month periods, respectively, it was stated. One of them, whose \$10.25 fine for drunkenness had been paid by the defendants, was twice bound with rope and chain and whipped.

On Christmas Eve, 1951, four of the defendants allegedly forced a Negro farm worker into a truck, took him to a clubhouse, stripped off his pants, bound him, beat him and turned him loose for no reason, apparently, except that it was Christmas Eve. The fourth reported victim is dead.

On March 28, 1953, the indictment states, Fred Dial, one of the defendants, secured the release of Hubert Thompson from a Lauderdale County, Mississippi, penal camp and put him to work on his farm in neighboring Sumter County, Alabama. Thompson had been sentenced to 90 days and fined \$100 plus \$20.25 costs for assault and battery.

On May 7 he ran away, but was caught by Fred and Oscar Dial, tied to a bale of hay and beaten with a lariat. Not only did the Dials inflict blows, but Negro labourers present were forced, at gunpoint, to join in. Thompson was then carried to one Grant Hopson's house, where, two days later, he died.

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# THE "PRIVATE" PRESS

According to a recent survey made by the International Council of Industrial Editors, no less than 6,500 publications, with a combined monthly circulation of almost 71,000,000 copies are issued regularly by industrial and commercial concerns in the United States. Small and big firms in the U.S.A. spend over 112,000,000 dollars a year on the production of private newspapers, magazines and journals to inform their employees, customers and share-holders of their activities and progress.

## House Journals

These publications range from small news sheets issued for employees of a small firm to the multi-million circulation of publications of leading American corporations. Of the "Ford Times," for instance, 1,500,000 copies are printed each month. "Friends," house journal of General Motors, is mailed to 1,400,000 families regularly. These staggering figures prove that the impact of the company sponsored house journal upon the American working population is, indeed, stronger than that of the daily press. According to these figures, at least one house journal is read in every American family and the figures show that there is a rapid upward trend in this movement.

In Great Britain the development of industry's endeavour to communicate regularly with its employees and outside friends has been less spectacular, yet equally persistent. At the beginning of the century there were only a few house journals in this country. The Great Western Railway was among the pioneers of industrial journalism. The National Cash Register Company began the publication of their house journal in 1899—Lever Brothers first issued "Progress in the same year...but it was, in fact, the outbreak of World War II, and the necessity of increasing individual productivity by creating the best possible working conditions, which brought the house journal into its own.

## Five to Six Millions

The British Association of Industrial Editors, a professional

body watching over the interests of house journal editors, estimate that the number of company sponsored publications in this country exceeds 1,200 with a probable total monthly circulation of between five and six million copies. These publications range from duplicated information bulletins carrying mainly sports and social news, to most efficiently, and often very luxuriously produced magazines which in contents, production technique, layout and typography, very often beat their commercial contemporaries covering similar fields.

But whatever the means which management puts at the disposal of the editor, the inherent idea behind every employee publication is the improvement of worker-employer relations. Management has begun to realise that industry's private press is a most powerful instrument, not only in the preservation of peace in industry but in the maintenance of industrial production at the highest possible level.

The policy which determines the contents and appearance of a house publication is a very delicate plant and, to nurse it, a great deal of tact, diplomacy and understanding of human frailty is required. Unlike his colleague in charge of a daily newspaper or a commercial magazine, the industrial editor has to live and work among his readers who are his superiors, his subordinates, his contributors and his critics. If he is a good journalist with a nose for news and the ability of creating a vital, crisp and lively journal, if he succeeds in making his publication an unbiased and unprejudiced platform for both sides of the industrial fence, then his publication will achieve that editorial purpose which alone warrants its entire existence to instruct, inform and interest.

## Public Relations

Such a journal, it will be discovered, will not only appeal to the staff of the company; it has an inestimable value as an instrument of good public relations and especially community relations. In small industrial towns the house

journals of companies in whose shadow the community lives, have become regular and most popular reading matter. Public libraries, employment exchanges, doctors and dentists display major local journals. Illustrated descriptions of civic functions are avidly read by many of those who are not directly employed by the company concerned. The customers and agents appreciate a friendly and sparkling house journal which will keep them up to date with the technical development and social activities of a company which is well-known to them. Recent enquiries have shown that up to 30 per cent of house journals' mailing lists contain names of customers who have singly and individually requested to receive copies of such publications.

## Varied

The contents of Britain's house magazines are varied—they range from instructive articles of all kinds, policy announcements, pictorial reportages and sports reports to tables of sales records—but they have one feature in common, the gossip columns, the announcements of births, engagements, marriages and deaths, family pictures and as many personal and human stories as possible. Experience has shown that the spotlight upon an individual in a house journal is regarded by him as a major distinction and is received with great and lasting satisfaction.

That the influence of well-edited house magazines can be great there is no doubt because they are—or should be—concerned with matters related to the well-being of their readers, and they are, therefore, more likely to be read from cover to cover with close attention than our national newspapers. House magazines not only have many readers, but many thorough readers and their power for good is proportionately greater.

## Political

This tremendous influence has been recognised in the United States to a greater degree than in Great Britain, Whereas in Britain

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# FRANKLY COMMUNAL

Thri Sinhale Jatika Peramuna literally means the national front of the inhabitants of Thri Sinhale-Ruhunu, Maya and Pihiti - the three Ratas or provinces into which Ceylon was divided in the days of the Sinhalese kings of old. As its name implies, the Thri Sinhale Peramuna, its followers claim, is a broad-based national front "meant to safeguard the interests of the Ceylonese, namely Sinhalese, Tamils, Burghers and Muslims". (Rev. E. N. Mendis—Guardian 25.8.54.)

## Who Are Citizens?

A well-produced brochure issued from the headquarters of the Peramuna in Kandy outlines the aims and objects of this organisation and also what has already been done to attain these objectives. The numerous posters and hand-bills distributed by the Peramuna throughout the Island and the public statements of many of its leaders throw further light on the real nature of the Thri Sinhale Peramuna.

In an introductory message in the above-mentioned brochure, Mr. Wijeratne Rambukwela, the Senadhipathi (Field Marshal) of the Thri Sinhale Peramuna, states: "History is witness that only the Peoples of Thri Sinhale are the indigenous people of Sri Lanka and that they alone are the heirs to that rich inheritance of Rights, Privileges, Traditions and Way of Life which the Sinhala Race developed and sustained, in spite of vicissitude, for twenty-five centuries". Who really are the peoples of Thri Sinhale is made explicit further on in the same brochure. Clause (f) of that section which sets out the 'Aims and Objects' of the movement reads:

TO ACCEPT UNEQUIVOCALLY AS THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF THRI SINHALE ALL THOSE WHO ARE DESCENDED FROM THE CITIZENS OF THRI SINHALE AT DATE 2ND. MARCH 1815.

*This is the second in the series of articles on the Thri Sinhale Movement by a Special Correspondent. The first article appeared in our issue of September 4, 1954.*

## Communal

This test of citizenship, based on proof of descent from those who lived nearly 150 years back, particularly in a country like Ceylon where compulsory registration of births was enforced only from the eighties of the last century, is hardly likely to be fulfilled by even a minority of the Ceylon Tamils, Muslims or Burghers.

That the Thri Sinhale is a communal organisation is further evident from the following passage in the Senadhipathi's message:

"For the Sinhalese this is their hour of trial. The true magnitude of the looming national crisis one can only dimly foresee. If the Sinhalese Race is unprepared to meet it, you then invite the extinction of the Sinhalese Race and Sinhalese Culture from the story of human civilisation.

"Thri Sinhale Jatika Peramuna is pledged to meet and overcome this crisis by welding the indigenous peoples of three Ratas, Maya, Pihiti and Ruhunu and unifying them once again under ONE LANGUAGE, ONE PURPOSE!"

## Foreign

According to the Peramuna "The Portuguese and the Dutch controlled a fifth of the Island and corrupted it, but such incursion and corruption inland was successfully resisted." As a consequence of this foreign domination first by the Portuguese and then by the Dutch and finally by the British "havoc has been done to the Race and every walk of life has been thrown into chaos. The earlier Foreign encroachments and the newer Foreign infiltrations are avidly continuing this felon's work of sealing our doom".

But Thri Sinhale Jatika Peramuna has arisen to beat off our nation's enemies - the Foreign encroachments and infiltrations', declares the Senadhipathi. What alternatives does the Senadhipathi propose to substitute in place of these foreign incursions and infiltrations? As Vernon Gunese-kera aptly remarks these "reckless mobsters, desire to take the whole economy back to pre capitalist Sinhala poverty and the social oppression of feudalism". (Daily News 22.8.54.)

## Tamil

The Senadhipathi's views on the Jaffna Tamils is worth noting here. "Under the sinister plea of sharing a common language", he writes, "the Jaffna Tamils have made themselves one with the South Indians in the latter's struggle to grab extensive political power."

The Peramuna is vehemently opposed to the Tamil language being given the status of a national language. "The Tamil language is indeed the thin end of the wedge to make Ceylon, Tamil country. The deep-laid plan is for the Jaffna Tamils to unite with the Indian Tamils now living in the Kandyan provinces and after obtaining Citizenship Rights for the latter, to impose the Tamil language on the whole of Ceylon."

Such is the "Broad-based National" character of the Thri Sinhale Jatika Peramuna that is making a bid for political power in Ceylon to day.

## COMMUNITY

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# Comment

● SEATO

● WAR ALREADY

## OPINION UNANIMOUS

If there is one thing Ceylon seems to be unanimous about is that SEATO is a danger to the peace of Asia and the world. The *Times of Ceylon* has recognised it as such and has editorially requested the Ceylon Government to keep out of this Pact which it has called a "menace." The Lake House, the *Daily News* and the *Ceylon Observer*, whilst subscribing to the view that SEATO is a check on what it describes as communist aggressive intentions, feels that Ceylon would cease being a "neutral" if she joined the SEATO. The *Daily News* even though it saw the "danger that SEATO can be utilised to set up stooge Governments in Asia," unfortunately betrays a sneaking sympathy for SEATO.

But in spite of all Lake House efforts to soft-pedal the dangers of SEATO, the ordinary man and woman in Ceylon seem to be convinced that SEATO is the outward and military expression of a neo-colonialism in Asia under U. S. hegemony. That it is directed against China under the pretext that it is "communist": that it seeks to bring China once again under American and British influence for purposes of trade and politics. That SEATO is directed against new and free India of Nehru, the Burma of U Nu and the Indonesia of Sastromidjojo. That colonialists, be they American or British, or French, or Australian, are united in the view that coloured Asians must be kept in check. And that, to achieve this purpose they have subverted the people's will in countries like Pakistan, Thailand, and the Philipines by setting up and maintaining stooge governments which have been willing to become the slave partners of the colonialists in the SEATO. In this context, public opinion in Ceylon unexpectedly unanimous that the Government must keep out of the SEATO.

Every political party, bar the U.N.P., has already come out against SEATO. In the U.N.P. itself, leaders like Mr. Dudley Senanayake and Mr. R. G. Senanayake have stated in no uncertain terms that Ceylon must have no truck with SEATO. And even Sir John Kotelawala, who for some inexplicable reason sees virtue in U.S. colonial hegemony as long as it pretends "democracy," has, because of the tide of public opinion, been constrained to be cautious about SEATO. He has not condemned it as Nehru, U Nu and Sastromidjojo have done. He wants the Colombo Powers to discuss it to see whether the virtues of SEATO may be made apparent to Nehru, U Nu and Sastromidjojo.

### ● Fallacy

Sir John however, will do well, before he attempts to drag Ceylon directly or indirectly into the bog of SEATO, to study some recent editorials in the *Times of Ceylon* which set out what we think is the general consensus of opinion in this Island. The *Times* has aptly described the SEATO as a "billion dollar fallacy." It pooh-poohs the idea that SEATO in a "defence organisation," and declares; "what America and those other nations who have been persuaded into joining SEATO fail to understand is that here in the East the real danger of Communist expansion lies not in the threat of a Chinese invasion, but in the frustration and misery of ordinary decent-minded people who have been badly treated by their so-called democratic governments. So badly treated, in fact, that they are ready to seek salvation at the hands of anybody who opposes the existing regimes."

The editorial points out that "in China, where the rottenness of the Chiang-Kai Shek regime drove the masses into the arms of Mao Tse-tung... in Korea, where the fascist 'democracy' of Syngman Rhee set up the inevitable chain reaction of Communism.....in

Indo-China, where French colonialism backed by American dollars failed disastrously to rally popular support to the playboy puppet Bao Dai." The editorial draws attention to the situation inside Thailand where a police regime headed by Pibul Songgram is maintained by U.S. "aid." And it proceeds to conclude that "America's billion dollar fallacy is that, in effect, it supports corruption and fascism provided it masquerades as 'democracy.' And America is, ironically enough, the principal ally of the Communists, who find little difficulty about rallying popular feeling against Chiangs, Bao-Dais, Syngman Rhee and Pibul Songgrams whom America supports as champions of democracy...."

### War Already

SEATO has already started a minor war already. Chiang has been supplied with planes and other material to start a "fight" China. There can be no doubt that Quemoy island, just as Formosa belongs to China, Quemoy is only three miles off the mainland of China, and Formosa under a hundred miles off the coast. If a foreign power, for instance, kept a group of disgruntled and deposed Ceylon politicians on islands within three miles off the coast on the strength of arms and insisted that these islands were the strategic defence line for the foreign power which had its mainland a few thousand miles away, then it would be interesting to know what persons like Sir John Kotelawala would have to say. This is just what is happening in China.

And when the Government of China took steps to clear Quemoy Island, Chiang is supplied by U.S. with war planes and the horrible napalm bombs (jelled petrol) to attack Amoy.

It is ironic that with the so-called defence organisation, SEATO aggression by U. S. has become open and boastful. In Korea, U. S. protested that it did not allow the use of napalm bombs. Today the reports from Formosa boast about the use of these bombs. Everybody knows that napalm bombs are not made in Formosa but in the U.S., and SEATO now gives as excuse for the blood-thirsty in Washington and London to kill a few thousand Asians to re-establish colonialism.

Such is the danger of SEATO.



- SHERLOCK HOLMES . . . . TWO FIRMS
- LAKE HOUSE . . . . . Mr. BRADLEY
- PLOUGHING . . . . . BEGGARS

# MYSTERY RUBBER

Sherlock Holmes has been busy digging into some of past activities of Rubber Commissioner's Department. He has really been interested in its activities since exports to China began. In doing this research he has come across a rather curious transaction for which he has not yet got all the answers. I am, however, passing the information on to my readers—and if any one is able to throw light on this episode, Sherlock will be most grateful and will provide another paragraph for this column.

It will be recalled that even after the war years, the Rubber Commissioner's Department continued to purchase rubber sheets from the producers, graded them, packed them, baled them and sold them f.o.b. to shippers at current market rates. It will also be recalled that Mr. R. G. Senanayake returned from China on October 16, 1952 with the proposals for the long term agreement with China. At least, it was known in official circles that the Chinese Government was willing to buy rubber at 32 pence when the world price was about 20 pence per pound and sell rice at £56 when world prices were near £70.

## Cabinet Decides

The Cabinet met in a tense atmosphere, after a furious controversy in the country, on the evening of November 7, 1952; and at 3 a.m. on November 8 a communique was released that the Government had approved the agreement in principle. On or about November 9 or 10, the price of 32 pence was mentioned in the press, though this figure was known in all circles that mattered earlier. When the Cabinet approval was announced it was clear that as from January 1954 this would be the price.

Thirty two pence works out at Rs. 1.79 cts. and if expenses are

deducted the naked price would work out about Rs. 1.57½ cts. per pound. The Government proposed that it would buy at Rs. 1.35 making a profit of about 20 cents out of which it is now paying for replanting.

## Two Firms

The prevailing market rates at that time (October-November 1952) was about Rs. 1.10 per pound. What Sherlock Holmes wants to know is whether it is not a fact that, after the Cabinet had approved in principle the long-term agreement, the Rubber Commissioner sold about 500 tons of baled rubber to two firms at the rate of Rs. 1.10 a pound? Sherlock further wants to know further whether these two firms shipped this rubber to any buyer in November or December, or whether this same rubber was sold back to the Rubber Commissioner at Rs. 1.35 per pound.

If what Sherlock suspects is correct that the same rubber was resold to the Commissioner, then these two firms made a tidy profit just by sitting tight. It was not lucky speculation. It and open and shut bid where it was known that the price after a few weeks would be 32 pence.

Did the Rubber Commissioner sell this rubber in all innocence? The only thing that worries Sherlock is that these two firms are specially beloved of the Department and one of them has recently blossomed out into a huge exporter of coconut oil after Rubber Commissioner became exporter of oil to China.

It must be mentioned that the Rubber Commissioner in November 1952 was not Mr. Jinadasa, but Sherlock states that a permanent official in the Department, who "really runs the show," would

know more about this transaction and all other goings-on in the Department than Commissioners who come and go. This official has recently developed a mania for playing cards in the premises of a newly registered shipper of rubber somewhere in Slave Island.

It is just possible that this sale of about 500 tons may have some perfectly simple explanation, but the facts available now point to other inferences, according to Sherlock Holmes. If the Rubber Commissioner had not sold this rubber, but later exported it to China, the Government would have made a profit of about 5 lakhs!

## Lake House

One of the most astounding events in local journalism was the sudden *volte face* on the part of the Lake House on September 9. On that day, the morning opened with a editorial in the *Daily News* entitled KEEP FREE ASIA FREE. It was a forthright (and very welcome) onslaught on the Committee for Free Asia. "The great danger," said the editorial, "of the Committee for Free Asia is that it is operating within this country, setting up its own centres, and coming directly into contact with citizens of this country whom it is drawing into its activities. In addition to its other work, therefore, functioning as a base for spreading American influence within this country. The Government has been guilty of a grave lack of vigilance in allowing an American organisation to infiltrate into this country in this manner . . . . We must draw the attention of the Government to another alarming fact—that public servants are being drawn into the work of this foreign agency . . . . . If the Government is inclined to pooh-pooh these fears,

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# MYSTERY RUBBER

Continued from page 9

we would suggest that it take an object lesson from the recent American intervention in Guatemala, where the overthrow of the Arbenz regime was 'master-minded' by U. S. organisations.....

The *Observer* that evening followed suit with an editorial PHILANTHROPY PLUS POLITICS, and it concluded another bitter onslaught with the demand: "We would like an honest report on the work of the Committee for Free Asia by the Ministry of Defence. They have the machinery—the newly set up MI 5 department to handle political work of this nature. Let us see whether they can be as efficient in this investigation as they have been in tracking down the hideouts of Communist fifth column activity."

The Lake House assault on Mr. Holbrook Bradley's Free Asia Committee is one of the most sensational political events for the year. Lake House has directly and indirectly stood for American supremacy in world affairs and for the American way of life in Ceylon itself. And one would have expected Lake House to assist and support the Bradley set-up. In fact, when other papers and persons were calling for action against this subver-

sive committee, Lake House has been silent for months."

The problem that is worrying persons who are sensitive to local trends is to know the reason why Lake House has suddenly turned against the Yankee outfit. In fact, Lake House has also come out against SEATO. Some persons are inclined to think that this change in Lake House politics has something to do with possible changes within the Government Parliamentary Party.

### Ploughing

Governor General Sir Oliver started it all. He went down to the South, donned a silk cloth, and looking very much like a Brahmin of old, ploughed the fields. Like the Kings of old, it was said. Not to be beaten, Sir John has repeated the performance elsewhere. But he did not use a silk sarong or cloth. He was much more practical and wanted to do the job properly. He was in a pair of shorts!

What next from the great who rule this land? Will they follow the Kings of old in all other matters recorded in history? Will we have a 'water cutting' ceremony?

### Beggars

A news item in the *Times* states that steps were being taken to ban begging. Legislation was being

contemplated to make begging illegal, we are told. What I would like to know is *what kind of begging* is to be banned. Is it merely the begging for a few coppers by some poor wretch (who should be in a Home for the Aged) on the roadside? Or is it the more refined kind of begging that goes on in Colombo 7 and its suburbia? Or will an effort be made to stop the begging for favours from men who rule this land?

Is it going to be an offence, for instance, for a person to call at Temple Trees to beg the Prime Minister for a small favour?

All are agreed that begging is bad, and I hope the banning will start with endeavouring to prevent begging in top circles for favours. The poor man on the roadside is not so much of a national pest as the V. I. P. begging for favours from bigger V.I.P.'s. The man on the roadside may be a blot on the conscience of the V. I. P. but the V. I. P. who cadges for favours is a national pestilence.

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# BLACK MAN IN U. S.

Continued from page 5

## Out Dated Laws

The death of Thompson, as such and the other injuries to persons were beyond the province of the grand jury. It could only bring charges under the existing federal civil-rights statutes—counts which entail maximum penalties of five years in prison and \$5,000 fine for each offence. The relevant laws were drawn up in 1866 and their outdated terminology greatly limits their usefulness. The law against slavery has been invoked successfully only once since 1939. But one can imagine the chance revised statutes would have of getting through Congress. The Sumter County solicitor, Marcus McConnell, Jr., who would normally institute criminal proceedings, told the press that he had called for an investigation into Thompson's death. "But," he said, "a State toxicologist found that the Negro died of natural causes"—pneumonia.

Thompson's family were told the same thing, with variations. They received no official notice of his death. A Negro youth who had been paid 50 cents by two "worried and nervous" White men brought the message. At a funeral home in York, Alabama, the undertaker at first denied having Thompson's body. Then he said the body had been found in a stream. A member of the family pointed out that Thompson's clothes, lying in a bundle, were dry.

This story was then told them: Thompson had run off from the county penal farm. In fording a stream to elude bloodhounds, he had caught pneumonia and died in a farmhouse. (But Thompson's family had gone to visit him at the prison only a few weeks before and were informed by an official that he had been discharged and his whereabouts were unknown.) Whose house did he die at? The undertaker would not say; he "had to live around here." The family demanded to see Thompson's body. They found it a mass of pulp on the back, with blisters as large as one's finger. On the front of the legs were broad, bruised impressions as if something had been

driven over them. The upper legs were livid and distended almost to bursting. A Mississippi police officer who also viewed the body said it looked as if Thompson had been beaten with barbed wire.

## Croppers

Sumter County is in the Alabama "Black Black Belt," and is fairly typical of the South-wide strip bearing that title. It has a population of about 23,000—three-fourths of whom are Negro. Generations of abuse to the soil have caused beef cattle to replace cotton as the county's chief resource. The shift has lessened the need for field labour and has further oppressed Negro "croppers" and "hands." Although, as one observer wryly phrased it, "every Negro with any get-up-and-go has gone," steady emigration has not been sufficient to curb increasing unemployment. The prevailing rate for Negro field labour is \$2 a day, "from sun to sun." Thus one is inclined to accept with a shrug the assertion by a local White that peonage and "rough stuff" are not as common as in former years. Violence of this sort finds its true basis, not in sadism or bigotry, but as a counterweapon to the sole protest the Negro can make: boycott. Caught in an economic squeeze, the Negro now has no choice but to work for the harsh master.

A White newspaper editor in the area described the New Look succinctly enough: "They promise the Negro a dollar and a half a day if he'll sharecrop on their place and work on their crop, too. They let him get his crop planted so he won't run off, then they cut his wages to nothing. They make him beg to work their land for just the bread to put in his mouth; they buy his crop from him and he gets just enough to 'pay out' on the seed and fertiliser they've sold him on credit."

## Exempt

The question may arise: Are not Sumter County and its ilk only decadent relics, not at all typical of the rest of the South? To some extent, yes. But their

potency and prospects of permanence are great. Sumter County's 23,000 souls have two representatives in the Alabama legislature. Jefferson County, which includes Birmingham, with 565,000 people, has only seven. The disproportionate strength of these rural areas becomes all the more fantastic when one considers that Negroes "just don't vote" there. It explains why agriculture is exempted from wage-and-hour and child-labour laws and workman's compensation setups, even though more and more farms are becoming sprawling corporation affairs and more farm workers are tenants and employees.

A courageous White Southerner of proven good will recently became owner of a large farm in Alabama. Negro tenants lacked glass in the windows of his house. He saw that one of his bought glass and urged the tenant to install it. But, suspicious of any gift, however great the comfort promised, the tenant politely but positively declined. Another tenant repeatedly borrowed a truck to drive to the crossroads store to buy canned collard greens. It was pointed out to him that the greens would grow very easily in his backyard.

He agreed, but he could not see the sense of bothering to raise anything but cotton. At baling time the farm owner suggested to the tenants that they place their cotton "on loan" rather than sell it when the market was glutted. But to them, the talk of warehouse receipts scented of trickery. He offered to pay them out of his pocket the present market value of the crop and give them later the additional amount gained when it was actually sold. But one of the more educated tenants advised against this plan, saying that they would be puzzled, and would always be thinking that he had "taken their cotton."

## Pathos

Multiply these small but heart-searing incidents; envisage them in their more commonplace, callous context. Depressing pathos

Continued on page 14



# MR. ATLEE'S GREETING

Our purpose in coming to China is to get to know you better and to increase understanding between the British and the Chinese peoples. We sympathised with the Chinese people in their long struggle against Japanese imperialism and against the forces of reaction in China and we wish well to New China. You have a civilisation much more ancient than ours and you have the task of making great changes in accordance with modern needs.

## Peaceful

In our younger civilisation with its different traditions we of the Labour Party brought in extensive changes in order to achieve the aspirations of the working masses of our country. We were able fortunately to do this by peaceful and constitutional means. But we had to deal not only with internal problems but also with external in particular with the historical position of Britain as a world power.

Acknowledging the rights of all peoples to govern themselves we recognised the rights of the Asian peoples to equality and we rejoice today that in the British Commonwealth of Nations, India, Pakistan and Ceylon cooperate with us and the older members of the Commonwealth on a basis of freedom and equality. Our Burmese friends chose independence outside the Commonwealth but we remain good friends. This same process is being carried out in other parts of the world notably in West Africa. But freedom which is essential is not enough. Just as we seek to raise the standard of life of our own people so we wish to help other countries to do the same.

## Happiness

We wish to see the scientific knowledge and technical skill developed in the West made available for all peoples. We know how great is the task which faces the people's Government of China in whose hands are the destinies of more than six hundred million human beings. It is part of our philosophy that every one of these has the right to as full a life as possible. The object of government

is not the power of the state but the happiness of individuals.

The differences between the Chinese and the British peoples in their history and their way of life are very great, but we would seek to think always of the things which unite us and not of the things which separate us. First of all is the desire for peace. We know how much China has suffered in war. We have had our sufferings in two great wars, the flower of our youth died. We endured many days and night of bombing in which in men, women and children died. We are resolved that wars must cease. Then there is the simple family life. As we see here in China the fathers and mothers and children we think of our own families at home.

The task of those who hold positions of responsibility in the world is to create conditions in which these families, of whatever race they may be, may live happy lives, free from the fear of war, free from the fear of hunger and free to think and act as they please while being conscious of the rights of others. It is not for us to offer advice to you as to how to deal with your problems, but you may be assured that if at any time our help and experience can assist you it will be freely given. We in our turn will hope to learn from you.

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# The 'Private' Press

Continued from page 6

it has become an unbreakable rule to refrain from political and religious discussions, the American house magazine editor has no such scruples. In America the house journal serves and promotes unashamedly the idea of capitalism, and anti-communist campaigns, for instance, are conducted on a nationwide basis with free material and illustrations supplied by interested bodies. The right of the American worker to be informed about all affairs concerning his company is expressed in surprisingly frank discussions of the company's financial situation. Labour disputes find unrestricted space in the journals of the companies concerned—the editor usually presents the case of both parties on opposite pages. The American worker is also informed of important law suits in which his company may be involved and the pertinent documents are reprinted with suitable comments in the company publication. The U. S. Government maintain close liaison with industrial editors and regard the house journal as a major outlet for government propaganda.

## Only Goodwill

In this country we have not yet reached this stage. The British house journal is an unpolitical and, in most cases, unprovocative instrument for the creation of goodwill, an instrument which is intended to throw a serene, mellow light upon a firm and its employees without creating shadows.

The rapid growth of the house journal movement as exemplified by the monthly-increasing number of new publications of this kind published in British industry, commerce and public services, and the rising number of members of the British Association of Industrial Editors, shows that Britain's private press is now being recognised as an important factor in employer-employee relations and one of the means to stimulate a better understanding of managerial and workers, problems and hence smoother work and greater productivity.

P. P. P.



# American Tariff On Watches

By WILLY BRETSCHER

*President of the Committee  
for Foreign Affairs of the  
Swiss National Council*

The following statement which we reprint with acknowledgements from the "Manchester Guardian" of August 12, 1954 indicates the extent of "altruism" in American policies. The statement is remarkable for its restraint and is of particular interest in Ceylon at the moment when the U. S. is endeavouring to act the Saviour.

The question of the American tariff on watches has recently been decided. President Eisenhower has ordered a 50 per cent increase, to become effective at once. In view of the present full employment and high degree of prosperity in the United States, no primarily economic reasons can have been responsible for this decision. Considerations of domestic policy must have played an important role.

With the Congressional elections ahead, the Republican Administration probably deemed it opportune to make a concession to the protectionist demands of a group relatively insignificant in economic respects but politically influential. Against the pressure brought to bear by these special interests no voice in support of general considerations and of the principles of a liberal trade policy—as expressed in the report of the Randall Commission, for example—as obviously been able to make itself heard in the right places.

## Disappointment

Swiss public opinion will learn of President Eisenhower's decision with deep disappointment and profound regret. This tariff increase means a heavy blow to the Swiss watch industry, a very important part of the economy of a country with a traditional surplus of imports from the United States, a liberal import policy, low tariff rates, and a convertible currency. The raising of the already high tariffs on watches, which constituted a heavy burden, as it was, on this main item of Swiss exports to the United States, implies a serious threat to this branch of the Swiss export industry, which employs no less than one tenth of the total Swiss industrial labour force. This fact, however, is over-

shadowed by the basic importance of the decision incompatible with the liberal trade policy time and again advocated by President Eisenhower himself, and—let us be frank—incompatible with the United States' present position of leadership in world economic policy.

## Marshall Plan

Had the United States returned to isolationism after the Second World War, it might be understandable if under certain circumstances even important foreign trade relations were sacrificed to the dictates of domestic politics. In the awareness of its unique position America, however, deliberately and emphatically accepted the role of world political leadership that fell to it as a result of its participation in the great struggle of the peoples. Nor has its Government hesitated since to place the large economic and financial resources of the nation at the service of its foreign policy.

With the Marshall Plan, a project probably unique in history, it embarked upon a singularly generous policy of raising up and strengthening the democratic world by economic means. Year after year the American Congress voted very large appropriations for this economic aid. Can one imagine a bigger paradox than that of a nation spending \$30 billions on economic aid for Europe, than turning around and inflicting a heavy blow upon a democratic small State by way of a measure of the narrowest high tariff policy, in order to "protect" three American watch manufacturing firms with an annual business total of \$90 millions and not in any demonstrable need?

## Ruthless

It is obvious that the importance of the Americans' business interests to be protected by the increased tariff rates is in no proportion to the importance of the watch industry for Switzerland. This typical Swiss export industry is being punished without any regard to the fact that this very source of income made it possible for Switzerland to buy goods freely in the United States. It is a case of reason shining by its absence.

It is even more depressing that with this measure that United

States ruthlessly jeopardises the economic strength of a country whose very existence has for centuries been a living testimony to the ideas of democracy and freedom as upheld by the United States. No one claims to know more than the Americans do about the interrelation between economic well-being and political stability. But where is the practical application of this knowledge? Where is political reason when a Government, seeking to strengthen the democratic regimes everywhere by means of great financial sacrifice deals a heavy economic blow to a nation which as a long tradition of developing and fortifying democracy from its own strength, and which constitutes an element of political health and stability in present-day Europe?

## Squeeze

A last question remains to be raised. What, in the face of this decision, are all those European countries to think which suffer from a so-called dollar gap and are constantly being admonished by the United States to earn more dollars through their own efforts, through an increase of their productivity, and through an increased effort to compete in the difficult American market? If the United States punishes with a tariff increase a country which has so far been successful with its product on the American market in spite of high tariff rates, the other European nations will have to tell themselves that obviously it would be dangerous for them to attract attention with their products in the American market.

In the long run, and perhaps not until after having learned a costly lesson, the Americans will have to realise that it is impossible to squeeze Europe between the Iron Curtain of the East and a Tariff Curtain of the West. The cause of free enterprise and liberal trade, based on the recognition of an international division of labour has been rendered a poor service by the decision just taken in Washington.



# NEW LANKA

The July issue of THE NEW LANKA contains some interesting articles, notably the one by Sir Ivor Jennings on "Lord Soulbury and Ceylon" and the one by Dr. P. A. Schilpp on "World Government: Mankind's only Hope".

In the first part of the article, Sir Ivor Jennings explains the background of the negotiations that led to the grant of Independence, and in the second part deals more specially with the contributions of Lord Soulbury to the peace and orderly government of the island. Referring to the scale of values adopted in Queen's House, he says, Lord Soulbury endeavoured to improve it in two respects. "First he has sought to encourage Art and Literature and indeed the creation of the Arts Council was due to his initiative. . . . In the second place, Lord Soulbury has encouraged social service. . . ."

## World Government

Dr. Schilpp's article invites attention to the disastrous fate of Mankind in the event of an atomic and bacteriological war and states that the formation of a world Government is the only way out of the present dilemma. It condemns the apathy and indifference of the peoples of the world—qualities which only encourage the warlike policies of their Governments. But what form the proposed World Government is to take and how it is to be achieved in the context of conflicting political and economic systems are questions to which his article provides no solution.

## Culture

An article by Lord Soulbury on "Public Libraries and Culture" will only succeed in confusing the intelligent reader. Although he commences the article with a satisfactory definition of the term culture he goes off at a tangent when he states:

"Apart from literature and the arts, it comprises laws, customs, habits and manners, dress and jewellery, food and diet, furniture, fabrics, sports, games and recreations."

Or take another priceless gem such as this:

"No, one would give an adequate account of the culture of France without some reference to her cuisine, or of the culture of England without mentioning cricket and football and fox-hunting."

Confusion becomes worse confounded when he states that Culture is, in fact, almost synonymous with civilisation. "It is a way of life which apart from literature and art, includes such things as hygiene and sanitation, the care of personal appearance, bodily fitness and cleanliness."

According to this definition it would seem that Shakespearean England, the Italy of the Renaissance, and the modern European countries have neither culture nor civilisation!

## Classics

Cecil Syers in his address to the Classical Association of Ceylon in "What I owe to the Classics" makes the usual pretentious claims in connection with the study of the classics by which is meant Greek and Latin. How far students of classics possessed these extraordinary qualities he enumerates with some loving fondness is a matter of dispute.

There is an interesting collection of epigrams from many languages in an article entitled "Epigrams" by Lucian de Zilwa and an illuminating statement by a group of experts brought together by the UNESCO to consider problems arising from a conflict of cultures.

This issue of the quarterly NEW LANKA like its predecessors has been carefully edited and we have no hesitation in commending it to our readers.

W. M.

## SUGAR TENDERS

Continued from page 3

performance bond). But the purpose of this article is to refer to the system and not to point parti-

cular instances which has resulted in losses to the Ceylon Government.

It may be a good thing in this connection if the practice that obtains now in India and other countries of the tenders being opened in the presence of the tenderers or their agents is adopted by the Food Department. This would make the system more foolproof than now and give less occasion for allegations to be made against officials of the Food Department.

These officials should also become more familiar with international trade practices if they hope to discharge their duties efficiently. *The fact that these gentlemen approach the problem of purchases in the spirit of government officials wishing to throw their weight around makes it possible for scheming businessmen and their agents to lead these officials up the garden path. There was recently a supreme example of this kind of bungling in a kind of barter arrangement with a unknown firm on the continent where the Ceylon Government has become the laughing stock of international trade circles.*

## BLACK MAN IN U. S.

Continued from page 11

obliges one to avert his eyes from the adult generation and focus on the young. For the current fight for an integrated public school system in the South is decency's main chance. Even if rural Negro children did not get any better formal education than before, the fact of their attending the same school as Whites would do much to dispel the blighting feelings of fear and "difference" that black understanding of their human rights and legitimate objectives.

The Black Belt barons are well aware of this threat and will not negotiate their own oblivion at the Supreme Court's bidding. Establishment of democratic schools will require all the pressure and encouragement the nation as a whole can muster. And, lest it be thought that the battle is purely a regional affair, let this coincidence be cited: the citizens of York, Ala., where Hubert Thompson's battered body lay in a funeral home morgue, last year completed a bond issue to build a textile factory which they hoped to persuade some Northern capitalist to operate.



## LETTER

# MRS. KOTELAWELA'S OBSEQUIES

The Editor,  
Tribune.

Sir,

There cannot be any truth in the story appearing in your columns of the 11th inst. that "Buddhist Priests" who attended Mrs. Kotelawela's funeral desired to perform Buddhist rites over her body and that the Prime Minister objected to it. In the first place Bhikkhus, (we have no priests in Buddhism), attend even the funeral of a Buddhist only on invitation. In the second place no rites whatsoever are performed over the body of a deceased person by Bhikkhus. The Pansakula ceremony is merely an offering made to the Bhikkus by the relatives of a deceased person.

Things being so, it is inconceivable that the Buddhist monks should have desired to perform any kind of rites or ceremonies on their own initiative.

Your columnist has omitted to mention another fact. That is, that the Bhikkhus were present at the Crematorium on invitation.

In fairness to those Bhikkus, I hope you will publish this letter.

Yours truly

Canal Road, Sudharna de Silva  
Dehiwela.

## ROBERT SENANAYAKE

Continued from page 1

our company law. Tomorrow we may have a heap of mushroom companies filing returns with Cabinet Ministers and other V.I.P.'s are directors in order to use their name to business advantage. This anomaly must be remedied immediately.

"Tribune" will keep its readers informed of developments in the affairs of EASTERN TRADERS LTD. and its "parent" company TRANS WORLD ENTERPRISES

LTD. "Tribune" may also be in a position to offer information about two partnerships, registered as business names by these two limited liability companies as partners, entitled EASTERN ENTERPRISE and EASTERN ENTERPRISES.

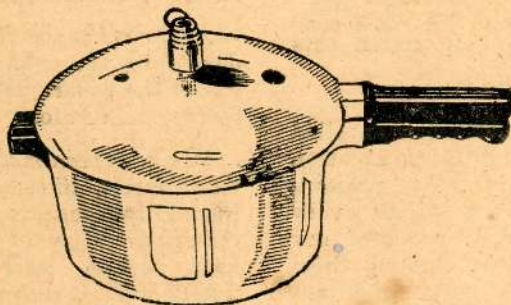
## SUB JUDICE

Sherlock Holmes, the faithful bloodhound of our columnist Serendib, has rushed in with a stop press sensation. It would seem that a certain limited liability company mentioned in this paper in connection with the affairs of the A. I. C. C. contemplates filing a civil suit for damages against "Tribune" solely for the purpose of endeavouring to make the transactions of the A. I. C. C. *sub judice*. It is also proposed by these ingenious gentlemen to herald this action with a major press campaign in defence of the A. I. C. C. in a certain section of the daily press. The action itself, Sherlock Holmes informs us, will be a blood and thunder one, but strangely enough one where the plaintiffs themselves will seek as distant a trial date as possible. These litigants, it is said, hope that in the year or more before the case is taken up for trial, the situation would be "different".

"Tribune" is well prepared to meet whatever plaint these gentlemen would care to file, and a press campaign in favour of the A. I. C. C. is something this paper would welcome for there is nothing like a good newspaper controversy to focus the spotlight on any matter of public interest.

However, we would request the powers that be not to be misled into the belief that a civil case concerning one limited company can make anything more than a little fragment of the affairs the A. I. C. C. *sub judice*. We still hope that wiser counsel will prevail and even this company would invite a probe into the A. I. C. C. —for that would be the best way of proving that there was no monkey business.

# PRESTO



## PRESSURE COOKERS

# CHOICE OF WOMEN THE WORLD OVER!



# FIVE THOUSAND COPIES

TRIBUNE is now in its fifth month of its existence. It is necessary, we believe, that we should talk a little about ourselves.

In this short period, it is no exaggeration to state, the TRIBUNE has created journalistic history at least in so far as a weekly paper is concerned. We first broke the news about investigations against Mr. N. U. Jayawardena, and when the archives of this period became available it will be seen that TRIBUNE had a great deal to do with the action the Government took with regard to this matter.

TRIBUNE also drew attention to certain facts and particulars about the London Loan and the controversy that arose on these questions is still not ended. We have also spotlighted the affairs of the A. I. C. C., the Rubber Commissioner's Department, and a number of other matters that are of paramount interest. Apart from such spotlighting and racket-busting, TRIBUNE has endeavoured to keep its readers informed on matters of the moment for which space could be found in our pages. And above all, we have succeeded, we are proud to declare, in maintaining the policy we proclaimed of being an independent non-party journal, interested in presenting news and views which certain daily newspapers, for reasons best known to themselves, choose to suppress or distort.

## Circulation

The surest test that our policy is being approved by our readers is fact that they continue to buy the paper and look forward to it every Saturday. TRIBUNE is not an organ of high finance: its resources are limited and its success and future depends entirely on its readers and its circulation.

Within the scope of our present resources, we have done what we could to make TRIBUNE available to as many readers as possible. We are, however, conscious that with greater efforts, better organisation, and more publicity, TRIBUNE will be able to get a far wider circle of readers than now. For one thing, TRIBUNE now mainly

circulates in Colombo. Apart from a few towns in the outstations, TRIBUNE has not yet been made available to readers outside the city of Colombo.

In Colombo itself, TRIBUNE has so far been read by those who are interested in Governmental, political and such other matters only and this is because we ourselves have concentrated on such topics. We now believe that the time is opportune to diversify the topics TRIBUNE dwells upon so that a greater variety and a larger number of readers are attracted to this paper.

*It may interest our readers to know that in the twenty weeks or so we have existed we have been able to establish a regular circulation of about 3000 copies a week, with 2500 alone in the city of Colombo. Some of our issues have often been completely sold out, and the returns on even our worst issues, from a circulation point of view, have been around 5%.*

This circulation has been achieved without undue efforts or expenditure on publicity. But now the time has come, we believe, that the effort be made to push up the circulation. Our immediate target is 5000 copies, and we appeal to our readers to help us in this matter.

## Subscribers

First, every subscriber enrolled builds up a bed-rock foundation for the circulation. At present, our subscribers list stands very near 400. We can be proud of our list of subscribers. Among them are some of the most important and influential in the land. Most of them of them come from the Upper Two Hundred—and it is our purpose that TRIBUNE should immediately enrol subscribers among other sections. Readers may be also interested to know that practically every foreign legation in Colombo is on our subscribers' list. Some legations obtain many more than one copy of the paper each week.

If every one of our readers will begin by enrolling one friend as subscriber our campaign would have the right kind of start.

Next, we ask the co-operation of readers to help us to build up an outstation circulation. Send us the names of the friends and acquaintances in the outstations who will be interested in reading TRIBUNE and we will mail them a few sample copies of the paper. And in each town where we are able to interest, a few readers we will take steps to appoint agents to sell the paper.

It is our hope that in the next four to six weeks we will be able to push our circulation up to 5000 copies a week.

## Advertisements

One reason why we wish to push the circulation to 5000 copies a week is because advertisers tell us that they will be interested in booking space in TRIBUNE only when its circulation reaches that figure. It is generally admitted that each copy of TRIBUNE is read by at least four or five persons on the average, and if our circulation reaches 5000 a week it would mean that at least 20,000 people read the paper. We have also decided to join the Audit Bureau of Circulation to have our sales figures audited and certified.

Advertisements are needed for developing the scope, size and quality of the paper. With advertisement revenue alone can it be done.

We have been made conscious, in recent weeks, directly and indirectly, that advertisements will be available if our policy in the matter of racket busting were "dropped". TRIBUNE is not interested in the advertisements of racketeers and we are convinced that there are a sufficiently large number of honest business houses and advertisers in Ceylon who will book space when TRIBUNE is able to reach the people in a manner that meets their requirements. In the matter of advertisements, a weekly paper is a better medium than even a daily in regard to certain goods and services meant for particular sections of the people, and TRIBUNE is convinced that ultimately a correct editorial policy will also mean the right advertisement policy.