

TRIBUNE

CEYLON NEWS REVIEW

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CEYLON ENVOY FIGHTS

U. S. BULLY TACTICS

Some weeks ago, a Special Correspondent in Djakarta in Indonesia sent us a brief resume of the story we publish on this page today. Owing to the serious nature of certain implications arising from the story, we wrote to our Correspondent to furnish us with a more detailed account of the incident with whatever "proof" that was available to substantiate it.

We received the same a few days ago. Further, the Hon. Mr. A. E. Goonesinha, who was the Ceylon Envoy in Indonesia, was in Colombo en route to his new station in Burma, and "Tribune" took the additional precaution of asking him for confirmation. Mr. Goonesinha told us that the story sent by our Correspondent is correct in every detail.

vacate them according to an information given by the Ceylon Legation to-day.

Roof Removed

"In order to expedite the eviction of the present occupants, it is understood, that the American Ambassador yesterday ordered the removal of the roof over the premises at 5 Medan Merdeka Selatan. The occupants, including a number of children, were put to great inconvenience yesterday night and it is very fortunate that dry weather prevailed throughout the evening.

"Several complaints were received by the Minister for Ceylon in Indonesia from Ceylon nationals who are presently living in those premises and a note of protest has been addressed by the Ceylon Minister to the U. S. Ambassador in protection of the interests of the Ceylonese subjects in Djakarta.

"Legal opinion has been sought and action is proposed for criminal trespass and mischief against Mr. Hadji Mohamed bin Hadji Abdullah of Menteng Pulo, Pembangunan Kubur, Djakarta who removed the tiles of the roof of the premises occupied by these

nationals; the Legation announcement said."

The incident which moved the Ceylon Envoy to protest to the American Ambassador related to an attempt made by the Americans to oust two Ceylonese families by methods that remind one of Al Capone and other famous Chicago mobsters.

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The story concerns the American Embassy in Djakarta and two Ceylonese families. On June 25, nearly all the papers in Djakarta carried this news. The following is the text of what was broadcast over the Indonesia State Radio.

"The Ceylon Minister", stated the broadcast, "protests to the U. S. Ambassador, Djakarta on June 24th. With the purchase of premises No. 5, Medan Merdeka Selatan by the American Government, the present occupants of those premises have been asked to



.....condemned american methods.....

CEYLON ENVOY FIGHTS U. S. BULLY

TACTICS

But this protest of the Ceylon Envoy and the press reactions in Indonesia throw a curious light on the tactics of the Americans who think that the Dollar entitles them to play the bully.

The *Times of Indonesia*, which our Special Correspondent, describes as the VOICE OF AMERICA IN INDONESIA, rushed to the rescue of the American Embassy to counter the repercussions to this episode. In a laboured editorial on June 28, 1954, the *Times of Indonesia* set out the case for the American Embassy and attempted to blame the Ceylonese for not wanting to move out; but even this paper could not but help declare . . . " . . . the (American) Embassy is legally culpable and, despite its protestations to the contrary, there is good ground for

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TIMES OF INDONESIA
Without fear or favour

MONDAY, JUNE 28, 1954

The Belaguered Seven

The letter to the Editor of the *Times of Indonesia* published on June 28, 1954, by Mr. I. M. Gomes and his brother Mr. H. G. Gomes, has been widely read and discussed in the Indonesian press. It is a letter from the seven Ceylonese who were housed in the premises of the American Embassy at Tanah Abang Timur, No. 22, Tanah Abang Timur, Jakarta, during their stay there from June 13 to June 28, 1954. The letter is a direct appeal to the Indonesian public and to the American Embassy, and it is a plea for justice and for the rights of the seven Ceylonese who were housed in the premises of the American Embassy at Tanah Abang Timur, No. 22, Tanah Abang Timur, Jakarta, during their stay there from June 13 to June 28, 1954. The letter is a direct appeal to the Indonesian public and to the American Embassy, and it is a plea for justice and for the rights of the seven Ceylonese who were housed in the premises of the American Embassy at Tanah Abang Timur, No. 22, Tanah Abang Timur, Jakarta, during their stay there from June 13 to June 28, 1954.

TIMES OF INDONESIA
Without fear or favour

MONDAY, JULY 5, 1954

The Overriding Criterion

The overriding criterion in the case of the seven Ceylonese who were housed in the premises of the American Embassy at Tanah Abang Timur, No. 22, Tanah Abang Timur, Jakarta, during their stay there from June 13 to June 28, 1954, is the fact that they were housed there against their own wishes. They were housed there by the American Embassy, and they were housed there for a period of two weeks. The overriding criterion in the case of the seven Ceylonese who were housed in the premises of the American Embassy at Tanah Abang Timur, No. 22, Tanah Abang Timur, Jakarta, during their stay there from June 13 to June 28, 1954, is the fact that they were housed there against their own wishes. They were housed there by the American Embassy, and they were housed there for a period of two weeks.

to these persons. On the basis of the accommodation promised, the residents of 5 Medan Merdeka Selatan, including the Gomeses, agreed to vacate on June 30, 1954.

About the third week of June, the Gomeses discovered that the accommodation offered to them was not all that it had appeared to be when they were persuaded to sign the agreement to vacate. The accommodation offered to them at 12 Tanah Abang Timur had been, until recently, stables and that part of the space offered to them had already been given to somebody else.

The Gomeses took up this matter with the Administrative Secretary of the Embassy who dealt with this matter. The protest made by the Gomeses did not please Mr. G. B. Mathews,

the American official, and he proceeded to take the law into his own hands. He ordered the contractor to remove the tiles from the roof over the Gomeses; and also had the electricity supply cut off. This was done one week before the expiry of date to vacate the premises.

Envoy Protests

Thereupon, the Gomeses complained to Mr. A. E. Goonesinha, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Ceylon in Indonesia. Mr. Goonesinha immediately protested to the American authorities and on the 25th the tiles were replaced and electric supply restored.

TIMES OF INDONESIA MONDAY, JULY 5, 1954

Reader's Forum

All letters in the Forum must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, but not necessarily for publication, but as proof of the origin of the letter.

Letter from Tanah Abang Timur
I am writing to you to inform you that I am one of the seven Ceylonese who were housed in the premises of the American Embassy at Tanah Abang Timur, No. 22, Tanah Abang Timur, Jakarta, during our stay there from June 13 to June 28, 1954. We were housed there against our own wishes, and we were housed there for a period of two weeks. The overriding criterion in our case is the fact that we were housed there against our own wishes. We were housed there by the American Embassy, and we were housed there for a period of two weeks.

For the last few days, I have been reading the *Times of Indonesia*, and I have been very interested in the article published on June 28, 1954, by Mr. I. M. Gomes and his brother Mr. H. G. Gomes. The article is a direct appeal to the Indonesian public and to the American Embassy, and it is a plea for justice and for the rights of the seven Ceylonese who were housed in the premises of the American Embassy at Tanah Abang Timur, No. 22, Tanah Abang Timur, Jakarta, during their stay there from June 13 to June 28, 1954. The article is a direct appeal to the Indonesian public and to the American Embassy, and it is a plea for justice and for the rights of the seven Ceylonese who were housed in the premises of the American Embassy at Tanah Abang Timur, No. 22, Tanah Abang Timur, Jakarta, during their stay there from June 13 to June 28, 1954.

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.....facsimile of the editorials in the "Times of Indonesia" on the illegal action of U. S. embassy official.....

Continued from page 1

The Ceylonese were Mr. I. M. Gomes and his brother Mr. H. G. Gomes. They, with several other families, had resided at 5 Medan Merdeka Selatan for a number of years. The premises had been owned by the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. It was a very large house, and flats, suites of rooms and room were let out to tenants.

Alternative Accomodation

In 1951, the American Embassy purchased these premises. The law in regard to Housing in Indonesia is that an tenant cannot be evicted unless suitable alternative accommodation is provided. It was only in 1954 that the American Embassy was able to offer accommodation at 12 Tanah Abang Timur

.....facsimile of letter written by Mr. A. E. Goonesinha published in the "Times of Indonesia" on the plight of the roofless Ceylonese

The drawing reproduced on this page is a copy of a wall painting of Jutaka, a major character in the well known Jataka story of Vessantara. This painting is from the walls of the temple at Telwatte, six miles from Ambalangoda.

Jataka Story

JUTAKA

The temple murals of Telwatte are among the better-known ones among the modern examples of Sinhalese Art. These paintings are said to have been done in the first decade of the last century during the reign of the last King of Kandy, Sri Wickramarasingha.

This temple is perhaps the largest Buddhist temple in Ceylon with a variety of mural paintings on its walls. It was at this temple that the famous Sangaraja Sri Rahula lived in the fifteenth century.

Bad Man

In the Vessantara Jataka, Jutaka is regarded as the "bad man" of the story though he did not do anything particularly evil. Popular sentiment has been against Jutaka because he was an old man who married a beautiful young wife, Amitta Tapa. Amitta had no alternative but to marry this old man in lieu of a debt her father owed Jutaka.

Amitta was fooled by her friends for marrying an old man who could not even provide her the luxury of a couple of slaves to do her housework. Jutaka, unfortunately, was then a poor man, but when his wife Amitta nagged him continuously about not having servants, Jutaka decided to do something about it. In spite of his age, he set out on a long journey from his home-town in Orissa to the Punab to meet King Vessantara who was famous for his charitable deeds and gifts. Jutaka wanted to place his troubles before King Vessantara and ask him to help him.

Exile

At this time King Vessantara was in exile in the jungles on the foothills of the Himalayas. Vessantara had gone into exile because his ministers and courtiers objected to his uncontrollable and unrestricted acts of charity and generosity. Vessantara could not resist giving anything that was asked of him. He believed that by such

Elephant. This was the last straw as far as his Ministers were concerned, and so strong was their protest that Vessantara was forced to seek refuge in exile with his wife and children.

Into the jungle where Vessantara was in exile came Jutaka with his tale of woe.

Two Children

Jutaka's request was simple. He wanted two slaves to do house-work for his wife. Vessantara could not refuse this request, but the only slaves he could procure for Jutaka at that moment were his two children, Jaliya and Krishna-jina; and these two he handed over to the old man without the knowledge and consent of his wife Madri, the mother of the two children. Later when she heard of it, she was in pain and misery.

Jutaka's unpopularity may be also due to the fact that he accepted the two children as slaves, but no adverse comment has ever been made about Vessantara's handing over the children without the consent of his wife.

Poetic justice soon overtook Jutaka. He died on his return journey and the children were restored to their grandparents. Shortly after that, Vessantara was restored to his throne and everybody was happy ever after.

L. T. P. MANJUSRY



.....copy of painting of Jutaka in Telwatte temple.....

deeds of giving away he would attain Buddha-hood in the next birth.

Vessantara went on giving everything away until he gave the State Elephant. This elephant was a rarity in that it was a White



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A CITY OF CRIME

" where sensible people stay off the streets at night "

By
A Special Correspondent

At the present moment, when the U. S. Government spends countless millions throughout the world, particularly in Asia, in advertising the American Way of Life and utilises all the media of mass communications to present a very rosy picture of the paradise of free enterprise, we print below an article describing the increase in crime and lawlessness in New York—the capital city of the "Free World".

It seems, to say the least, ironical that the American sponsored Committee for Free Asia should concentrate its efforts in fostering youth activities in Ceylon when there is so much lawlessness amongst the youth of New York. Perhaps, after all, as many allege, the advertised aims of the Committee for Free Asia are merely a convenient cloak for the more sinister activities of this alien body in Ceylon.

When Mr. Francis W. H. Adams, Police Commissioner of New York, recently released crime statistics of the City, "New Yorkers, who have long sensed that their city was becoming the world's most lawless, had their worst fears confirmed", states the New York correspondent of the *London Times* (4.8.54).

New Yorkers have every reason to be ashamed of the crime record of their city. During the past six months, on an average there has been "one murder and three cases of rape daily, one daily death from criminal negligence, 27 felonious assaults, 140 burglaries, 40 cars stolen, 31 hold-ups with robbery, and 69 grand larcenies. The daily amount stolen from New Yorkers now totals \$140, 000".

Teenage Hoodlums

Commenting on these crime statistics, which show an increase of almost 11 per cent over the first six months of 1953, Mr. Adams is reported to have said that: "conditions grow worse each passing month and that New York is on the verge of becoming a community of violence and crime. . . . New York is now a city where hoodlums, including many teenagers, do not hesitate to attack policemen: a city where sensible people stay off the streets at night".

What is most revolting is not merely the increase in the number of crimes committed daily in New York but the intensity of their violence. On August 22nd., for instance, a "65 — year old cripple was found naked, burned, and beaten. He refused to reveal... where he kept his money and for eight hours was burned with cigarettes, severely beaten, and then had salt rubbed into his wounds. The intruder finally left with \$6."

Increase

Statistics collected by the Federal Bureau of Investigation reveal a sharp rise in crime rate among youths of eighteen and under. "From 1952 to 1953 the number of assaults committed by youths was doubled and there was a sharp rise in murders, rapes, burglaries, car thefts, weapons carrying and liquor violations!"

Walter Lippman, the well known *New York Herald Tribune* columnist, referring to this increase of crime states:

"there can be no real doubt... that the movies and television and the comic books are purveying violence and lust to a vicious and intolerable degree. There can be no real doubt that public exhibi-

tions of sadism tend to excite sadistic desires and to teach the audience how to gratify sadistic desires. Nor can there be any real doubt that there is a close connection between the suddenness of the increase in crimes and the new vogue of sadism among the mass media of entertainment".

Those in Ceylon, who have been agitating against the importation and sale of American comics and other equally harmful flashy magazines, would heartily agree with Walter Lippmann. But unfortunately, the sale of comics is profitable business in the United States and the Eisenhower Administration is more concerned in safeguarding the interests of private enterprise than in taking action to prevent crime at its source.

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HISTORICAL SURVEY

The history of Indian immigrant labour all over the world has been a tragic one and affords a telling example of what Imperialist exploitation can do to a great people. The colossal military expenditure of the British Government in India and the exploitation of its resources by this Government for the benefit of the British people and the disregard of its duty by the inhabitants of that vast sub-continent, whose social institutions thus became engines of oppression, created during the best portion of British rule, famine conditions in several parts of India.

Slavery

The British Government in India utilised these conditions to send its unfortunate victims to different parts of the world to help British capital to exploit those parts. It was under these circumstances that Indian labour was originally recruited for work on Ceylon plantations and on our major public works.

Both the Ceylon Government and the planters freely exploited the cheap labour available in India, with the active support and assistance of the Indian Raj, which was quite content to allow its nationals to be thus exploited as the material conditions which it was able to secure for them in India were very much worse. With the help of this labour British capitalists opened up plantations in Ceylon on land acquired from the Crown or purchased or leased from villagers and from temples.

The conditions under which the early Indian immigrant labour worked in this country could only be described as slavery, but gradually public opinion both here and in India became alive to these conditions and some of the worst abuses were checked by legislations to which public men in Ceylon made notable contributions.

Equality

To facilitate the recruitment of Indian labour the Ceylon Government gave undertakings to the Indian Government granting to

On this page is published, slightly abridged, an article written in 1946 by Mr. S. Nadesan, now a Senator and a Queen's Counsel, on the PROBLEM OF INDIAN LABOUR IN CEYLON. It was published in the TIMES OF CEYLON of July 23, 1946. This article throws a great deal of light on many matters connected with the "Indian" problem which people do not know or tend to forget. The second part of this article will appear next week.

immigrant labour complete equality of political and civic rights with the rest of the population, as it was only concerned about safeguarding the interests of the planters and not the position of the indigenous peoples.

These undertakings were freely given and there was unrestricted flow of immigration into Ceylon which the Government encouraged and did nothing to prevent and this policy was followed till 1930.

It will thus be clear that Indian labour came to Ceylon on the invitation of the Ceylon Government and on the definite undertaking that they would be accorded equal political rights with the rest of the population and that in fact they enjoyed complete equality up to 1930.

Attempts have been made at various times by our politicians to whittle down the effects of these undertakings. As recently as February, 1941, the Board of Ministers sought to make out that what were called undertakings were no more than pieces of information conveyed and that they had no greater validity.

Same Rights

Sir Andrew Caldecott replied to this contention as follows:—

"By virtue of the Emigration Act India placed herself in a position of being able to assure to such

of her nationals as emigrated to any country the political and other conditions which such Indians would enjoy there. Before allowing further emigration of assisted labourers to Ceylon plantations, she accordingly addressed questions to the Ceylon Government in regard to all classes of immigrants on the replies to which depended her approval of such emigration. To maintain that the replies were mere statements of contemporaneous circumstances and not undertakings as to the conditions which emigrants would enjoy here is to stultify both question and answer and to ignore the purpose of the Indian Emigration Act itself."

The matter was also emphasised by the then Chief Secretary during the first reading of the Immigration Bill when he said:—

"I think I have said enough to make it clear to any impartial student of the history of this question that it is only after the Government of India had been given assurances that Indians in Ceylon enjoyed the same political rights as other classes of His Majesty's subjects that they approved of the Notification of 1923 permitting emigration to Ceylon..."

Labourers Victimised

WHILE, therefore, one may question the wisdom of having agreed to recruit labour on the basis of such undertakings one cannot with any regard for truth deny their existence. There cannot be the slightest doubt that these undertakings were given and labour recruited not for the benefit of the indigenous population but primarily for the benefit of the planters in whom both Governments were interested and the poor Indian labourer was as much the victim of the Imperialist policy of British rule in the East as the Kandyan villager who was deprived of his land.

The result has been that the greater part of whatever material prosperity Ceylon has had after

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CONTRACTORS BENEFITED

Now considering the colossal expenditure incurred and the equally colossal hopes which this scheme raised, no doubt this state of affairs is a great disappointment to the country, and particularly to those who believed that a vigorous multi purpose project was in the making. May I suggest that there is only one way of dealing with this disappointment, and that is by learning from it and making it quite certain that no similar situation will arise in the future. Now how can we learn from this experience? The question which arises is, what was wrong with the original plan and/or planners? Was the project undertaken without a due sense of responsibility, particularly in consideration of the enormous cost to a country of very poor people? We must face facts, particularly as the Walawe scheme is under investigation by American engineers. Moreover, in few months the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, unless he bows to the will of the people, will fly to America and in all probability he will try to get us even more tied up with that country.

Contractors

It is therefore very necessary, that we get the right perspective on this matter. Can it be that the engineers of this American firm, recommended by Dr. Savage, were so incompetent that they accepted and started work on a plan based on data which was in fact inadequate? Or were they so anxious for quick profits that they negligently undertook an unjustifiable risk? Was the scheme the most suitable, or just the most spectacular and the most profitable from the point of view of the contractors? Do Americans usually come to this country as "good samaritans" or do they come here for making the maximum profit in the minimum time? These are questions which should be answered. Whatever the truth may be, in the case of Gal Oya, it is on record that this very same company undertook a contract for the Government of Afghanistan, but had to pack up and leave before its completion because their plans were found to be unsatisfactory.

This is the second and concluding part of an extract from the speech of Mrs. Doreen Wickremasinghe in the House of Representatives on July 28, 1954. The first part appeared in our issue last week.

Transport

There is one more question which has to be posed. Why was no provision for water transport made in the original scheme?—there were plans for roads in detail. It is very encouraging to note that the Gal Oya Board has started to make increasing use of water transport. An idea of the amount of money that might have been saved if water transport had been used from the start and developed fully can be had by perusing the Tables on page 30 and 31 of the 1952-53 Report. These show that whereas the cost of moving 1,000 tons of stores on the lagoon waterway is Rs. 1,000 odd, by motor transport from Batticaloa to Amparai it is Rs. 18,000 odd. This does not include the additional damage to stores incurred when transported by road.

The question of the cost of transport is no small matter. The movement of stores is still very heavy. The monthly mileage between Batticaloa and Amparai alone is calculated to equal four times the distance round the earth and the cost of the Board's running tyres at over Rs. 2,000,000. We are not told how long these tyres last and how often replacements are needed. If the cost of the tyres alone amounts to over Rs. 2,000,000 what can be the cost of the vehicles themselves? No wonder the board itself draws attention to it and states it is a startling statistical fact which merits notice. This is all very good for Anglo American monopolies but not so good for people like you and me and citizen Perera, Mr.

Speaker, because it is we who have to foot the Bill.

Then, apart from the cost of vehicles, petrol and diesel oil, there is the enormous cost of construction and maintenance of roads which could have been avoided or reduced if the maximum use of water transport had been made from the beginning. Dr. Savage and the engineers of Morrison, Knudsen & Co. seem to have overlooked this little point.— Or didn't they? It is significant, too, that the World Bank Mission did not develop the question of water transport. True enough, not all Ceylon rivers are navigable but, as in the case of Gal Oya, there are considerable possibilities which should be exploited to the full. Not only lagoons but also many main rivers could be utilized.

Caution

There is more in this question of water transport than meets the eye. In all countries it is an old old story. It invariably involves a conflict of interests. Only the other day, hon. Members may have read in our daily press, that after years of agitation on the one hand and of sabotage by vested interests in road and rail haulage on the other, a system of water transport connecting the Great Lakes to the Atlantic is at last to be started. Even in America, the public have been at the mercy of vested interests in transport. If American big business men can sacrifice their own countrymen for commercial gain, how much more are they likely to sacrifice the people of Ceylon, for whom they have neither love nor sentiment, in order to get lucrative contracts for themselves?

Mr. Speaker, I think I have said enough to show how warily we must tread before we embark on any more of these water control schemes, particularly in view of the partial failure of the Gal Oya scheme and also because of the severe warning the World Bank Mission gave regarding the Walawe Scheme which the Government is anxious to start next.

LITTLE MORE LIGHT

Two of the biggest loans ever granted by the A. I. C. C. were a Rs 1,000,000 loan to the GALPHELE ESTATES LTD and a loan of Rs 900,000 to DE SOYSA ESTATES LTD and DE SOYSA CONSTRUCTION CO LTD as joint borrowers. Both these companies are "connected" with Messrs. de Silva and Mendis.

GALPHELE ESTATES LTD (P. V. S. 955) was incorporated on 17. 3. 51 presumably to take over Galphele Estate from its previous owners Galphele Tea and Rubber Estates Ltd. GALPHELE ESTATES LTD is more or less the family concern of the Jayawickremes from Kandy. This company obtained the loan of Rs 1,000,000 on deed No. 239 or 18. 5. 1951 attested by Derick Koch on the mortgage of Galphele Estate. This loan comes well within the scope of the A. I. C. C. and the value of the estate is large enough to sustain the mortgage of Rs 1,000,000.

Shakerly Estate

But what is interesting about GALPHELE ESTATES LTD is its connection with GENERAL INVESTMENTS LTD of Mr. and Mrs. N. S. O. Mendis. It would appear that GALPHELE ESTATE AND SHAKERLY ESTATE belonged to the Galphele Tea and Rubber Estates Ltd., and that Mr. Jayawickreme by deed No. 286 of 26.2. 51 agreed to purchase these two estates for Rs 3,250,000 and paid a 10% deposit of Rs 325,000. The balance of Rs 2,925,000 was to be paid on date of transfer.

Then, on March 22, 1951 by agreement No. 2823 attested by Mr. J. S. Paranawitarne, a three-cornered agreement was arrived at. Mr. Jayawickreme nominated GALPHELE ESTATES LTD which had been incorporated a few days before to purchase GALPHELE ESTATE for Rs 2,100,000 and GENERAL INVESTMENT CO to purchase SHAKERLY ESTATE for Rs 1,150,000. The agreement stipulated that of

By

Tribune Special Investigator

the Rs 325,000 paid as advance by Mr. Jarawaickreme, Rs 115,000 was to be appropriated to the SHAKERLY account.

SHAKERLY ESTATE consisted of four divisions, and one of these was mortgaged to the A. I. C. C. for Rs 400,000. Two of its divisions are now subject to entail in Entail Case No. 3 of D. C. Colombo as money was obtained from the entail for the purchase. It is believed that the coconut crop of SHAKERLY ESTATE for about two or three years was sold forward to the B. C. C. Ltd for a sum in the region of nearly Rs. 400,000. It must be remembered that Mr. N. S. O. Mendis is a Director of B. C. C. Ltd.

De Soysa Loan

The de Soysa loan was on Deed No. 2944 on 31. 3. 52, the bond being attested by Mr. J. S. Paranawitarne. It was for a sum of Rs 900,000. The borrowers were two companies De Soysa Estates Ltd. and De Soysa Construction Co. Ltd. It would be interesting to know the purpose of the loan—whether it was for the Estates Co or the Construction Co.

The De Soysa companies belong to the family of Sir Wilfred de Soysa. One member of the De Soysa is a Director of the A. I. C. C., namely Mr. T. C. A. de Soysa. The Directors of the two companies which borrowed the money who signed on behalf of the companies were Mr. S. T. L. de Soysa and Mr. G. R. J. de Soysa, brothers of Mr. T. C. A. de Soysa.

The rule in the A. I. C. C. is that if money is lent to a "relation" of the Directors, the loan should have the approval of at least two-thirds of the Members of the Board. In this instance, presumably such approval was obtained, but we refer to this loan because of the close "connection" of the de Soysa family to a partner of Messrs. de Silva and Mendis.

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Mr. S. T. L. de Soysa is married to a daughter of Mr. Felix de Silva, one of the original partners of Messrs. de Silva and Mendis.

The de Soysa family also have a controlling interest in Messrs. C. W. MACKIE & CO, one of the biggest exporters of rubber.

Inquiry

We point out all this, as we mentioned in our earlier articles, because there is a widespread belief that it was necessary to "go through Messrs. de Silva and Mendis" if one was to successfully negotiate a loan from the A. I. C. C. It is not possible without a full inquiry to find out the truth or otherwise of this allegation.

In the interest of the public and in the interest of Messrs. de Silva and Mendis themselves it would be best if a full investigation is carried out. One would have expected Messrs. de Silva and Mendis themselves to have urged upon the Government to institute a full inquiry to get to the bottom of these allegations.

A full inquiry into the affairs of the A. I. C. C. is essential. It might be mentioned that no such allegations have so far been made against other firms of lawyers who handle the work of other state institutions, like the State Mortgage Bank. And this is all the more reason why an inquiry should be instituted, because it would be unfair by Messrs. de Silva and Mendis if these allegations, which may be totally baseless, are not disposed of.

COMMUNITY

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DOLLAR CURTAIN

Unhesitatingly everybody in this country, except perhaps a few Washington patriots, will congratulate Mr. A. E. Goonesinha, until recently Ceylon's Envoy in Indonesia, for the action he took against the bullying tactics adopted by power-drunk officials of the American Diplomatic Service. To take the law into one's own hands is bad enough, but what makes it worse is that these saviours of civilisation from the United States of America pretend to preach to the world the rudimentary tenets of right and wrong, of law and order, and of democratic behaviour and civilised conduct. There can be nothing more reprehensible than to attempt to evict a tenant through thuggery when the law provides due processes for such eviction; nothing more inhuman than to take the roof off, and cut out the electric and water supply, from families with young children to achieve the same purpose.

Mr. Goonesinha's determined fight against the American bully is something which deserves public approbation. Mr. Goonesinha's two years in Indonesia have taught him that there is nothing more sinister and dangerous than the Dollar Curtain. Even in Ceylon the dark shadow of this Curtain has begun to fall heavily on men and matters. Recently, we had the spectacle of the Public Relations Officer of the American Embassy stalking into the room of the Editor of the *Ceylon Observer* to tell him what he should publish and what he should not. "Contact" in the *Observer* "Roundabout" column sometime ago referred to the action of a foreign diplomat who behaved like a highway robber when a Ceylonese car driver did not let him over take him (on a narrow road) with the first blast on the Yankee horn. We have reason

to believe that a very serious incident of diplomatic bullying took place near Avisawella, but for some reason this incident lies buried in a file in the External Affairs Department.

What is unfortunate is that the daily papers, which become aware of these incidents which do so much damage to the self-respect of this nation, choose to draw the curtain of oblivion—a curtain which is said to be lined with invisible dollars granted in free rides to dollar-land and in other forms. It is significant too that the Djakarta incident of the roofless Ceylonese has so far never been mentioned in our papers though certain sections of our national daily press boast of their wonderful foreign news service!

Mr. Bradley

The *Ceylon Observer* must again be congratulated for showing up some of the deeds of the Free Asia Committee. A wary reporter from the paper tracked down one of the ever-increasing tribe of visitors from the U. S. State Department who was frank enough to declare that he had come to check on the work of propaganda institutions like the U.S.I.S. and the Free Asia Committee. What Mr. Lutz stated has completely knocked the bottom out of the make-believe Mr. Holbrook Bradley has endeavoured to foist on the people of Ceylon to the effect that his Committee is a completely non-political organisation interested in doing altruistic aid to poor suffering Asians. Mr. Bradley rushed off to Singapore, perhaps to get some chieftain to tip off Washington not to send blundering advertising executives to check on the work of the Com-

mittee and do it damage by talking out of turn.

Mr. Dahanayake has asked some very pertinent questions about the activities of Mr. Bradley's show. Questions might also be asked with profit about Mr. Bradley's activities in the University Campus at Peradeniya.

Sir John

With his recent visit to Jaffna, Sir John Kotelawala has done a great deal to allay the suspicions of the minorities, particularly the Tamil-speaking minority. His outright declaration that Sinhalese and Tamil would be official languages with equal status has helped to clear a great deal of misunderstanding that has grown up about the government's intentions on the language question. His announcement that he would seek an amendment to the Constitution to provide for an equal status for both these languages is to be welcomed most heartily.

This declaration taken together with what Mr. E. B. Wikramanayake, the Minister of Justice, said in a speech in Chunnakam that Ceylon belonged to all communities should bring sanity to communalists among the Sinhalese as well as the Tamils. The suicidal policies of these chauvinists cannot be curbed except by adopting truly national policies in all matters affecting the different communities who inhabit this island.

Another problem which has the tinge of a communal question is that of the Indian settlers and residents in this country. It is to be hoped that Sir John and his colleagues will do their best to arrive at a settlement in New Delhi this week-end. A lasting solution is essential for the development and progress of Ceylon.

- IMPORT POLICY RESTHOUSES
- PRITT BOOK COVERS
- TURF CLUB OIL SWINDLE

BLACK MARKET MONEY

There has been a great deal of discussion in important circles about rackets and racketeering. The efforts of the TRIBUNE to expose some of them have given rise to accusers as well as defenders.

One thing that seems to worry many is how ill-gotten gains can be secreted away. The fact that X, who has "certainly made money on the side", does not apparently have the money openly in his bank balance, seems to make many think that X is more sinned against than anything else.

I have been going into this question, and I have been told (or I have discovered) two methods by which such money can be secreted without the officers of the Bribery Squad or the Income Tax being any the wiser.

Take the case, first, of a public servant who has received bribes in foreign countries. It does not matter whether such bribes are in respect of purchases or anything else. But if the bribe is paid in the form of fully paid-up insurance policies in the name of the official or any member of his family, there is no way of checking it up. Only when he dies or the policy matures, ten or fifteen years hence, will this amount reveal itself and then the Bribery Squad will have no interest, or such interest will be of little avail.

Estates

The second method of bringing ill-gotten gains into circulation can be put into effect only by those who have some tea or rubber plantations. This method needs the active assistance of the superintendent or manager of the estate. By "depressing" the actual cost of production in the books and by showing a greater profit, black market money can be put into

circulation. Say it costs Rs 1. 70 to produce a pound of tea on a particular estate. This sum is spent, but only Rs 1. 40 is shown in the books as the actual expenditure. The 30 cents per pound comes out of the black market hoard. By this method, the profit is shown to be greater than what it is and ill-gotten money is released into circulation under cover of profit. The amount can be so regulated so as to pay the lowest rate of taxation possible in the circumstances.

This is probably one reason why certain gentlemen not merely in government service but also in private business buy estates. The private businessmen can do better by ploughing back their profits into their particular trade, but they more often than not choose to buy estates. If the Income Tax have "hawks," as they should have, this is a matter they should investigate.

Import Policy

Another matter that needs investigation is the question of import policies coupled with the activities of the Industrial Products Regulation Board. As far as one can see there does not seem to be any co-ordinated scheme governing imports or the regulation of imports for the purpose of protecting local industries. In spite of grandiose declarations and the expenditure of millions of rupees on state enterprises, this country has witnessed no industrial development in the last seven years though other countries in Asia like India have made rapid progress.

What is the cause for Ceylon's inability to develop industrially even in a small way? Is it in any way due to the faulty import policies that have been pursued? Have these policies been motivated to assist import traders and not nascent industrialists? There are

questions that must receive earnest attention.

Tourist Trade

Take the tourist trade. It is said to be the fourth biggest foreign-exchange earning industry in this island. It may well be. But why has so little been done to make it attractive for tourists?

No doubt, lots of money is being spent on "doing up" resthouses, but unfortunately, service has become far worse after the "renovations." There is a "take-it-or-leave-it" attitude, particularly in the resthouses directly under the care of the Tourist Bureau. In one of the Tourist Bureau resthouses, one cannot ever succeed to get rooms. It seems to be for ever "booked up," and if the resthouse-keeper is pressed, he tells you that the rooms have been booked by the Tourist Bureau presumably for some distinguished visitors.

In another Tourist Bureau resthouse at which I called a few days ago, the resthouse-keeper, who according to usual notices exhibited on the premises, was an expert in "making tea," produced a pot of tea which the lowliest roadside boutique would have been ashamed to call *tea*. This same resthouse-keeper's under the impression that two pieces of buttered bread put together makes a sandwich, and when he was asked why the sandwich tasted so insipid told us that he did "not put onions and green chillies in the sandwich" because he was not certain of our tastes.

Is this onion and green chillies sandwich a speciality introduced by the Tourist Bureau for the purpose of impressing tourists?

In another Tourist Bureau resthouse, on the 29th September, 1954, it is recorded in the register that WAN MIN THAN and GRE-

Continued on page 10

BLACK MARKET MONEY

Continued from page 9

GORY PECK had been there that day. According to press reports they were said to be in other parts of the world on that day. Could it be that they had hopped over to Ceylon in a flying saucer to eat an onion and green chillies sandwich.

Pritt

Mr. D. N. Pritt, the champion of civil liberties, was in Colombo for a few days this week. He will be back later for the *Trine* case trial. His stay this week was only for the purposes of having consultations and the like.

But in the midst of all this, Mr. Pritt, I am told, had found the time to drop in at the Colombo Museum Library. Among other things, he was fascinated by some copies of ancient Sinhalese book-cover designs which artist Manjusri had discovered in different temples and in the Museum itself.

Moscow

Mr. Pritt, after remarking that the gentlemen who did these elaborately exquisite book covers in the days gone by must have had enormous patience and time to complete the work, had declared that these book covers would create a stir in the art and museum circles in Moscow.

Mr. Pritt has only recently returned from the U.S.S.R. where he had gone with a group of English lawyers to study the Soviet Legal System. Mr. Pritt's interests are versatile. He was anxious to know how many volumes there were in all in the Museum Library. I wonder how many of Ceylon V.I.P.'s even know of the existence of a place called the Museum Library!

Turf Club

On the centre-page of the *Ceylon Daily News* a few days ago, was an article by a special correspondent, whom the Editor informed us was a lawyer, on the evils of racing in Ceylon. This

worthy gentlemen also suggested how the evils could be remedied.

This article in the *Lake House* morning daily is a laudable one, but the difficulty is that these articles are never followed up. If *Lake House* wants to clean up racing, it must carry on a persistent campaign for a considerable length of time until results are achieved. It must keep in touch with all the under-currents and cross currents in the Turf Club.

Does the *Lake House* racing expert know, for instance, that a gambling racket known as the CROWN AND ANCHOR was carried on for a few weeks in the Fourth Enclosure and that it was only after one of the racing "guides" and shouted about it that some action was taken?

Stewards

Has any *Lake House* snooper attempted to find out just what really happened about the recent Stewards Elections? However, I have discovered that members are very greatly relieved that a person described as a WOLF in this column sometime ago has not been elected a Steward! Perhaps the malicious stories spread that he had something to do with the CROWN AND ANCHOR in the Fourth Enclosure may have had something to do with it.

A relatively good Board of Stewards has been elected this year. Racing fans are looking forward to some positive action by them to clean up racing. Persons in the ring seem to know on a Friday night or early on Saturdays which horses would be "doped" that week. Strangely enough, the horses which I was told would be "doped", won miraculously and paid big dividends. In a race meet of six or seven events, only a couple of horses are "doped" and big money can be made if one had inside information. Can't the Stewards do something about this?

Oil Swindle

Why has the *Times of Ceylon*, which raised a hue and cry about

the China Oil Swindle, not uttered one word about it for over a fortnight now? It is not that the matter is a closed chapter or that the authorities have taken action! For some reason, the *Times* has cried halt. Has there been any pressure moves by important people? But the *Guardian* too seems to have fallen victim to the same kind of charm that seems to have gripped the *Times* in its spell. The *Trine*, however, has taken upon itself to calf a spade a spade and expose the whole swindle naming names.

Morning Daily

In preparation for the competition that will arise when the *Times* launches its new morning daily next month, the *Daily News* is now wooing its readers. They are told of the wonderful Foreign News Service *Lake House* has built up but they are not told how they missed the Djakarta incident of the roofless Ceylonese.

But even more interesting is that the *Lake House* papers now report at length the speeches of men like Dr. N. M. Perera (with photographs as well), Dr. S. A. Wickremasinghe, Mr. Pieter Kenueman and the like. Not so long ago these speeches were regularly blacked out. With another morning daily, *Lake House* seems anxious to revise its journalistic techniques.

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THE HOUSE

Menika wanted security. She wanted it as she wanted air to breathe and water to drink. She wanted as she wanted it her daily food.

She would be old. She was growing old. She wanted a house. She could not get work always. There would be a time when nobody would give her work. Feeble, old, wrinkled without money and without a job, without a house . . .

She wanted the security of four walls. Four strong walls round her, like four stalwart giants. And a roof over her—a roof that would keep the heat of the sun and the cold of the rain away.

She dreamt of it always as the hungry dream of food. It danced before her eyes when she scrubbed the Lady's floor and dusted the master's room. It danced before her when she cleaned the drain and swept the garden—when tears scoured down her cheeks, and her stomach folded in empty and aching.

All these years she had worked—worked for others—worked for money. It was this dream house that kept her going. It rose in her mind day after day clearer and clearer. Every cent that was added to her pile of money meant one day nearer her house.

This house of hers was wattled and coconut leaf thatched. It had no white plaster, it had no cement, it had no tiles. It had two browned windows, one blackened door and four wattled walls that rose high up to the roof. The cow-dung spread on the floor was fresh and green, the four corners had no cobwebs and the rafters were not soot coloured.

She saw herself in that house cooking, eating, sleeping. She would not have a well. She could not afford it. But there would be the village well. She could go there, in the morning wash her face, talk to other house holders and come back to her own house.

Nobody could ask have you finished your work. Are you sleeping? Are you dreaming? Her time would be hers. She would not be selling her time and her

By VALLI

energy any more. She could lie in her own house—she could work when she wanted and not when she did not want.

She would be her own mistress. She would eat what she wanted, wear what she wanted, talk what she wanted.

She went through the day's work morning after morning—new days and new days and a final last day braced in front of her.

Now when she scrubbed the Lady's floor she she saw herself applying grass-smelling cow-dung on the floor of her one-roomed four-walled house. When she dusted the Master's room she saw herself dusting the four wattled walls and the two browned windows. These green windows were very nice. The print on the curtains was as nice. But her brown windows without curtains would be the nicer. Windows that would show a slice of the sky, blue and clear. A bit of the sky, the sky that has endless freedom. She would be free then—free to look at and admire a free sky.

The rainy season started and she had double work mopping wet floors and keeping the house dry.

It was a season when everybody had colds but when her cold developed into high fever she lay down on her mat and dreamt the day long of her house. If she had caught a cold in her own house, if it had developed into fever in her own house, if she had laid down in her own house—what.. then? What? Her time would be hers. It would not be anybody's. She need not try to work, try to get up, try to give her energy for money. She would lie then in her own house, on her own mat...perhaps she would die.. But what matters? It would be in her own house.

She could see the four wattled walls rising high and the two brown windows like two eyes. The blackened door would swing and open to the rush of the wind.

There weren't enough pans for the house. She must have a special pot to boil coriander when she was ill. There should be a chair for the visitors—for the vedemahattaya or for the priest. She must have a tumbler, sometimes they would ask for a glass of water.

She was feeling very thirsty, and very cold. The blackened door that led to her house was open and gusts of wind came in. She shivered. If she could close it. Now where was the door? She couldn't see it any more. It must be night. A cold dark night and she had forgotten about a bottle lamp. She must get a bottle lamp. She sighed deeply and closed her eyes.

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HISTORICAL SURVEY

Continued from page 5

British rule has been largely due to the exploitation of Indian labour. It is the surplus wealth created by their toil which in a Socialist State would have been used to improve their condition of life that made possible the material advances that Ceylon has had during the past.

It may be that in the process grave moral and spiritual injury has been caused to our people and that Ceylon would have been a happier place to live in if it did not have the tea and rubber industries but was peopled by men who were sturdy peasant proprietors and that even a primitive agricultural economy would have been preferable to the present plantation economy and its concomitant material advantages. But the unfortunate Indian labourer is not responsible for this state of affairs.

Agitation

The Donoughmore Commissioners recommended universal adult suffrage and in the case of the Indian labourer provided that all adult Indians resident in Ceylon for a period of over five years should be given the vote. This recommendation was the signal for an agitation by a number of Sinhalese politicians for the restriction of the franchise to Indians, and Mr. A. F. Molamure proposed in 1928 a motion before the Legislative Council suggesting among other things a literacy test in the case of Indian labour as a qualification to exercise the vote.

The debate on this motion revealed that the true reason for this attempt to discriminate politically against the Indian population was the fear that if every adult Indian with five years residence was given the vote what with unrestricted immigration and a Crown Colony Government under which the Governor could veto and certify Bills with a view to facilitating immigration on an ever-increasing scale the small indigenous population would be swamped.

Mr. Senanayake put the position plainly during the debate when he said that agitation for reforms was not meant for the purpose of transferring power from the hands of the Englishmen to the hands of the Indians.

Swamping

Sir Gerard Wijeyekoon said that they were not thinking of what would happen in one year or in four years but in years to come and that what they feared was that at the rate at which immigrant labourers were coming into the Island their numbers would gradually increase beyond all proportion and swamp the country twenty or thirty years hence.

This was the theme of all the Members who supported the restriction of Indian franchise. Mr. C. W. W. Kannangara went to the extent of stating in the course of the debate that if the Indian franchise was not restricted the Indian population would be able to send not ten Members but twenty or even thirty or forty Members into the Council (Hansard 1928—para 1807).

It is no doubt true that in the conditions that existed in 1928 with the door for unrestricted Indian immigration wide open and with the elected representatives of the people not having effective control of immigration policy, there was danger of the Indian immigrant vote dominating in course of time the politics of the country.

Several Members of the Council were thus put to the painful necessity even at the risk of dishonouring the undertaking given to the Indian Government at a time when no one contemplated the grant of universal adult suffrage of acting practically in self-defence with a view to preventing the indigenous vote being swamped by the Indian labour vote in course of time.

Franchise

As a result of this agitation certain conditions were imposed on the exercise of the vote by the

Indian labourer which had the effect of reducing the number of Indian voters to such an extent that a population of over 800,000 Indians in Ceylon were able to return only two elected representatives to the State Council, thus leaving a considerable margin for more members to be returned as a result of further increase in the immigrant population without any danger of the indigenous vote being swamped.

The anti-Indian cry then raised has continued unabated to this day despite the fact that there has been a radical change in the circumstances which justified this cry in 1928 and that one of the arguments which were then advanced has any validity today.

The important changes are the ban imposed by the Indian Government in 1939 on the emigration of unskilled Indian labour to Ceylon, the practical certainty of any Indian Government today refusing to permit further emigration on the old basis and, most important of all, the grant of full internal self-government to Ceylon which means that our elected representatives will have full and effective control over our future immigration policy.

Development

Only the other day Mr. Senanayake wanted all the Indians in Ceylon to go back thus clearly showing that at any rate we are not in want of further immigrant labour from India. Under the circumstances it is unlikely that we will permit any further immigration into Ceylon of unskilled labour and we have now the power to prevent such immigration.

Our national government cannot, while fighting for our freedom, expect to develop our lands by fresh recruitment and exploitation of Indian labour. The further development of our country must, therefore, depend on whatever resources we possess today. And the present Indian labour population in this country can make a valuable contribution in this direction.

Continued on page 14

AHANKARA STHRIE

AHANKARA STHRIE is perhaps the best Sinhalese film that has so far been produced. Whilst it suffers in some measure from the limitations that generally inhibit the Sinhalese as well as the Tamil film, AHANKARA STHRIE is a competently produced film that keeps the interest of the audience from the beginning to the end.

In reviewing AHANKARA STHRIE for an English-reading public it is necessary to make certain general observations about the Sinhalese film. The English-educated section of the population in Ceylon has been brought up on a tradition of sleek Hollywood films and more recently of realistic and pseudo-realistic films from the continent. The reviewers of these European films have alternated between those who thought their duty done by re-hashing advertisement blurbs and others who have tended to dissect such films from rarefied heights of callous intellectual snobbery based on a great deal of highbrow learning. Their approach, except in rare instances, have been always mechanical and bookish.

Indian Film

The Sinhalese film, like its inspiration the Tamil film, has grown up and developed from a totally different tradition. The Indian film Hindi, Tamil, Sinhalese and the like, has developed strictly within the semi-operatic dramatic tradition to which the people have been accustomed for centuries. No doubt, films have been produced in Hindi and Bengali in the streamlined European film tradition, but these have not been outstanding successes. The Indian film audiences have not yet been "educated" to acclaim such films. And, it is a moot point whether the people of the Indian continent should be "educated" along these lines.

The Chinese film THE WHITE HAired GIRL shows that this semi-operatic tradition of the long film with a protracted story interperseed with song prevails in China too.

I am setting out all this to point out that many reviewers fall into error of attempting to judge Sin-

We are publishing a thought provoking comment from a correspondent who, if he has not done anything else, has seen a large number of films both European and Indian. He has chosen to tread controversial ground, and it may be a good thing for the development of cultural traditions in Ceylon if films like AHANKARA STHRIE compel the attention of the English-educated section of the community. "Tribune" will be happy to publish views and comments from critics and readers about what they feel about the Sinhalese film in general and AHANKARA STHRIE in particular.

— Editor

halese and Tamil films on standards that should properly be applied only to European films.

AHANKARA STHRIE should not be assessed on the standards of films produced by men like Ford, Hitchcock, Eisenstein or even Cecil B. de Mille. It has to be judged on the basis of other Sinhalese films and productions from studios like Gemini in Madras.

Dickensian

Many of the Sinhalese films so far exhibited were produced in South India. Sinhalese artists went across the Palk Straits for the production. But AHANKARA STHRIE has the distinction of being produced in Ceylon completely. Only the technicians have come over from South India.

As a story AHANKARA STHRIE has a unconscious Dickensian flavour of a plot within a plot told with dramatic suspense. The setting reveals not only the follies and foibles of the Sinhalese middle class, particularly in its contact with some of the lower orders, but also some of the melodrama arising from the problems confronting this section of humanity.

Though a number of incidents and episodes have been exaggera-

ted to the extent of making the situations caricatures of reality, yet this does not detract from the worth of the film.

It would have been better if the dialogue had been in more colloquial language. But I suppose it is still difficult to find Sinhalese writers willing to completely give up pundit language and long declamations in dramatic situations. This is a serious drawback in Tamil films as well, but Hindi films have now developed to the point of using the language of the ordinary man in film dialogue.

Song & Dance

Often one of the most discordant features about an Indian film is the surfeit of dance and song, but to the credit of the producer of AHAKARA STHRIE it must be said that both dance and song have been kept within reasonable proportions. Many of the dances in South Indian films are best forgotten, but the dance sequences in AHAKARA STHRIE are not too unpleasing (one or two might have been left out). I must, however, say that there was one excellent dance sequence - a kind of ballet portraying the state of Mother Lanka in 1954.

The acting on the whole was competent, though there was a tendency to overact, as in Tamil films, particularly in dramatic situations. Hugo Fernando and Clarice de Silva take the acting honours as Siyamis Mudalali and Sirimathie. Clarice de Silva portrays the part of a tom-boy vamp with a quiet confidence and finesse that marks her out as an actress whose career is well worth watching. Vicent Waas had a difficult role on a tragic level, and he would have been more convincing if he had not attempted to heighten effect by overacting. But I must say this, that of all the Sinhalese films I have seen (I have seen nearly all recent productions except SARDIEL), I have not seen acting of so uniformly a high order as in AHANKARA STHRIE.

Continued on page 15

Historical Survey

Continued from page 12

Mr. Senanayake's cry at Kalutara asking the Indians here to go back was either result of deep emotion or was due to a realisation by him of the fact that Indian labour despite this cry will have to remain in Ceylon as it has nowhere to go in India and that, therefore, no harm could occur to Ceylon's economy by making a request with which there was no danger of the labourers complying.

Lunacy

Otherwise such a statement would be sheer lunacy as the present Indian labour on the plantations is very necessary for the economy of the Island. Besides, with only two-fifths of the Island developed, the presence of these 700,000 workers on the plantations far from creating unemployment among us will only help us to divert a portion of the indigenous labour to the

development of untapped sources of wealth. And the Indian labourers by their toil will contribute immeasurably to the revenue necessary for such development as their ancestors had done in the past. So the presence of these workers in Ceylon will be a source of economic strength and not of weakness to us.

The Vote

One of the demands that has been put forward on behalf of Indian workers is that they should be given the vote on the same basis as the rest of the population. While the British and Indian capitalists who exploit this country, are given the vote because of their income on the basis of a six-months' residence in Ceylon the Indian worker, who by his labour produces a good portion of the wealth of

this country, who far from exploiting us, is exploited by us to our advantage, is hedged in by so many conditions that even if he has resided here for five years it is with difficulty that he can be registered as a voter.

If anything it is work that should entitle a man to a vote and on moral and equitable grounds this claim for a vote on a non-discriminatory basis cannot possibly be resisted unless the grant of such right to vote will mean Indians dominating the political life of this country. It was on account of the fear of such domination in the future as a result of unrestricted immigration that a restricted franchise for the Indians was considered fair in 1930, but today as all further immigration has been stopped, there is no such danger.

[The second and concluding part of this article will appear next week].

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Ahankara Sthrie Ceylon Envoy Fights U. S. Bully

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Art

The photography is very good in parts and is satisfactory throughout. All in all, the three others and I who viewed this film enjoyed it thoroughly. None of us were bored throughout the 2 hours and 45 minutes the picture ran. And, I would not mind seeing the picture again.

For apart from anything else, it is necessary for the English-speaking sections of the community to join with the vast numbers of the swabasha-educated, to whom films like AHANKARA STHRIE mean so much, in order to assist in the ultimate development of film art in this island. There is no doubt that AHANKARA STHRIE will be a box-office draw and it deserves all the success it meets with. Undoubtedly, it is a step forward in the progress of the film art in Sinhalese.

Title

Even the snooty intellectual, who is unhappy that the Sinhalese film, like all other Indian films, is so far removed from the European film, will do well to see AHANKARA STHRIE. It may help him to discover that art, if it has to have a meaning, must be close to the people; and that if films are to improve, the people must be educated along right lines, within the context of their indigenous tradition, and that such education will be delayed if persons who have had the benefit of modern education choose to shut themselves up in ivory towers.

In conclusion, I must register one more grouse. To my mind the title AHANKARA STHRIE does not do justice to the film. It unhappily follows the Eddie Jayamanne tradition in film titling. But, don't ask me what title would have been better than AHANKARA STHRIE. Like all critics in Ceylon, I can pick holes, but I am incapable of suggesting anything better.

T. M.

OCTOBER 9, 1954

Continued from page 2

the belief that the element of malice was not absent, that the removal of the tiles was in the nature of a valedictory gesture to speed the laggard guest, something like the pointed 'goodnight' of an exasperated hostess. . . ."

Reply

The Ceylon Envoy, it would appear, was out of the capital when this editorial appeared and when he returned a few days later he wrote a letter to this paper which it published. The letter speaks for itself and we reproduce the same.

After explaining the delay for not writing as soon as the editorial appeared, Mr. Goonesinha stated:

"... Perhaps this was done in your anxiety to defend your friends in the American Embassy, as is demonstrated by your editorial containing every detail of the actions taken by them to take possession of their property. Why was not the same consideration paid to the Ceylonese families who, of course, are not of such importance as the rich American? If you did so, you would have had the version of their story; and I am sure that you would not have, in consequence, resorted to belittling and ridiculing them in your editorial.

Inadequate

"It is true that an agreement was arrived at between the parties to move to the other premises given to them; but unfortunately the Americans went back on the agreement and totally inadequate accommodation was offered to them. This was questioned by Mr. Gomes, whereupon the American gentleman who was responsible for this arrangement became very angry and told the Gomeses that he would have them removed instantly.

"And he put his words into action immediately by having the roof removed. You would also have learnt that one family consisted of three small children, and the other family an infant and a girl of eight years of age. It was fortunate that it did not rain on that day, as otherwise there was no

Tactics

question that the children and even the adults would have been subjected to dire consequences. The parties saw me and complained about the inhuman action of the Americans-

"I could not believe that members of a country that is preaching to the world at large 'the democratic way of life' and is opposed to any inhuman acts, should have behaved in this manner. I was told that one Mr. G. B. Mathews gave this order. I asked him over the phone whether it was true he gave such an order.

"He answered 'yes' and told me as the Gomeses were unco-operative I did this.' I then asked him whether you do such things in America, and is this your democratic way of life?"

Ambassador

"He then said that I should speak to the American Ambassador, as he was ordered by the American Ambassador to have the roof removed. I then told him that I was not going to speak to the American Ambassador, but would write to him."

"Forthwith I addressed a strong communication to Mr. Cumming, the American Ambassador, protesting against this bullying. I have had no reply; but a memo was presented to me by my Secretary stating that one Mr. Francis T. Underhill (Second Secretary of American Embassy) called at his residence and wanted him to take the letter back on the plea that it was strongly worded, and Mr. Underhill also made a statement in respect of the events relating to the trouble.

"My Secretary rightly refused to accept the letter and requested Mr. Underhill to get his Ambassador to write to me or me call at the Legation (of Ceylon) personally with the explanation. His reply is probably your editorial.

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Ceylon Envoy Fights U. S. Bully Tactics

Continued from page 15

"Some other Ceylonese who had been given accomodation in premises once used as stables complained that they did not get the rooms promised to them and that they were suffering great hardships.

Untruth

"I minuted on the memo presented to me by my Secretary that Mr. Underhill's statement consisted of truths, half-truths and untruths.

"The greatest untruth, which you have accepted without question, is the 'timing' with regard to the removal of the roof. As a correspondent has pointed out that the last day for the shifting was June 30, and there is no doubt that 'this explanation' was trotted out merely to hide the sins of commission and omission of the American Embassy.

"The words of Mr. Ma'news still ring in my ears—the removal of the roof was done on the orders of the American Ambassador because the Gomeses were unco-operative'.

"Will you, Sir, publish this letter in full, in fairness to myself and the Ceylonese involved, so that the public may have a proper idea of what actually happened."

Mistake

This letter was published in the *Times of Indonesia* with an editorial entitled **OVERRIDNG CRITERION**. Like the earlier editorial, this was also a vigorous defence of the American Embassy. The removal of tiles was said to be a mistake of the contractor who had removed it on the 24th instead of the 30th.

Even in this editorial, the *Times of Indonesia*, was constrained to remark as follows: "... .. And now to sum up: we hold that the American Embassy put itself in the wrong by removing the roof of 5 Medan Merdeka Selatan a week

in advance of the deadline given by the Djakarta Housing Office, it being apparent that the act was performed with malice aforethought in order to pressure the tenants into quitting....."

The Law

Our Djakarta Correspondent informs us that this was not the first occasion the Americans took the law into their own hands to throw out a tenant. An old German lady, aged 75, was similarly thrown out by cutting her water and electricity supply with the aid of certain corrupt officials. These officials, it would seem, have now been dealt with by the Indonesian Government, but it is note worthy that the Americans who speak so much about law and order should resort to bully tactics instead of having recourse to the due processes of the law. In the case of the Gomeses, even if they did not leave on the 30th, the correct thing for the Americans to have done was to have reported the matter to Housing Office to eject the Gomeses in the manner provided for by law.

There is no doubt that but for Mr. Goonesinha's vigorous protest, the Gomeses would have suffered

great hardships. A further significant point is that, it would appear the American Ambassador does not like to receive strongly worded protests and the attempt to persuade the Official Secretary of the Ceylon Legation, Mr. Cruse, to get the letter withdrawn by the Ceylon Envoy does not reflect well about the "diplomatic" methods of the Americans.

Snooty

To put it at its best, Mr. Underhill's effort might have been interpreted as an attempt to bring about an amicable settlement. Our Correspondent in Djakarta states that this was not the way to effect it. Mr. Cummings is one of those snooty diplomats who does not believe on "calling" on Heads of Missions of countries he considers "small" nations. And it seems that he had never called on the Ceylon Legation after Mr. Goonesinha's arrival there, as diplomatic custom requires. **Mr. Goonesinha himself has confirmed this and stated that this was the reason why he had to write to the Ambassador and speak to him in the first instance.**

"Tribune" also learns that instead of replying to the protest of the Ceylon Envoy (the protest is still unanswered), the American Ambassador caused the American Embassy in Colombo to protest to the External Affairs Ministry against the "undiplomatic" behaviour of Mr. Goonesinha.

This is again unheard "diplomatic" practice. It was open to Mr. Cummings to report the incident to Washington and the State Department could properly have taken up the matter with Colombo. If the Colombo American Embassy's interference in this matter is "diplomacy," then it was open to Mr. Goonesinha to cable Mr. R. S. S. Gunawardena in Washington to protest to the American Government against the "criminal" action of the U. S. Ambassador in Indonesia in ordering his subordinates to remove the roof over Ceylonese subjects who happen to be tenants in a property owned by the Embassy.



tea pluckers in China. Ceylon has concluded a price agreement for 1955 under the Rice-Rubber Pact with Peoples China.