

TRIBUNE

CEYLON NEWS REVIEW

Vol I No. 23

COLOMBO, OCTOBER 2, 1954

15 Cents.

A MATTER FOR INVESTIGATION

"Tribune" understands that high personages in the Government are now being persuaded not to order a probe into the affairs of the A.I.C.C. Undoubtedly, a great deal of pressure is being used to suppress an inquiry into this institution, but public interest demands that such an inquiry be immediately instituted.

One of the main charges that have been levelled against the A.I.C.C. is that its lawyers, Messrs. de Silva and Mendis, have not discharged their duties in the manner they should have. This is a serious charge and the truth or otherwise cannot be fully established unless a full scale inquiry is undertaken. In the public interest and in fairness to Messrs. De Silva and Mendis an inquiry is essential.

Two Companies

"Tribune" has already drawn attention to the affairs of two companies closely associated with Messrs. De Silva and Mendis, which have obtained loans from the A.I.C.C. The first company was NAVAM ESTATES LIMITED. This company was granted a loan on the mortgage of an estate which it purchased and sold, presumably at a profit, within a few weeks. The loan too was repaid as soon as the estate was sold, and we suggested an investigation was necessary to find out if the loan was utilised for speculative purposes or whether it was for

purposes within the scope of the A.I.C.C. Ordinance. Only a full inquiry can do this.

* Many readers have written into "Tribune" wanting to know the names of the Directors of the NAVAM ESTATES LIMITED. The directors are the following: Mr. P. Navaratnarajah, Advocate and a Director of Times of Ceylon Co. Ltd., Mr. N. Kumarasinghar, Advocate; Mr. C. Gilbert Jayasuriya, an assistant at Messrs. De Silva and Mendis; Mrs. Mary Winifred Martyn, wife of Mr. C. X. Martyn, presently of Messrs. De Silva and Mendis and the Deputy Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Times of Ceylon Co. Ltd., and formerly of the Judicial Service of Ceylon; and Mrs. Ada Beatrice Paronavitarne, wife of Mr. J. S. Paronavitarne, senior assistant in Messrs. De Silva and Mendis.

The registered address of NAVAM ESTATES LTD was first at 17 Chelsea Gardens, Colpetty and is now at 31 Flower Road both the residence of Mr. C. X. Martyn. At the time of the incorporation of the Company Mr. Martyn was in the Judicial Service.

Precedents

"Tribune" also drew attention to the loan of Rs.4 lakhs granted by the A.I.C.C. to GENERAL INVESTMENTS LTD, a company belonging to Mr. and Mrs. N. S. O.

Mendis. Mr. Mendis is a partner of Messrs. de Silva and Mendis and is also a Director of the Times of Ceylon Co. Ltd., Many questions of propriety arise when a State institution lends money to a partner of its own law firm, and "Tribune" is anxious that this matter be looked into with a view to healthy precedents and practices being established in regard to such matters in this country.

It is not possible for "Tribune" to launch on a full scale investigation, on its own, as the records of the A. I. C. C. are not open for public inspection. But, we may be able to reveal transactions which to say the least call for, investigation.

In our article on the affairs of the A. I. C. C. of September 4, 1954 we raised the question "whether the A. I. C. C. lawyers have, in any instance, had any interest direct or indirect, in the borrowers as well. A widespread belief is held that in a very large number of cases that Messrs. De Silva and Mendis, the A. I. C. C. lawyers, did have such interests. In the case of NAVAM ESTATES LTD their interest seems apparent". So also in the case of GENERAL INVESTMENTS LTD.

Impersonal

We are today able to reveal another instance of such interest of a more impersonal kind.

Continued on page 15



Notes from
New Delhi

DULLES,

MENON & KIDWAI

Diplomatic observers in the Indian Capital, are freshly intrigued by Dulles' recent unexpected trans-Atlantic races. Nobody seems to be sparing a guess here as to where this political upstart will begin his newest onslaught. Mister John Foster Dulles gives the impression of the proverbial bull in a China Shop. He talks loudest, travels fastest, acts madest. He seems to be trying to compensate the SEATO flop with a patched up EDC which, judging from European reaction, is equally illusive.

Not able to rope in Mendes—France, blind with frustration the US Secretary of the State has revealed himself to condescending to the worst European fears that he will arm West Germany even if the entire world is against such a sacrilege. To New Delhi it looks as if Dulles is capable of drawing on to the maximum patience of a convalescing war-torn Continent though it may mean no less harm to USA herself.

Menon

One of the wisest diplomatic appointments the Indian Foreign Ministry has so far made is the UN assignment to Krishna Menon. With civilian Rajeshwar Dayal's exit from the UN his entire team is being withdrawn and redistributed elsewhere. Not unexpectedly, the State Department of USA is unhiddenly critical of Menon's appointment as the head of the Indian Delegation at the UN Headquarters. Comments on Menon in the US Press have never been flattering. On the contrary he has been dubbed there as "pink", "red", "fellow-traveller" but the latest epithets showered on him surpasses all. For instance the influential *New York Post* headlines Menon's appointment as a serious "blow to USA".

A serious blow to USA? Why to USA? Menon's appointment is

not with Washington. It is with the UN headquarters. The American lobby in New Delhi is running presently a crusade against Nehru's foreign affairs righthand man and not a day passes without some slanders being floated around Menon.

American

On a visit to the Himalayan town Hardwar two days ago I met an American 'good-natured tourist complete with his handpainted Bikini-girl tie and movie-camera who asked me if Krishna Menon did not in the past write for London *Daily Worker*. "What of it if he did"? I replied to press it out. "And, you pretend he is not a Communist?"

The American (not certainly the average) way of logic is typical of MacCarthy and John Foster Dulles. The much read political commentator of the British owned *Statesman* has an illustrative anecdote this week to blast this logic. He writes:

"Some years ago an important Western diplomat in Delhi left for his successor a note saying that Mr. Kidwai was a Communist, with the result that the successor, who was even more distinguished than his guide, did not meet Mr. Kidwai throughout his two years' term in India, although he was on the most friendly terms with all the other senior Ministers and politicians."

Kidwai

Rafi Ahamad Kidwai comes into the present picture because he happens to be Prime Minister Nehru's closest colleague in the Cabinet. Not only that these two politicians are colleagues in the Cabinet but they have been most intimate friends ever since their

youthful days, since the time of Motilal Nehru when Kidwai grew up as a member of the great Nehru family itself.

The American diplomats are annoyed with Kidwai because presently he happens to be dealing with many Indo-Soviet issues like trade etc. As a Food Minister, when he rid his Ministry of what is popularly known as Munshite miscarriages, Nehru entrusted him with other important problems. Since Kidwai took over the Food Ministry he did away with red-tapism (he is quite famous for it) and brought the Russian tractors for the first time in India. Quick came many other things including technical experts for our vitalmost steel plant projects.

The Russian offers of assistance and their quick acceptance by India has infuriated our American friends and their scapegoat is unfortunately Rafi Ahamad Kidwai.

SHIBDAS BANERJI

September 19, 1954

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Rao Saheb M. Appalanarasiah,
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Maharanipeta P. O.
VISAKHAPATNAM 2.

WHO ARE THEY?

The term "stateless" is now being widely used in connection with the "Indian" problem in Ceylon. Just who are the stateless?

The term "stateless", in international usage, is used to describe persons who have no "nationality" in law and who are unable to claim the domicile or citizenship of any particular country. Refugees from countries, whose governmental systems have changed on ideological grounds, have usually constituted the largest number of persons who have been rendered "stateless."

Indiscriminate

But here, in Ceylon, the term is now being indiscriminately used to describe persons who are by no stretch of imagination "stateless". It is being used to describe persons of recent Indian origin and extraction who have not been able to get through the needles' eye of the provisions Indian and Pakistani Citizenship Act.

There is no dispute that these persons are legitimately in the country, and that they have been resident here for many many years engaged in one occupation or another.

I have endeavoured to trace some of these persons who are now branded as "stateless" to see what sort of persons they are and what claims they have to be regarded as permanent settlers in this country.

Sinhalese

The first instance to which my attention was drawn was by a Superintendent of an estate near Kegalle. He showed me the papers of a labourer working on his estate. He was an Indian in that his father had emigrated to Ceylon, but the labourer concerned was born in Ceylon in another estate in the same district.

He had never left Ceylon. All his life - at the time of the application for citizenship he was about 35 - he had lived and worked in

By

Our Political Correspondent

estates in the Kegalle District. He had married a Sinhalese girl working in the estate and had five children by her.

When his application for citizenship under the Indian and Pakistani Act came up for inquiry, it was found that "documentary proof" in regard to his residence and that of his wife and children was deficient in respect of a period of about two years. Oral evidence was given by estate authorities that the records like check rolls, labour registers etc for the period were not available as the ownership of the estate had changed hands and that the old owners had not left the books behind.

Not Satisfactory

Oral evidence of fellow labourers and villagers roundabout were led to speak to the residence of this man and his family. The

applicant, his wife and children spoke more Sinhalese than Tamil.

But his application was refused because there was no "evidence" satisfactory enough for the officer administering the Act regarding the "residence" of this man and his family. With the result, that this labourer, his wife and children are now "stateless".

The kindly Superintendent made attempts to find out if citizenship could not be obtained for this family through the fact that the wife was Sinhalese. But to do so, it was necessary to obtain her birth certificate and that of her father to establish that she was a citizen by descent under the Citizenship Act. The father's birth certificate was not available and this method of acquiring citizenship has also been denied to this family.

Factory Fire

Another Superintendent in the same district told me that all his estate records were destroyed in a factory fire in 1948 and that over 300 labourers and their families most of who have been on that estate for over thirty years (some having been born on the estate) were being refused citizenship on the ground that they had no "documentary" proof of residence although there were senior members of the clerical staff and others in the villages nearby who could give oral evidence testifying to the continued residence in that estate of these labourers.

I was also shown papers relating a person who was born in this island and who had never left its shores being refused citizenship because he had sent Rs 8 to India as a subscription for a magazine through the Exchange Control Estate Group Scheme which was open only to persons who claimed to be "temporary residents". The forms on which there remittance were made were in English and estate workers who knew nothing

FORMOSA

We also discussed Formosa. The Prime Minister had recently made a statement on the subject and was entirely frank in giving the Chinese point of view, which is that Formosa is an integral part of China and that the United States has no right to withhold it from them. I must say that I have every sympathy with them in this. I asked if the rank and file of the Chiang Kai-shek forces would be received into China and would not be victimised and I was assured that this would be so. As I have so often stated in public, I believe that the settlement of the Formosa question is vital to the establishment of peace in the Far East.

— C. R. Attlee

Continued on page 14

SNOBBERY

COMMUNITY—An Independent Quarterly Journal. July 1954

This is the second issue of a journal which as the cover page declares is devoted to "Society, Politics, the Arts and Fiction." In the range of activities it is meant to reflect, it has a much wider scope than any journal hitherto published in Ceylon and as such should be welcomed. The value of such journals should, of course, be judged on the simple criterion—whether the type of material that is presented really helps the reader whom they purport to serve. It is always customary to blame the short life of this kind of journals which have appeared from time to time here on the pigheadedness, the lethargy of an apathetic reading public. But after going through a magazine like the "Community" one wonders whether the blame has to be placed entirely on the reading public or on a certain kind of obtuseness on the part of those who are responsible for these magazines.

Pedantic

The purpose of criticism should be to stimulate an interest in literature and the arts rather than to deaden it, open up new vistas rather than make you run away from literature. There is something in Baudelaire's statement about criticism. "Criticism must be partial, passionate and political, that is to say, it must be written from an exclusive point of view, but from the point of view which opens up the widest horizons."

In a country like ours where higher education is parcelled out to a privileged few, magazines like this can serve a useful purpose in stimulating the interest of the common reader in books that are worth reading, in problems worth thinking about. But this is precisely what this journal does not do. Of all the materials presented, I can choose just a perfunctory note on Anton Chekhov in addition to a well written review of a book on music as serving an some useful

purpose. Apart from these, one feels repelled from both the literary and the political sections—particularly from the tone of high seriousness and pedantic solemnity which envelops most of the articles.

Snobbery

There are various forms of snobbery but I think the most subtle and hence the most disgusting is literary snobbery. There is a certain literary tradition which originating in certain academic circles in England has found its way to our midst and has entrenched itself here too. The result is that a few consider themselves the real disseminators of culture—a virtual strangulation of a free, healthy and vigorous interest in literature and the arts. This kind of monopoly also tends to breed complacency, a tendency to resort to the easy device of treading well-trodden paths, displaying old wares with spectacular window dressing.

As an article of a serious nature. I have nothing to say against Mr. Amirthanayagam's article on WUTHERING HEIGHTS... although I do not think that it was

Emily Bronte's intention to make human love a substitute for religious experience. She was intensely concerned with the reality of human love itself. And I am yet to be convinced that Myers's THE ROOT AND THE FLOWER of which the writer speaks approvingly is a novel at all. Philosopher Myers is exploiting the medium of the novel for expressing philosophical ideas. But my chief complaint is not that. Most of the readers, I am afraid, will give the article a wide margin. For, as I said earlier, apart from the specialist few for whom it seems to be written, an article on WUTHERING HEIGHTS is not such a significant event.

Abstract

The future of the English language in this country is not just an academic problem states the author of the first article LANGUAGE WITHOUT METAPHOR. But that is precisely what the writer has made it appear through his academic and abstract treatment. Insight is something different from erudition. The writer with a complacent, leisured air enters on learned discourses on metaphor, all of which could be had from more appropriate sources—books on Semantics. But in the course of these discussions he loses sight of

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"TIME" ON HOW IT WAS

June 28, 1954

The Turning Point. In such a sure-of-himself mood, Arbenz and his wife spent a sociable evening last December 18 with the newly arrived U. S. Ambassador John Peurifoy and his wife. The President, articulate and outspoken, set forth his views and aims in full detail. Peurifoy listened until 2 a.m. covering up his increasing amazement. Next day he wrote an urgent report to the State Department. It was never made public, but later events plainly indicate that it must have boiled down to something like this: "Maybe this man doesn't actually think of himself as a Communist, but he'll sure do until one comes along."

Career Man Peurifoy, who helped hold postwar Greece for the West, was in Guatemala as a troubleshooter. Earlier U. S. Ambassadors had simpler tasks; in the '30s, they simply kept contact with Dictator Ubico, who, as a great & good friend of the U. S. owned United Fruit Co., once marched troops into Guatemala's Congress to force the Deputies to pass a bill giving the firm a concession to its present Tiquisate banana plantation. Even under Arevalo, the notion of a Communist capture of the government was still far-fetched; if Arana had shot Arbenz (as he may have intended), the Reds would have been stopped.

As it was, they were neither stopped nor stopping and Peurifoy's report, bucked right up to President Eisenhower, signalled a

ARMS

Honduras openly granted bases to Castillo Armas, an act the U. S. could have stopped with a frown. Castillo Armas got money; the revolution must have cost well over \$1,000,000—perhaps as much as \$5,000,000. He got airplanes: four F-47 fighters and two C-47 cargo planes. He also got expert pilots to fly them.—

Time: 12-7-54

DONE

In view of the threat by the SEATO POWERS to intervene in the internal affairs of Asian countries, we are spotlighting the technique of internal sub-version as practised in Guatemala. Last week we published an account from the liberal New York weekly "National Guardian". This week we are publishing extracts from the "Time" magazine. These extracts speak for themselves.

sharp turn in U. S. policy toward Guatemala. Hand-wringing stopped and action started. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles himself formed the plan, and carried out its first step at the Caracas Conference of the Organization of American States: a resolution that Communist domination of a Western Hemisphere republic would call for consultation by OAS foreign ministers on moves to head off Red penetration. Guatemala's startling answer, in mid-May, was to import—under false manifests, on a Swedish freighter out of Stettin in Red Poland—2,000 tons of arms and munitions from Red Czechoslovakia. The shipment added up to more than all the arms received in all Central America in the previous 30 years; it completely upset the military balance of the area, and made some kind of blow off inevitable.

Tampering Fingers. A depressing number of Latin Americans (and North Americans), refusing to take Guatemalan Communism seriously, have long insisted that the State Department's alarm was only a pretext for some kind of intervention on behalf of the banana-growing United Fruit Co. Arbenz Foreign Minister Guillermo Toriello has made shrewd propaganda use of this. But Guatemala's explosive purchase of Red arms in such quantity made the Kremlin's tampering fingers visible to the

most myopic. Dulles further stressed that Communism, not the banana business, is the U. S.'s main concern in Guatemala. Said he: "If they gave a gold piece for every banana, the problem would still be Communist infiltration. The State Department brought up to date a 56-page documentary report on Communism in Guatemala, sent it to the hemisphere's chancelleries, and got hemisphere backing (except, of course, from Guatemala) for a consultative meeting of foreign ministers to be held in Montevideo around July 1.

July 5, 1954

The military assault that led to Colonel Arbenz' downfall was hardly a firecracker pop by modern standards. It consisted mainly of a miniature air war, waged by four obsolete rebel planes (see below). They worked so effectively that the 2,000 tons of Communist infantry weapons that Arbenz imported last month were worthless—and he had no fighter planes of his own. As fear and tension grew in Guatemala, it became plain that the Communist jig was up.

By Sunday morning of this week there were plain signs of defection in the army and the cabinet. Foreign Minister Guillermo Toriello called in U. S. Ambassador.

What If Was Like

Right up to the dramatic climax of President Arbenz' forced

Continued on page 11

TROUBLE SPOT

In cleansed but still restless Guatemala, pistol-packing U.S. Ambassador John Peurifoy created a little too much drama for a comfortable longer stay, or for a transfer to another Latin American country. Peurifoy, who was a sensationally successful Ambassador to Greece before his sensational success in Guatemala, is now slated for the embassy post in Thailand, another trouble spot.

—*Time: 6-9-54*

MAJOR BUNGLING

Extract from a speech in the House of Representatives by Mrs. Dorcen Wickremasinghe on July 28, 1954. The second and concluding part of this extract will be published next week.

I would submit that in the context of our present financial and economic situation, the government owes it to the country to take further stock of the achievements at Gal Oya, and its shortcomings, before they embark on any other such large scale schemes. This is necessary because many people, from the experience of Gal Oya, need to be convinced that American experts and contractors are predisposed to respect our need to economise on every cent spent.

There are others who are not sure that American schemes are the most suitable and there are yet others who doubt that they are technically sound.

Official Reports

I wish to spend the time allotted to me in this Debate to examine these views and see whether any of these fears are in fact justifiable. I shall base all my arguments on official reports of the Gal Oya Board or on the reports of the Director of Irrigation.

Hon. Members are already well acquainted with the objectives and history of the Gal Oya Valley project. A Parliamentary picnic party made some on-the-spot observations only last year. Ever since the idea was mooted, we have been given annual reports by the Board which have indicated to us its progress and any adjustments which have been made in the scheme as well as the increasing cost.

Unattainable

The whole scheme has been subjected to quite severe criticism since its inception, but I submit that it is only from last year's report, namely for 1952-53, that we are able to come to the conclusion on

the Board's own admissions, that the original objectives of the scheme are in fact unattainable.

AUDIT REFUSES TO PASS GAL OYA ACCOUNTS

The Auditor-General has informed the chairman of the Gal Oya Development Board that he is unable to certify the balance sheets of the Board because they do not present fairly the state of affairs of the Board.

It is understood that the Auditor-General has pointed out that:

- (a) The classification of expenditure disclosed in the balance sheets cannot be checked satisfactorily for want of adequate accounting records.
- (b) The balance sheets do not show the correct expenditure incurred by various government departments, out of their departmental votes, on the Gal Oya Scheme.
- (c) Owing to absence of proper records it is not possible to ascertain the correct value of machinery, spares, stores &c. in the Board's possession, or to rely on these records to verify stocks.
- (d) Payment for work done and goods purchased has been made without ascertaining whether the work was satisfactorily completed or whether the goods ordered were received.
- (e) Payments outside the scope of the Gal Oya Development Board Act and the rules framed thereunder, have been made; and
- (f) No reserves for depreciation, &c., as envisaged in section 23 (2) of the Act, have been provided....

Ceylon Daily News, August 16, 1954

I shall prove this from extracts from the latest report. Hon. Members are aware that the primary objective was to provide irrigation. One hundred and twenty-four thousand acres were to be irrigated. Secondly, hydro-electricity: ten thousand kilowatts were to be generated by four turbines. Thirdly, the area was to be freed from the danger of damage by floods.

Now six years have gone—as irrevocably as the tax payers' money,—since Dr. Savage, the American expert, approved of the scheme and told us that the best possible arrangement would be to hand it over to an American firm of contractors and engineers, which he named, to buy American machines and materials, to employ American personnel and get on with the job. This advice was taken wholesale and without even calling for tenders, operations began.

Achievements?

Now what, according to the latest report, of the Board, are the achievements? What are the successes? How much of the original plan has been found to be workable? From the latest report, the obstinate fact emerges that there is not enough water for the original objectives. There is not enough water for both irrigation and power as originally planned. If you want water for power at all, you must cut down irrigation. Put the other way round, if you want irrigation as originally planned, you cannot have any power.

To date, 21 miles of the main distributory channel have been completed on the left bank. Work on the right hand is still in the initial stages. A large surge tank of welded steel has been constructed at very great cost. Two of the four turbines have been installed yet not even one of these turbines can be worked if you are to feed both the left and right channels with water as originally planned.

Bunkum

The relevant section of the Report read as follows—it is, I think, rather difficult for anybody

Continued on page 12

SUGAR CONTRACT

By Our Commercial Correspondent

In my notes last week I stated that after the first firm which had quoted \$ 82/95 for the August 31 sugar tender had defaulted, the Food Department experts accepted the offer of another firm which had also sent in what appears to be a speculatively low price. Last week I mentioned that at the time of writing, this relatively unknown shipper had not established a Performance Bond.

I am now informed that a Letter of Credit has now been opened by the Ceylon Government through the Bank of Ceylon for the value of the order amounting to nearly £ 300,000 which is about Rs. 4 million. Instead of the Performance Bond, as far as I can gather, the local agent of this shipper has paid in a deposit of a little over a thousand rupees. A Performance Bond of 2% such as mentioned on the tender notice would amount to nearly Rs. 80,000.

Doubts

I am still to get further details of this transaction, but the price at which the shipper had contracted to supply the sugar makes me have a few doubts. It may be that I have a suspicious mind, but being familiar with the currents and under-currents in the world of commerce, I have every reason to be a little suspicious.

This firm has now undertaken to supply 10,000 tons of sugar to the Ceylon Government at low price. By the terms of the Letter of Credit opened the price is about \$ 84 per ton or very nearly £ 30. The world price is around \$ 89 at the moment. I do not see why a company should be anxious to want to supply the Ceylon Government at about \$ 5 per ton less than the world prices.

It may be that this firm has bought forward from some suppliers or producers at a very low price and will therefore be selling at a profit by selling to the Ceylon Government at 84.

On the other hand, it might just as well be that this firm has no supply in hand: that it quoted the low figure in the hope that the market would drop. It can now scour the markets backed by a firm order and a letter of credit to find the supply.

Quality

The danger in this situation is that the shipper may be tempted to supply a lower quality than contracted for. The Letter of Credit stipulates that Certificates re weight, Condition, quality and analysis by the General Superintendence Co. should be furnished. The General Superintendence Co is an internationally famous organisation of high integrity, but there is nothing to prevent a shipper from substituting a lower quality after the certificate has been issued.

In any case, it is worth while keeping in view this particular sugar contract. Will it be ever shipped at all? Will the shipper persuade our very obliging Food Department officials, as so often in the past, to extend the credit even after the delivery date has passed. In this case, the sugar is to be shipped in October, but if it is not, the shipper only stands to lose the Rs. 1000 odd, but he has had a chance to gamble with a £ 300,000 credit waiting for sugar prices to drop.

Past Experience

Even if the sugar is shipped after all, with my suspicious mind,

I cannot help but say that special care must be paid with regard to the quality of the sugar in this shipment (unless of course the world prices have dropped at the time of shipment). I believe that the Food Department has had previous experience in being saddled with bad quality sugar much lower than that stipulated in the contract. If my memory is correct, a shipment from a South American source was a spectacular case of a lower quality shipment. I believe that the local agents of that shipper had the capacity to pull a few political strings.

In the meantime, the next sugar tender will close on October 15 at noon. It is again for 10,000 long tons. I hope that the officials will this time follow the correct practice of opening the offers in every body's presence and accepting the lowest offer of a firm with proper bank credentials.

Officials

One of the greatest difficulties of the Food Department is that there are a number of permanent officials who acquired their "commercial" training during the days of the Civil Defence Department. Their methods and practices may be all right for war time, but now their technique of purchase may not be the most suitable or proper. It would be a good thing if the Minister made a clean sweep of a number of permanent officials both high and low who have been in food purchase for ten years or a little less, and transfer them to other departments.

Fresh blood is always good, and it does not take long before an averagely intelligent person picks up the tricks of the trade. Old officials too cannot forget war time contacts with businessmen of a certain calibre and in the present post war period it may be best that such friendships are not allowed to inhibit the working of the Food Department!

COMMUNITY

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Comment

INDIAN QUESTION

The forthcoming discussions in New Delhi are of historic importance. It provides an opportunity for arriving at a lasting solution to the vexed complication known as the "Indian" problem in Ceylon. It is imperative that such a solution should be found. The internal politics of Ceylon have been made unnecessarily bitter by difficulties centring around this question. Internationally, the enemies of peace in Asia find this pending dispute between India and Ceylon a convenient lever to bring about, if possible, illwill and hatred between the two countries.

Ceylon cannot afford to quarrel with India just as much as India cannot do so. A quarrel is unnecessary. And just as much as India should not attempt to interfere in the internal politics of Ceylon, this country should not adopt an unreasonable and inhuman attitude to the problem of the ten lakhs of Indian settlers and residents in this country. *The sins of British colonialism in bringing into this country workers from South India to open up plantations should not be visited on these workers who have long settled in this island and have no intimate ties with the country from which they emigrated.*

Man Power

Nor should Ceylon punish these workers who have contributed so much for the economic development of this island, and continue to do so, for the bankruptcy of the Government in being unable to work out an economic development plan to provide employment and occupation for the growing population. To think that the employment position can be improved by repatriating a certain percentage of these Indian settlers in dangerous thinking, economically and politically. Such repatriation may provide temporary alleviation, but unless a proper scheme of economic development is immediately put into force, the employment situa-

tion will be bad within a matter of weeks.

And, if a well co-ordinated scheme of economic development is devised and put into effect, it will be the easiest thing in the world to make provision for the man-power of those Indian settlers who have made this country their permanent home. And the man-power capacity of the Indian workers cannot be despised. They are a disciplined body of working people capable of great endurance and persistence, and these qualities will be invaluable for any development plan for the purpose of increasing the national wealth of this country.

Politically, to think that economic betterment can be effected through racial discrimination, segregation and repatriation skirts the thin line of demagoguery and fascism. It is being repeated *ad nauseam* by responsible politicians who should know better that repatriation of Indians is essential for the safeguarding of the Sinhalese race, Sinhalese religion and Sinhalese culture. Love of all things Sinhalese can be encouraged and developed even if there continue to reside in this island a few lakhs of settlers of more recent Indian origin than the Sinhalese. The danger in such slogans as "INDIANS QUIT CEYLON" is that tomorrow similar chauvinistic slogans "JAFFNA TAMILS QUIT THIS ISLAND", "DUTCH BURGHERS GO BACK TO HOLLAND", "MUSLIMS RETURN TO ARABIA" and the like will create a situation in this country which will spell disaster.

Simple

Nevertheless, the problem of the Indian settlers in Ceylon is a special one which can be reduced to simple straightforward issues. The primary question is what percentage of the "Indian" population in Ceylon should be regarded as permanent settlers. It is clear that the Indian and Pakistani Citizenship Act has not turned out to be

● NEW DELHI TALKS

● DEMOGOGY AND FASCISM

a just or effective method of determining those persons who have made this country their home. The anomalies in the Act and the unfair and rigorous administration of its provisions have reduced the Act to a farce. The first task, therefore, in New Delhi is to arrive at an agreement as to how the permanent settlers are to be determined. Such determination may be on the basis of numbers in an overall settlement, or on the basis of a principle which is fairly and justly applied. Once this has been agreed upon, questions of citizenship, franchise and the like in regard to these permanent settlers must be solved.

The second task, which is a corollary of the first, is to decide what should be done with those who are to be regarded as temporary residents. How many of them are to be permitted to continue in employment in Ceylon? And for how long? What rights will they enjoy? And, if and when they are asked to return to their country of origin, what facilities will they be accorded? Will workers, who have spent a lifetime in this country, be given gratuities and the like?

These are the questions that must be settled once and for all in New Delhi. With goodwill, toleration and understanding these matters can easily be settled. The danger, as far as the Ceylon delegation is concerned, is that the different groups composing it may pull in different ways for purposes of local political rivalries and animosities. But this dangerous pitfall can and must be avoided.

It is no exaggeration to state that the immediate economic and political future of Ceylon will largely depend on the outcome of the discussions in New Delhi. A grave responsibility rests upon the Ceylon Delegation. Furthermore, the Government of India and the Ceylon Government must realise that a "solution" which does not take into consideration the human problems of the Indian settlers and residents in the island will not be a solution at all. Such a "solution" can only lead to increased bitterness and rancour.

JUST BRIEFLY
by
SERENDIB

- G. G. DU CANE
- SECRECY FOOD PURCHASES
- B. C. C. DRUMS SURVEYING

THE TIMES' TRUST

The Political Correspondent of *Ceylon Daily News* showed his fangs last Saturday after a long while. His victim was Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam. The Member for Jaffna can give it back as much and as well as he gets it, and it is not my business to hold a brief for him. He can settle his score with his friend the Political Correspondent.

What interests me is another matter. In slanging G. G., the *Daily News* pundit stated that the former had been *ungrateful* because D. S. Senanayake and Lionel Kotelawela had saved him from ignominy about the TRAWLER-DU CANE affair in 1948. The comments teems with innuendos, but it is plain that what the Political Correspondent seems to be getting at is that Dr. Colvin R. de Silva's motion lost its sting because he could not produce the original or even a photostat of the letter in question.

The only inference I can draw from the paragraph is that Sir John, then plain John Lionel, had something to do with the missing original. The Political Correspondent now admonishes G. G., for being ungrateful to a person who helped him out in the DU-CANE affair.

The moral I want to draw is simple. The Political Correspondent was not and still is not interested in the truth or otherwise of the DU-CANE affair. He seems to be concerned only with the political advantage or disadvantage the DU-CANE episode has been put to. In 1948, the matter was suppressed to save a Minister from embarrassment, today it is being used to whiplash the same Minister for not being thankful enough that the matter was successfully hushed.

I am interested in the matter only because public interest demanded in 1948 that the matter be

probed. The DU-CANE affair is one of unsolved mysteries of Ceylon. Will Sir John order a probe at this late stage?

Mr. Sangarapillai

The death of Mr. Sangarapillai, the Chairman of the Times of Ceylon Co. Ltd., is a matter of some interest. He was a hard-working Jaffna man who had climbed up the difficult way and as the principal share-holder of the *Times* newspaper combine wielded a great deal of quiet influence on men and matters in this country. Though Mr. Sangarapillai was to some extent dependent on his advisers, he always had his way in many matters; but very rightly as some of the write-ups about him indicated that "if he trusted anybody—he trusted them implicitly". As in all human affairs, change is inevitable, and Mr. Sangarapillai has had different advisers at different times, but his virtue consisted in the fact that during the pendency of one set of advisers, he trusted them implicitly.

Mr. Sangarapillai's will, at least in so far as the control of the newspaper is concerned, is a matter of great public interest. It is understood that according to the will three of his fellow Directors on the Board of the Times of Ceylon Co. Ltd. have been made trustees. These gentlemen are Mr. N. S. O. Mendis, Mr. C. X. Martyn, and Mr. P. Navaratnarajah. These three gentlemen were reputedly the advisers of Mr. Sangarapillai for some time before his death. The will is said to have been written on the night before Mr. Sangarapillai died. Mr. Mendis was in Ceylon at that time.

A Trust

The contents of the will are yet unknown. But the public are entitled to know something about a

trust over a newspaper. Shareholders of the company too have some interest in the matter. There are several newspapers in England and other countries which are also founded on trust deeds, but in nearly all of them, conditions and other particulars of the trust are known and quite often the terms and conditions in particular trusts have been matters of controversy. In England, for instance, one of the big newspapers under a trust deed is forever being charged that it is anti-semitic because of certain provisions in the trust. This paper often has to defend itself by pointing out that clause does not relate to policy but some inner administrative arrangements like recruitment of staff.

There is one noteworthy fact about Mr. Sangarapillai's will so far as is known. Most men of wealth have a tendency to bequeath the wealth and the power that goes with it in the hands of the nearest kith and kin, but in this instance Mr. Sangarapillai seems to have cut out every member of his family from the Board of Trustees.

In Lake House, the power passed on to the two sons-in-law of the late Mr. D. R. Wijewardene, with three trustees to look after the interests of the minor son who has been bequeathed the principal shares. Mr. Sangarapillai has three sons-in-law, one on the staff on the University, the other in business and the third in the Medical Service. He also has a minor son and unmarried minor daughter.

I am certainly not enamoured of close family control of institutions like great newspapers concerns, but I am intrigued with Mr. Sangarapillai's will.

Food Department

The articles by the Commercial Correspondent of this paper have

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THE TIME' TRUST

Continued from page 9

set a number of officials in the Food Department agog. First, they wish to discover how the "leak" has taken place. Sherlock Holmes tells me that one official, in particular, who has climbed the ladder of success by reading the horoscopes of superior officers, has gone round accusing various persons of being responsible for the "leakage of information".

I do not see why anyone should be worried about "leakage"? The prices at which the Food Department purchases supplies and the manner in which these are purchased should be matters for public scrutiny. No doubt, when a tender has been called for, secrecy is essential until the tender is closed. But after that, the entire transaction should be made public, if there is a demand for the same.

And, if the Food Department desire to enshroud their activities in secrecy, then it is time that a little light is thrown on the workings of this Department.

Rubber Commissioner's Department

Another trading department of the Government that needs a little looking into is the Rubber Commissioner's Department. I have spotlighted the activities of this Department because a large percentage of the foreign trade of this island is handled by this Department, and it is in the public interest that such a Department should function efficiently and without being vitiated by unfair practices and corruption.

The coconut oil drum disclosures made in this paper has evoked an indirect "reply" in the *Ceylon Daily News*. A Staff Writer went to the rescue of the B. C. C. Ltd, which enjoys a monopoly of the drums and therefore the oil sent to China, by stating that Ceylonese should not "sulk but set about making the double-edged drums made by the B. C. C. The writer did not trouble to find out if the B. C. C. drums were in any way

superior to the other variety now manufactured by certain Ceylonese shippers. I am told by a person who knows that the B. C. C. drums are in no way superior and that during the war the British Ministry of Supplies accepted coconut oil packed in both type of drums and paid the same price for both.

The Staff Writer also did not bother to appreciate the fact that increasingly importers are buying oil in bulk, and that it would be only a matter of time before China too builds up bulk storage facilities. In these circumstances, the advice to Ceylonese shippers "not to sulk" but to sink large amount of capital to manufacture the B. C. C. type of drum is an invitation to disaster.

Surveying

A friend of mine, whose work takes him frequently to different parts of the island, tells me that he has recently seen American

gentlemen in American cars surveying our roads at widely different points. He has seen such surveying teams on the Avissawella Road, on the Kandy Road, on the Trincomalee road, on Galle Road south of Kalutara and in Batticaloa. What are these gentlemen doing this for? On whose invitation are they doing it? Or have they got the permission of our Government this?

If such permission has been obtained, why was it given? Can our Survey Department not handle the job properly?

In the context of present world politics, one is driven to the conclusion that these surveys by American gentlemen is for military purposes. Is Ceylon to be turned into a military base?

This surveying by American gentlemen must be matter of query by members of the Government Parliamentary Party and by Members of Parliament.

Subscribers Copies

A number of our subscribers have complained that they have not received certain issues of the *Tribune*. In spite of the fact that we check and re-check the copies sent out to subscribers and take great care in the posting of these copies complaints continue to come in. In these circumstances, the only inference that can be drawn is that these copies have been lost in transit. Undoubtedly, there seem to be people whose anxiety to read *Tribune* compels them to "pinch" or "borrow" copies sent by post. Subscribers have informed us that copies have arrived a few days later with tell tale signs that they had been read in transit.

We despatch copies to reach our subscribers on Saturdays. It is just possible that we may miss certain outstation mails on Fridays and in which event these outstation subscribers will get their copies only on Mondays.

We would kindly request our subscribers who fail to get their copies on Saturdays (and Mondays in the outstations) to report the matter to us immediately as well as the postal authorities. We ourselves will take up the matter with the postal Authorities.

Manager,
TRIBUNE
109 2/5, Dam Street' Colombo.

"Time" On How It Was Done

Continued from page 5

resignation, the war in Guatemala was a strange, onesided air war, fought by three mysterious F-47 Thunderbolts and an absurd little Cessna sports plane, all under the command of the leader of the anti-Communist rebels, Colonel Castillo Armas.

The F-47s, probably operating from Nicaragua, functioned as a strategic air force, doing the relatively heavy jobs. For two days they bombed and strafed Chiquimula, a provincial capital (pop. 9,000) at the south end of the 130 mile front paralleling the Honduran border. After that Castillo Armas' guerrillas walked in, took the town without resistance, established headquarters, and set up a provisional government.

Tactical Air. The Cessna, at times flying so low it scratched its belly on the treetops, was the rebels' tactical airforce. It dropped antipersonnel grenades on the city of Zacapa, and the government began evacuating civilians. A Thunderbolt worked over a troop train near by and stopped it. Soldiers leaped from the cars and melted into the countryside; some of them reportedly went over to the rebels. In Guatemala City, meanwhile, F-47s poured bullets into the vitally needed Shell gasoline storage tanks, and 40,000 gallons squirted out. One of the five forts that

guard the capital was bombed and set on fire. Arbenz' emphasis, in his radio talk, on how much the air attacks had hurt, was eloquent restatement of an old principle: in air war, as in poker, a low hand can win the biggest pot when the opponents hold nothing at all.

July 12, 1954

Guatemala

Colonel Carlos Castillo Armas, the deadpan little insurgent who overthrew the pro-Communist government, of Guatemala, came back in triumph last week to his country's capital. Guatemalans greeted him with firecrackers kisses and backslapping embraces. At the buntingdraped central plaza, where 20,000 people yelled themselves hoarse, a huge picture of the rebel leader hung from the palace and cathedral bells pealed joyously. Later as he had said he would, Castillo Armas dined in the palace.

Castillo Armas was not yet boss. In peace negotiations, the presidency of the ruling junta had been won temporarily, by a fellow officer and an old schoolmate, Colonel Elfege Monzon, who had taken the leading part in the palace revolution that followed Castillo Armas' armed invasion. But the crowd went wild for Castillo Armas alone.

How much did the U. S. have to do with the turn of events? No matter who furnished the arms to Castillo Armas, it was abundantly

clear that U. S. Ambassador John E. Peurifoy masterminded most of the changes once Castillo Armas began his revolt. It was he who helped spot the phoniness of the first palace change, and it was he who saw to it that the new government was solidly anti-Communist.

A Doublecross. At the beginning of last week. President Jacobo Arbenz * who had persisted in typical, Communist butchery

* Two months ago, Ambassador Peurifoy, asked about the Arbenz regime's prospects, had quipped:

"We are making out our Fourth of July reception invitations, and we are not including any of the present administration."

in his last days in office (see below), had stepped down in favor of Colonel Carlos Enrique Diaz, chief of the armed forces. But Castillo Armas, convinced that Diaz was just a front for Arbenz, had said as much by going on with his war, notably by bombing Guatemala City's Matamoros Fort. Peurifoy agreed heartily with Castillo Armas' action. The ambassador had learned that under a cover of vocal anti-Communism, the doublecrossing Diaz was letting Arbenz' Red advisers run to safety. Diaz was clearly no change. Peurifoy got in touch with Monzon known as an outspoken anti-Communist.

The bombing, meanwhile, had knocked the fight out of Diaz. At 2 a. m. he phoned the ambassador. "Senor Peurifoy," he said, "please come to my house." With a .38 Colt in his shoulder holster, Peurifoy drove through the empty, fear-haunted streets to the armed forces headquarters, where Diaz was staying. Diaz brought up a plan to talk peace with Castillo Armas in the neighbouring republic of El Salvador. But even as they talked, other officers in the next room were openly grumbling that Diaz ought to be booted for his softness to the Communists. Uneasily aware of this, Diaz abruptly stood up and went in to stall them.

HOW THE BANANA GOT ITS GOLDEN COLOR

From the Bureau of Investment Research of Eastman-Dillon, one of Wall St.'s biggest investment houses:

"The stock of the United Fruit Co. is probably one of the least appreciated among the better grade investment issues because of the tendency to over-emphasize the few negative factors surrounding it rather than stressing its strong basic features. . . . A small uncultivated acreage in Guatemala was all that was expropriated. . . . [The company] has less than 15% of its total productive acreage and 10% of the value of its tropical assets [located in Guatemala]. . . . The Company's financial position has never been stronger. . . . [It] has enjoyed an outstanding record of consistently good earnings and dividends over a long period of years. Dividend payments have been uninterrupted since 1899 when it was originally organized and have been generally liberal. . . . [Eastman-Dillon expects its regular \$ 3 dividend will be declared this year] plus an extra of at least 50c a share."

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MAJOR BUNGLING

Continued from page 6

to believe the facts I wish to give today if I give them merely in my own words' therefore I wish to quote on the relevant passages in the Report:—

"The only method of making power available through the year without jeopardising a full supply of water for agricultural development, is to alternate full irrigation the right and left bank areas in maha and yala cultivation seasons respectively."

But that is not all. We are now told that the idea of having four turbines in order to supply power for sugar and other industries is all bunkum. Even if you cut down your water supply for irrigation, still you cannot use four turbines. There is just not enough water. I quote from page 81 of the Report:

"Another point much in evidence from the figures of inflow and draw-off of water, is the certainty that the installation of future units cannot appreciably increase the output of power at Inginiyagala. At the most, installation of a third turbine to meet interruption for maintenance and repair seems all that may be found to be necessary."

Less Promising

Four costly chambers have been already installed. One is not to be used at all. The third may be used if at all, as nothing more than a luxury spare. Just how very wide of the mark were the plans for hydro-electric power at Gal Oya can be seen from the confessions now made regarding the power for industry there. According to last year's Report, there was too much power. The Board was at a loss to know what to do with it. So they decided to link up with Norton Bridge in order to augment the supply there. But what does this year's Report say? I shall read it to you—it is on page 83:

"Any undertaking to feed large quantities of power in to the Island's grid or to large-scale industry, cannot be met from the plant at Inginiyagala."

On the contrary, the need for a link up with Norton Bridge is urged for the very opposite purpose: na-

mely, to augment the supply at Gal Oya! It tells us so quite categorically on page 8:

"Power generation is less promising than it has hitherto been made to appear. . . . The necessity for the link-up with Norton Bridge therefore merits emphasis if a more extensive programme of industrial electrification which the Board has planned, and has proceeded to execute is not to be wasted effort."

Let-Down

Even that is not all. To crown everything, we are told that even if irrigation is curtailed even then we cannot rely upon the supply of hydro-electric power at Gal Oya. The Report gives us the warning:

"There can be no question of the replacement of the thermal plant by hydro-electric power. On the contrary, the thermal plant will continue to be necessary in order to assure a steady total output of power as potential water power is very irregular. Even with the link-up to the Island's grid, it must be maintained as a stand by, if the observation in the World Bank Report receives attention."

Now, Sir, this is a real let-down. According to Dr. Savage, as reported in Sessional Paper IX of 1948, "combining irrigation with hydro-power will give a revenue sufficient to maintain the scheme and derive a small return on capital." In view of these facts, how can the hydro-electric aspect of the Gal Oya Project be described as anything else but a dismal and a most costly failure?

Floods

Let us look at the third objective, that of flood projection. How far has the scheme succeeded there? Even after the completion of the bund there have been floods which have caused considerable damage, showing that here too expectations have not been fulfilled. These are apologised for in the latest Report in the following words:

"The king-pin in the scheme for reducing floods in the Valley is the dam at Inginiyagala. . . . but it was unfortunately not initially publicised as being only the first

phase in the task of freeing the the flower basin from floods."

Plans for detention reservoirs on the tributaries are now realized to be necessary, but Dr. Savage did not predict they would be. He thought of the main reservoir only. The Sessional Paper just quoted records that Dr. Savage's conclusions definitely say that protection would be afforded "so that the cultivators in these areas can work these fields with the rains without any fear of flood damage." Clearly then, flood protection just like hydro-electric power has not come up to expectations at Gal Oya. And for the best a partial success can be claimed for the project on behalf of irrigation. The Americans gave us a unitary purpose project but charged us for a multi-purpose one. And what has it cost us? I am told that a family settled under the scheme has cost the taxpayer of this country something around Rs. 22,000. If this is wrong, I am sure a whole chorus of voices of Hon. Ministers on the other side of the House will correct me.

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SNOBBERY

Continued from page 4

the essential issues. And there is a tacit assumption underlying the article that everything is all right with the vernaculars, particularly Sinhalese. In the end the writer boldly passes the baby (culture, I mean) on to bilingual graduates from the University. One is reminded of a statement made by Yeats about Wordsworth—that "after a period of brief blossom; he was cut and sawn into planks of obvious utility". Our graduates, too, are being cut and sawn into planks of utility, in this case, the planks of the Government Service, the chief organ of public utility.

Disappointing

It is the political notes that are most disappointing and I wonder whether the writer of these notes can escape the responsibility for these dull pedantic outpourings

under the pretext that he is Talking Shop. I am not quarrelling with the "good aim" of these notes, to resuscitate the liberal tradition. But the writer seems to forget that a number of sizable devils have been chased through weapons like irony and satire. Most of these notes read like a sermon. I suppose it is not a matter of mere coincidence that the writer concludes his notes by quoting from the resolutions of the National Christian Council!

What about the sections devoted to creative writing? Although most of these efforts are unsuccessful (Mr. Patrick Fernando attempts to rise to religious ecstasy on the wings of T. S. Eliot and the short story of Mr. Silva fails to move us though he writes movingly of the Indian labourer on our estates), I

prefer these failures to the learned discourses on politics, on language etc.

If critical journals cannot stimulate new interests, help the readers to new discoveries, they have no right to exist. Particularly in the context of our society there is a great need to open up the Modern European Literatures to the genuine Swabasha enthusiast and the bilingual products from our schools and University. But for that, those who are responsible for magazines like this, should step down from their celestial heights of omniscience and bring their activities into close relationship with the needs of the community. Perhaps it is apt to quote in this connection a passage from Matthew Arnold about Men of Culture "The great men of culture are those who have a passion for diffusing, for making prevail, for carrying from one end of society to the other the best knowledge, the best ideas of the time, who have laboured to divest knowledge of all that is harsh, uncouth, difficult, abstract, professional, exclusive to humanise it."

M. I. K.

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"Time" On How It Was Done

Continued from page 11

Peurifoy waited, thoughtfully checking his pistol as the argument in the next room got to the explosive stage. Then an outside door burst open, and Colonel Monzon entered with two other colonels. They said nothing as they strode through the room to join Diaz and others, but one of the men slapped his holster significantly. Diaz, with a Tommy gun in his ribs, was unceremoniously escorted to a side door. Monzon reappeared. "My colleague Diaz has decided to resign," he explained suavely. "I am replacing

him." That was an authentic change, and Peurifoy energetically set to work arranging for peace talks in San Salvador.

A Bleak Deadlock Next day Castillo Armas and Monzon flew to San Salvador for the first meeting in the gingerbread presidential palace. In high hopes, the two old friends started talks at 3 p. m. But twelve hours later, there was only a bleak deadlock. The issue: Which of them should take top power and responsibility?

Sleepless Jack Peurifoy learned in alarm of the impasse and caught a plane to San Salvador. Looking like a dashing sportsman in a green Tyrolean hat and checked jacket he talked separately with Monzon and Castillo Armas (whom he met there for the first time), then brought them together. He hammered home the idea that the good of Guatemala demanded a compromise. The proud colonels began to give ground, but it was

5 o'clock the next morning before they sat down under a crystal chandelier and signed a temporary power-sharing agreement.

Next Crisis. For Peurifoy, two crises were past, but another will follow soon. The colonels' agreement left Monzon heading a junta of five officers—two of his own followers plus Castillo Armas and another rebel colonel.

PREMIER

It was said of a notable character, one of the Dukes of Devonshire, that he dreamt he was addressing the House of Lords and woke up to find that he was.

Judging from some of his recent statements on foreign policy it is difficult to discover whether Sir John Kotelawala's confused and contradictory utterances proceed from somnolence or sonority. There is a sort of Alice In Wonderland touch about them which makes the onlooker wonder who at any one given time is speaking...the White Rabbit, the Cheshire Cat, the March Hare or the Mad Hatter.

Sir John should stick to his last. On domestic politics, he is knowledgeable and sound, even impressive. But in the political ways of the world outside Ceylon he is sadly out of his depth. One of these days he may find himself drowning in company stranger than he suspects with no one within halloing distance on land, sea or in the air. There is such a thing as being taken for a ride. And the phrase is not made in Ceylon.—"Ariel"—in *Men and Matters Column - Times of India*.

Who are they?

Continued from page 3

about what was on the form sent money through the scheme, and are now being refused citizenship because they had unwillingly described themselves as "temporary residents."

Indecipherable

And, the last instance, I wish to refer to this week is a case of a person whose application has been refused because the signature of the Justice of the Peace who attested the application was held to be indecipherable. I am told that a large number of persons are now being refused citizenship on this ground.

If this is the kind of person who is being rendered "stateless", the proper thing is to inquire into the working of the Indian and Pakistani Act. Those who know something about its administration seem to be convinced that it is a veritable farce.

SHANGHAI

Shanghai had formerly a very indifferent reputation for law and order. Formerly no woman would have thought of going out by herself at night, but Europeans told me that they had not the slightest hesitation in allowing their wives and daughters to go anywhere, while nowadays also they had no fear of burglary. By whatever means somehow a stern, almost puritanical, code of morals is enforced. Bribery and corruption in the public service are not tolerated, offenders are severely dealt with while sexual offences entail a very heavy penalty.

The manager of a big enterprise told us that pilfering is now unknown. All this is very remarkable and is apparently brought about largely by the voluntary action of the individual citizens who regard these old evils as due to a past regime and their committal today as being unworthy of the New China.

But this puritanism is not incompatible with gaiety. Shanghai is full of theatres and cinemas. While we were there an old Chinese love story, "The Butterflies," was being played in 15 houses three times a day. We heard an admirable concert with an excellent orchestra and choir with instrumental and vocal solos. In addition to Chinese numbers there were renderings of Chopin and Beethoven.

C. R. ATTLEE

A MATTER FOR INVESTIGATION

Continued from page 1

On 30. 12. 50, by deed No. 2806 attested by Mr. J. S. Paranawitarne, the Ruanwella Tea Co Ltd., transferred Ruanwella Estate and Kapuwella to Messrs. AMALGAMATED GRAPHITE LTD. for a sum of Rs. 750,000. As it is the proctors of the purchasers who draw up the deed of transfer, it must be presumed that Messrs. de Silva and Mendis, on whose behalf J. S. Paranawitarne attested the deed, were the lawyers for AMALGAMATED GRAPHITE LTD.

Mortgage

On the same date, on 30. 12. 50, by deed 2807 also attested by Mr. J. S. Paranawitarne, the A. I. C. C. lent Rs 300,000 to AMALGAMATED GRAPHITE LTD. on a primary mortgage of Ruanwella and Kapuwella Estates.

In this instance, Messrs. De Silva and Mendis were presumably acting on behalf of the A. I. C. C.

SHERLOCK SPECIAL

Sherlock Holmes reports that a senior official in the Ministry of Commerce has caused the books of the Rubber Commissioner relating to the period of the MYSTERY RUBBER DEAL to be locked up in a safe. This is excellent. The official also took care that no white ants were locked up in the safe with the books. This is even better. But, it is not enough to impound the books. A probe must be ordered and suitable action taken thereafter.

Sherlock also informs us that the Ministry of Agriculture and Food is taking steps, after the articles in TRIBUNE about sugar purchases, to change the system of tenders completely. Details are not yet known, but Sherlock has reason to believe that the suggestions of Our Commercial Correspondent will be given serious attention.

Again, on the same day, 30. 12. 50, by deed No. 2808 attested by Mr. J. S. Paranawitarne, Messrs. Keel and Waldoek lent a sum of Rs. 100,000 to AMALGAMATED GRAPHITE LTD. on a secondary mortgage of Ruanwella and Kupuwella estates.

Loan

It may be of some interest to note that AMALGAMATED GRAPHITE LTD were, by deed No. 338 of 17. 12. 52, attested by Mr. Derrick Koch, granted a loan of Rs 170,000 on the mortgage of Sri Lanka Mills, Madampe.

In fairness to Messrs. AMALGAMATED GRAPHITE LTD., it must be stated, that the two loans obtained by them seem to fall well within the scope of the aims and objects of the A. I. C. C. This company is undoubtedly running the two estates, and has not only repaid the entire loan to Messrs. Keel and Waldoek but also has kept up its instalments for repayment of the A. I. C. C. with unfailing regularity.

In this case, what must be investigated is not whether Messrs.

AMALGAMATED GRAPHITE LTD were properly given the loan, but whether Messrs. de Silva and Mendis acted properly. No doubt, a proctor can act for two parties by consent of parties; but here in this case where one party is a State institution lending money voted from the public revenue, the responsibilities and duties imposed on its lawyers become greater and more onerous.

Investigate

In view of the allegation that has been widely made that it was almost impossible to get a loan from the A. I. C. C. if one "did not go through" Messrs. de Silva and Mendis, this aspect of conduct of this firm of lawyers needs investigation. It must be remembered that this same firm of lawyers, Messrs. de Silva and Mendis, are also the lawyers for other state institutions like the Housing Loans Board and the Lady Lochore Fund.



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INDIANS IN CEYLON

In the matter of repatriation of non-nationals it is difficult to understand why the Indians alone are particularised. I presume the other nationalities are being measured with the same measure. However that may be, there appears to be a good deal of confusion as to who Indians are. Repatriation can only be with regard to Indian nationals. Now who are they?

Practically all the Sinhalese came from India. Then during the last two thousand years Indians have come and settled down in Ceylon and became citizens of this country, but racially they continued to be Indians. During recent times Indians came and settled down here during the last fifty years and never looked back. Their children were born here and never saw India. Owing to ignorance or folly they did not register themselves as citizens under the Act. They never had a temporary residence permit. Now technically they are Indians. These people amount in number to six figures and live largely in urban areas. Is it just in human to ask them to go back. They have lost all touch with India and considered themselves citizens of Ceylon and abandoned their connection with India. Repatriating

them is a wrong crying to heaven for vengeance.

Then there are those who applied unsuccessfully for citizenship. They have been here for years and failed owing to the unjust manner in which the Act was worked. Surely it is not right to chase them away. They came to Ceylon without any objection at a time when every one was allowed to settle down freely. It is not fair that they should be penalised by a law recently passed.

Finally there are certain T.R.P. holders who have been here for over twenty years without any objection. They are old and unable to do any business in India. They have no property in India. To ask them to go away at once is to cause them great hardship.

Indians must no doubt go but the large majority of these in Ceylon are Indians by race but they are citizens of Ceylon by effluxion of time. Years ago they decided to become Ceylonese. Curiously enough they are not represented at the forthcoming conference. Their case will therefore go by default. The Government of Ceylon should take a humane, just and commonsense view of the whole question. To take action with the ulterior object of disfranchising and rendering jobless a large section of people is extremely unfair.

Yours truly,

PARAGON

Colombo,

28th September, 1954.

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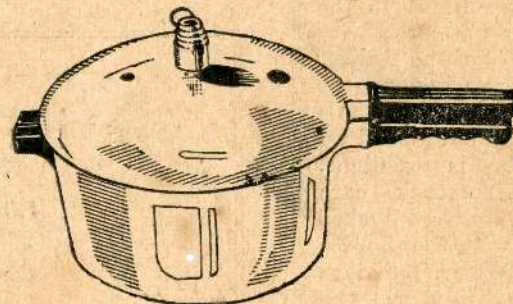
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