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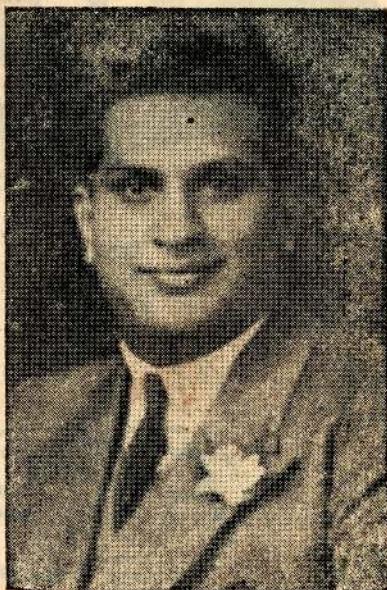
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as a Newspaper VOL 47 NO 8 COLOMBO 11 APRIL 30th 1968 ( Late )

## THE CEYLON COCONUT BOARD

The Minister for Trade and Commerce deserves a special mead of praise for having appointed a new body of men to be Members of the Ceylon Coconut Board.

Hitherto the Coconut Board has been languishing for want of a certain amount of push, with better and brighter ideas to resuscitate an industry that has almost reached a state of utter dismay. We remember the time when square pegs in round holes were appointed to this Board and when frustra-



Mr. S. R. de Silva

ration quickly set in. We also remember a particular occasion when a public man applied for the post of Manager of the Ceylon Coconut Board and was rejected. But to the utter surprise of this body, "the stone that the builder's rejected happened to be at the head of the corner." However we are happy in the thought that Mr. Hugh Fernando, has taken good care to see that there was no old wine in new bottles.

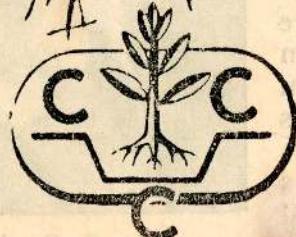
The new Chairman of the Board is none other than Mr. S. R. de Silva, a practical planter and Desiccated Miller, and one who, without the shadow of a doubt, was nurtured right under the Coconut palm. What he does not know of the Coconut Industry is not worth knowing. Taking our mind back to a couple of years ago we remember that he toured the Philippines together with a few others to represent Ceylon at the Manilla Conference. He, together with his fellow delegates, submitted an elaborate and independent report of their tour and the first hand information and knowledge obtained in the Philippines in regard to the development of the Coconut Industry. What came of that report and what good accrued to the country's benefit it is difficult to say. However, now that he is the Chairman of this important body, we are more than confident that he will set about things right earnestly and see to it that the Coconut Industry will reach a new high in the interests of the country.

There is another matter that needs mentioning and that is in regard to the D.C. Industry. Very recently the Philippines suffered from a severe Typhoon and tremendous damage was done to their coconut Industry.

And strange as it may seem, neither the Government nor some of the members of the previous Board were aware of such calamity and at a time when something

( Contd. from page 3 )

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# THE SEARCHLIGHT

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VOL 47

NO 8

— COLOMBO —

APRIL 30th 1968 (Late)

## Racketeering in Canned Fish

The C. W. E. are the Sole Importers of this commodity and very rightly too distribute the same to the Trade at a reasonably fair price, keeping a margin of profit. But what happens when the Tin Fish is exhibited in the Boutiques and Oilmanstores. The ghoulish tendency of sharks remain un-perturbed and the tin of Canned Fish which is sold somewhere in the region of 95 cents per tin wholesale, is openly sold in the market at prices ranging from Rs. 1/75 to Rs 2/-. Scandalous is it not ? and what has happened to our much boosted Price Control Inspectors who are supposed to do their rounds. checkmating all these evils.

They have vamoosed and heaven only knows what the people are suffering from at the hands of the blood suckers and sharks who are exploiting the masses well and truly. No fish, no meat, and even the Canned fish is today beyond the reach of middle and poor

classes of people. Prices in Dry Fish keep on sky-rocketting and to add insult to injury vegetables are on the expensive side. No wonder the living index will keep on mounting daily.

Something must be done soon to combat this state of affairs, else the public will show their resentment ere long at the callous indifference of the authorities. The C.W.E. must take a firm hand in the matter and give instructions to all wholesale and retail dealers that they must conform, jointly and severally, to sell the goods supplied them through the C. W. E. at reasonable prices and that if any public report is received by the Department, they will not be entitled to purchase their requirements from the C.W.E. This must be made manifestly clear to the wholesaler who it is that is benefitting from unconscionable profiteering.

# SURE SIGN OF GERMAN REUNIFICATION!

The age of miracles is not over. We were astonished to see a photograph appearing recently in a section of the local Press of His Excellency the new Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, Herr Wilhelm Franz Joseph Hoffman stepping in ceremoniously under an archway of angling rods and accompanied by (believe it or not) the well-known Ceylon personality Mr. James T. Rutnam, President of the Anglers' Club of Ceylon. Mr. Rutnam is also known in this Country as the Founder President of the Ceylon - GDR Friendship Association and the staunchest promoter and chief architect of the movement to give full recognition to East Germany in Ceylon. We know the early struggles of this movement right up to the birth pangs when the GDR had only two nurses Pieter Keuneman and Jim Rutnam in Ceylon. Today the GDR

representation is well and truly established in Ceylon and perhaps it will not be long before the Dudley Senanayake Government gives full recognition... what with Comrade Phillip going great guns in the Cabinet!

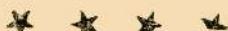
What beats us is to find, of all people Jim Rutnam leading the new West German Ambassador to the halls of the Anglers' Club on what has come to be known as the historic first public appearance of the New Ambassador soon after he had presented his credentials to the Governor-General of Ceylon.

This happened on the 4th May 1968 and we now discover that the popular Lions of Wattala who were most anxious to score an ambassadorial first had been caught napping, for the Lions were able to foregather for their pow-wow only after

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MEETS  
WEST



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# CABINET NIGHT AT BARONS COURT



twilight of the 10th May 1968, finding comfort in the thought that their President, Mr. L. A. Wijesinghe, had been at any rate the first Ceylonese to be at the "Embassy Doorstep" with the first Ceylonese invitation to Ambassador Hoffman in a truly Gilbertian development.

What is of interest to us and to other Germanologists is not where Herr Hoffman first went, but the startling and ( promising though) news of Jim Rutnam's first friendly gesture towards the West Germans in Ceylon. We know well how he had treated poor old Dr. Theodore Auer. What is the significance? Has Jim Rutnam gone westwards or West Germany gone Eastwards? Or is it the fulfillment of a prophecy made ( in jest ) by

the Hon. J. R. Jayewardene that it might be only Jim Rutnam who could bring East Germany and West Germany together. That was when Jim was hosting J. R. at the wedding reception to his daughter and British son-in-law. Perhaps this is an echo of what is currently happening way back in the Germanys. It was only the other day, as reported in our columns (see The Searchlight-29th February 1968) that Jim Rutnam feted the popular departing Zempleburgs at a glittering function when he held court at Barons' Court, flanked by Cabinet Ministers and prominent politicos of the Left and Right. What's up? Is German reunification just round the corner?

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(Contd. from cover page)

tangible could have been done to bolster up our local Desiccated Coconut market.

Of course when matters were brought to the attention and notice of the authorities, various excuses were put forward and the bogey of a disease connected with Desiccated coconut, resulted in the matter being thrown to the limbo of forgotten things. We are mentioning this because the authorities always adopted a laissez-faire policy and never in the least cared to take any interest

whatsoever, to catch up with the competition from outside which has been ruining Ceylon's D. C. market.

Now that Mr. S. R. de Silva and his band of energetic members have been given their rightful place, it is to be sincerely hoped that they will endeavour to do everything in their power to help advance and stabilise our Coconut Industry which, truth to tell has been in a parlous condition these many years.

## Comments On Matters Arising From Our Observations & The Commissioner's Report

Among numerous memorable contributions and remarkable services rendered to the country in recent times we may count the public works executed as a Govt. Engineer and as a Municipal Engineer by C.E. FONSEKA, an A. M. I. Struct E & a G. I. Mech E who secured the first place in the World's list at the final Examination of the Institute of Civil Engineers in the early nineteen thirties.

Moratuwites figured as pioneers of movements to foster local industry and develop various cottage industries. For centuries past Moratuwa has produced some of the cleverest house-builders, expert cart manufacturers who turned out the Moratu Buggy, architects, carvers and cabinet makers, famous boat and ship builders while many an illustrious House of Trade, Commerce & Industry have set an example of enterprise to their countrymen. A tremendous service to the country has been rendered by Messrs. Richard Pieris & Co. Ltd., while Messrs. Artisans Ltd, Merchants, Civil & Structural Engineers and Exporters have been notable in the field of building construction.

The Rev Robert Spence Hardy expressed the opinion in 1864 that 'There is scarcely an estate in the Island that had not contributed to the wealth of Morotto as men of this village have been employed to build the

dwellings, stores and lines of the planters and a great part of their furniture has been made by the same hands. . . . these people from residing in all parts of the interior, and coming daily into contact with the English mind they no longer live after the manner of their forefathers but are active, intelligent and persevering.' Indeed, that in any part of the Island one comes across the Cow, the Crow and Moratuwite is a popular phrase. They are men of superior ability and moral independence who have turned the sweat of their brow to power and renown.

**SPECIAL MOMENT — 'Ignorance is the Dominion of Absurdity'**

The Ceylon Daily News reported on 14.3.1968 that 'the Commissioner in his Report to the Minister of Local Government states that Moratuwa is over-populated and that the only direction it could expand in order to meet the fast increasing population is towards the airport area, is clearly untenable, for purposes of residence or industry because building within the airport area is forbidden.'

No sane man of Moratuwa would have made a submission to that effect. Either for purposes of residence or industrial pursuits would any man with a head above his shoulders expect building space within the airport

area? On the other hand one could expect building space within the area which extends from the Deaf & Blind School up to Templer Road surrounding that particular extent of land on which the airport stands. This Ratmalana Airport area comes within traditionally recognised Moratuwa, and whether this area which was as the saying goes 'the Eldorado of the thief who idled by day and snatched his living by night' some decades ago, or as expressly or otherwise stated whether this area which has 'become a status symbol' or not we cannot escape the burden of our right full inheritance. We, therefore claim the surrounding area on the north, south, east and west of the airport as the only direction for expansion.

Happily the above extract from the learned Commissioner's Report which has found much favour at the hands of the news Editor needs no effort to expose it; for apart from the repugnance of the extract to all moral and refined feelings, it carries its refutation in its own absurdity.

Through utter ignorance on the part of interested parties Moratuwites have often been held up to ridicule. Enlightened people view matters in an intelligent way. Just as there is both virtue and vice in Pride and even in Jealousy, when we use such words as we do so often with every sentiment that is lofty, sweet and sublime, we mean for example that we jealously preserve our inalienable rights and that we have always treasured with pride the recollection of past events and we as lineal and lateral Chandra Kurukula Suriya descendants of our Kings feel proud of the achievements of our countrymen.

The Press should make it its steady aim to form a just and lofty public sentiment and should at the same time give to upright and honourable men an opportunity of making known their opinions and views on matters of general interest, in short, that freedom of expression, however opposed to the opinions and curious passions of the day.

We will be the last to speak contemptuously of Sentiment since the nob'est part of our existence is based on sentiment. As James A. Froude would emphatically stress Patriotism is sentiment, conscience is sentiment. Honour, shame, reverence, love of beauty, love of goodness, every high aspiration which we entertain, all are sentiment. All are unpractical according to the profit and loss philosophy. Yet without them man is but an animal, lower not higher than his fellow - creatures, as his desires are more satiable.

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Now, when we say that this question of the well-defined territory of Moratuwa is a question of sentiment, we mean that it touches the quick of our national being. Precisely a similar or peculiar sort of cry is raised over there in Jaffna. But let there be

a sense of proportion and an ability to balance opposing opinions. However if "Moratuwa's claims are sentimental", Moratuwites are wise. Who then is otherwise?

Gustavus Jayewardene.

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# THAT SCREWED NOTE

At the age of 19, I was a rumbustious young man. I lived on the outskirts of a large sea-side town in the South West of England. On Saturday afternoons in the winter I used to turn out for the local Rugger club which, although not in the top flight, was nevertheless a good one whose results appeared in the national Press. After the game I drank my three or four pints of beer (which was all I could afford at the time), led the singing of slightly off colour songs and the telling of purple stories and considered myself, all in all, a jolly good chap! Then, tired with honest toil, happy and a little tight, I made my way home. I was in fact a very ordinary, middle class young man with no special vices except perhaps slightly inflated idea of my own importance. Women, with the exception of my mother, played no part in my life. I had neither the time nor the money to indulge in such frivolities and anyway they would have interfered with the all important business of keeping fit!

Every morning I climbed aboard a bus and made my way to the nearby town where I was studying engineering at the local technical college. Most of the other occupants of the bus were students like myself and the stuffy atmosphere was loud with noisy chatter and banter.

One morning I noticed a dark attractive girl occupying the front seat. Each morning thereafter she was sitting quietly by herself, cool and detached and taking no part in the general rowdiness around her. One or two of the brasher students made passes at her but were met with polite indifference.

As the days went by I became more aware of the presence of this girl and I longed to meet her. But how? I could not risk a rebuff in front of all my friends. Determination however provides the means and I wrote out a note, to be held in readiness and handed to her at the first opportunity. The note read:- "My name is David Fellows I have been wanting to introduce myself for a long time but have not had the courage to do so. I would very much like to know you. Will you have supper with me

tonight? If you would rather not, please screw this up and drop it on the floor. I shall understand."

In due course the opportunity arrived; the seat beside her was emp'y. With my mouth, I sat down beside her and fumbled in my pocket for the note. She read it thoughtfully and then looked at me. "I'm sorry," she said. "I am afraid it won't be possible," and then she dropped the note on the floor.

I don't mind admitting I was pretty down-hearted when this happened but youth is ebullient and my depression was short-lived. Seeing her every day kept the embers of incipient love aglow and I began to realize that I was in the grip of an obsession. I was in love -- or thought I was! Something had to be done because I was getting to the point where I could think of nothing else but this girl, and my studies were likely to suffer. Some mornings later I saw the seat beside her was again unoccupied, so using Rugby tactics, I forced myself to the front of the bus and slumped down beside her.

"Please," I asked, "won't you change your mind. Inspite of my rough exterior, I'm absolutely harmless. In fact my friends think I'm quite a nice sort of chap."



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She looked at me searchingly. "Are you serious about this or are you just trying to pick me up? Have some of your friends put you up to this?" she asked. "I promise you the idea is entirely mine." I replied. "Please say yes." "Alright," she said briefly. "I'll meet you this evening, if you'd like me to".

For the rest of the day I was floating on air and as the hours crawled slowly by, I became more and more nervous. What more delicious excitement than that enjoyed by a young man experiencing his first pangs of love! What more exquisite torment and rapture rolled into one!

As soon as work for the day was ended, I hurried to our meeting place. My throat was as dry as old parchment and I was having trouble with my Adam's apple. At that moment, I would willingly have given a year of life to have been able to show just a little of eloquence and technique of Romeo. She too seemed uncertain of herself and we walked sedately and with barely a word exchanged towards a restaurant, which I realized would swallow up most of my month's allowance. I was tongue tied with shyness and my voice, when I managed to find it, sounded like the croaking of a lovelorn frog. Oh where, where was the hearty young rug-

ger type: the gay drinking man: the good fellow?

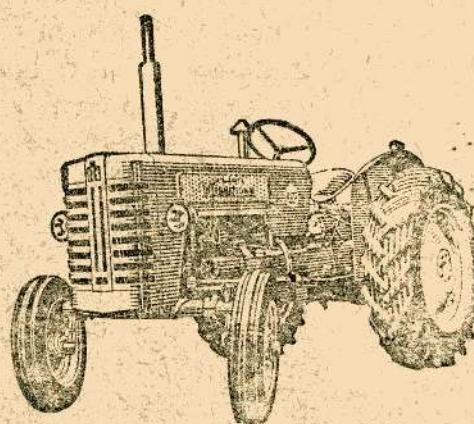
We were passing a cheap but brightly lit cafe when she turned to me and said, "That place looks nice and cosy. Let's go in there and please I would like to go halves in the expense. We entered the cafe and sat down opposite each other across the hard topped table. It was warm and comfortable inside and slowly our senses began to relax and the conversation to flow. Before long we were utterly absorbed in each other's presence, to the exclusion of all else and time was standing still. But time too can be a bitter enemy of young love and suddenly she looked at her watch. 'Heavens' she exclaimed. 'Look at the hour. We must go or we will miss the last bus.'"

Outside I took her arm and the pressure of her body against mine told me that I was accepted. Thereafter it became plain sailing and as soon as I started earning, I married the girl.

But do you know, to this day, she has never told me why she screwed up my note and dropped it on the floor !

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# Moratuwa's Right to Ratmalana

We herein introduce views expressed by historically interested citizens who are supporting all efforts to raise the Moratuwa Urban Council to the status of a Municipal Council and to restore Moratuwa's encroached territory.



Mr. A. P. Gomes, M.Sc (London), a retired Science Master, makes the following observations explaining the crux of the question at issue. His explanation throws sufficient light on the intrinsic principle involved. He cites an instance from

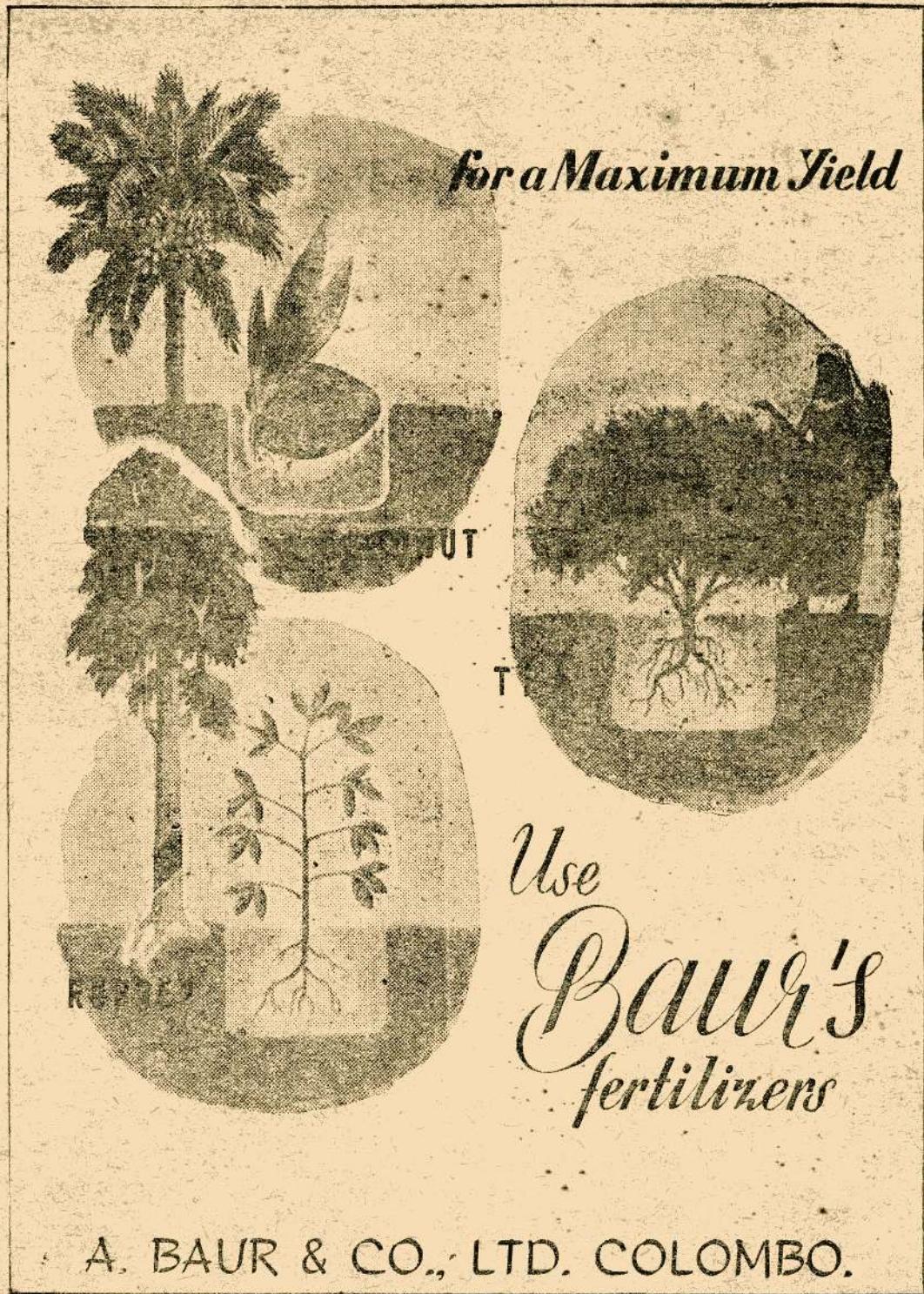
Buddhist Stories – the Kurudhamma Jataka wherein it is stated that a certain Land Measurer in Kuru Land went to measure a paddy field for his master. He was so conscientious that when he surveyed the land with a creeper the peg came just over a crab's hole. (1) If he had pressed the peg down he would have killed the crab. (2) If he had posted the peg a few inches in front he would have made the land less and this would have been unfavourable to his master. (3) If he had posted it behind the crab-hole he would have been robbing the neighbouring paddy field owner, thereby depriving him of a fraction of his rightful possession. Now, that was the problem he could not solve. According to PANCHASEELA observed from pre-Buddhist times and the custom that prevailed among Kuru folk, all three measures were wrong and sinful.

To come to the point at issue, while Moratuwa aspires to Municipal status today, we are asking for the land that legitimately belongs to us. We do not want an inch more or an inch less. In spite of our

demands from time to time we have been deprived of a part of our township – more correctly speaking the Moratu Peruwa. It is nothing but right that Moratuwites should get back whatever areas possessed unlawfully or enjoyed temporarily by our good neighbour.

Since explaining the crux of the question at issue on 6th March throwing ample light on the intrinsic principle involved and having on 9th April given a discourse on Kuruvendra Aja Saka Varsha, it has pleased God to take away from us after a brief illness of two days this excellent Scientist and Historian, Mr. A. P. Gomes, aged 71 years and to take without warning on Good Friday 12th April 1968, amidst prospects of usefulness, having earlier given the best part of his life to the cause of teaching and lecturing on allied subjects like Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics. He had at the same time taken a keen interest in historical research and had till the last moments of his life been engaged in a constant struggle towards something heroic and high, while inspiring all those with whom he came in contact throughout the best years of his life with the scientific method applied to history, culture, religion, the great traditions & customs of our society and our interesting folk lore. In all his writings we perceive the marks of an understanding surrounded by a clear and warm atmosphere. The subjects on which he thought and wrote were dealt with tangibilities. To have been the centre of many influences and to have adorned a profession in two colleges, Holy Cross, Kalutara and St. Peter's, Colombo, where the standard of professional talent and morality is high, and as the guardian & guide of many a distinguished past pupil, he was EMINENT.

G. J



MR. M. R. PERERA, an erudite scholar and pandit and a member of the teaching profession who has retired after meritorious service and has also figured as an authority on the Co-operative Movement, says thus:-

We in our nature must be prepared to march with the times to reach the cherished goal of progressive perfection instead of setting Moratuwa's progress backwards. True it is that there was a time when Moratuwites did not want even a Local Board. But when the right time came they accepted the same. And when Sir John G. Fraser was making arrangements to raise the civic status of Moratuwa in grades by introducing an Urban Council, he referred to MORATUWA as "The SOUTHERN LIMITS OF CIVILISATION" a statement confirmed by Mr. J. Gerald Fernando who interested himself in public matters from his youth. Then again, though the TAXES were made the bug bear of POLITICS, in course of time they accepted an Urban District Council.

We are now asking for a Municipality and we are happy to say that we shall not stand satisfied with it. For when the right and the ripe time comes we shall also urge for a Corporation.

GUSTAVUS JAYEWARDENE, Journalist, as a keen student of history and a chronicler of matters pertaining to persons, places and prominent events, makes the following submissions:-

Our own sweet homeland MORATUWA is as pleasing to nature as her children have got a note of warmer affection for her jurisdiction over rightful inheritance. The surroundings of their own home naturally inspired them even in a topographical sense so as to assert that it is their own, their native land-Moratu Peruwa.

Now Peruwa is from Pere-uvaise meaning jurisdiction over rightful inheritance. This term comes from the Portuguese idea of paternal inheritance which in course of time came to mean a well-defined territory.

Running through Moratu Peruwa starting from RATMALANA is the Colombo Galle Road opened by Sir Edward Barnes, that great road maker as Governor of Ceylon. On the western side of the said Main Road, Ratmalana is south of the natural water course called and known as Okadewaturapara bordering upon the old

Quarry Road. On the eastern side of the said Main Road, Ratmalana is south of Templer Road.

The Moratuwa Electorate rightly extends up to Templer Road on the east of the Main Road.

Certain areas of the Moratuwa Electorate are administered by V. Cs of Kotte, Maharagama and Mampe, - K e s b e w a because the said areas do not come within the present Urban Council of Moratuwa, despite the fact that all the said areas are part and parcel of Moratuwu Peruwa.

In the context under reference it will be found that the said areas by reason of the absence of co-ordination had opened to a further difficulty in the future.

Accordingly we intended to request the Commission of Inquiry to be pleased to commend to the favourable notice of the Hon'ble the Minister of Local Government that in settling the matters in dispute it will be expedient to have all areas under one local authority — namely Moratuwa so that there may be harmony between the Parliamentary Electoral Division and the traditionally acknowledged territory of the Local Authority.

Gustavus Jayewardene

Organising Convener

Deputation led by Mr. J. Gerald Fernando

PRO } Municipal Status for Moratuwa

PRO } Restoration of Moratuwa's

Encroached Territory.

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## AND HERE WE ARE !

In our humility we accept with grateful thanks the sentiments expressed by the President of the World Health Foundation of Ceylon, who has with the approval of the Council of Governors of this newly formed Body, sent us the annexed letter which is reproduced alongside this editorial.

In The Searchlight's mission in life during the last 47 years and more, we have always endeavoured to give whatever support that was and is possible, to ameliorate the untold suffering and hardship, among the maimed, the crippled, the blind and the sick. Whether we looked at the above mentioned from the angles of Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, Mohammedanism or Zorastrianism, our foremost ideal has been the cause for doing something good for humanity. All great religious teachers gave one and the same message.

Therefore it is a duty, nay obligation on our part as publicists, to go all out to do something for any cause that is worthy and deserving of public support. Now that the World Health Foundation of Ceylon has started on a worthwhile project in the cause of the suffering, The Searchlight will most assuredly give its unstinted support to promote and further propagate the lofty ideals of this body for the greater good of the largest number.

We thank Mr. President for the tribute he has paid us and we reciprocate his good and sincere wishes.

## BOUQUET

### World Health Foundation of Ceylon

The Rotary Office  
Hotel Taprobane  
Colombo. Ceylon  
Telephone 2950 23rd May 1968

Anton Bertram Gomes Esq.,  
Publisher  
"The Searchlight,  
No. 71/1, 37th Lane,  
Colombo. 6.

Dear Mr. Gomes,

On behalf of the Council of Governors of the World Health Foundation Ceylon, I wish to tender you our full measure of appreciation for the excellent coverage you gave our cause in the April issue of The "Searchlight".

Your article, coming as it is without solicitation, gives us added confidence in the task to which we have set our hands, namely, to make life more worthwhile for the vast numbers of handicapped children and adults within our midst.

Please convey to the "members of the staff" who wrote the article, our warmest congratulations on this excellent piece of writing.

Please also accept our order for 40 copies of April issue of the "Searchlight", which we would like to circulate to our supporters in other countries.

With continued best wishes for the future success of "The Searchlight" in its quest of its motto "For the good we can do."

Yours Very truly  
J. C. Nilgira  
President

# Will Export Bonus for GEMS Be SABOTAGED?

Powerful elements amongst the foreign Racketeers who do not wish to see the end of currency and other rackets in Ceylon, are said to be making a strong bid to sabotage the Government's decision to introduce the extention of the Export incentive Bonus to the Gem, Jewellery and Tourist Trades, originally recommended to Government by the Ceylon Jewellers and Tourist Traders Association as a positive remedy to arresting the trend towards national economic loss in these spheres.

The Ceylon Jewellers and Tourist Traders banded themselves together about a year back, when all around them who were engaged in various smuggling and currency rackets made the Ceylon Jewellers and Gem merchants the scapegoats and started calling them names. It was in circumstances such as these that the above Association recommended to Government the introduction of the Bonus Scheme which right from the start was effectively opposed by officialdom till the Ministry of Commerce saw reason therein.

In the thick of these activities even the membership of the Association which was becoming really a powerful body, were lulled through a false sense of satisfaction with the steam-rolling of various other activities like Beauty Contests, Ball Room Dancing and Exhibitions, thus pushing back the aspirations of the general membership to have their day to day needs rectified and redressed through collective bargaining. Only now is it clear, going through the chain of events that followed, that right from the start the foreign elements have been as active as the general membership in having their way with the recurring rackets perpetrated on the economy of the country.

These elements are also said to be planning opposition to the bonus scheme with cooked up propaganda that the extention of the bonus scheme to a 'Luxury' trade is a step in the wrong direction and already the conspiracy to play that line up through the mass propaganda media is being hatched in the relevant quarters. The Bonus Scheme that has been in operation in regard to the agricultural and other exports has shown

clear results of helping the depleted foreign exchange reserves of this country and those who know the possibilities if this scheme is extended to the gem and jewellery trades are hell bent to see that it is prevented at all costs only to further carry out their nefarious activities on the economy of Ceylon. They are fully aware that the day the Bonus Scheme is introduced will mark the decline of their chances of making easy money in the Ceylon money market, and the new rich who owe their position in the Country to these rackets cannot help but oppose this nationally feasible move.

These same foreign elements appear to have succeeded in breaking up the once active Jewellers Association too. The Government must not be misled by these subtle moves of the racketeers. They must go ahead with the scheme and permit the earner of foreign exchange to utilize at least 60% of the earnings for his own imports, so that smuggling and currency rackets will not be worthwhile any more. The Government must also be very careful about those who will attempt to kiss the hand that they cannot sever in this context. It is the bounden duty of the Government to introduce effective measures to eliminate the rackets that produce a class of people to live in the lap of luxury at great expense to the State and Society. They who foster suggestions to prevent the introduction of the Bonus Scheme must be regarded as downright stooges of the foreign racketeers carrying out thoroughly un-national activities.

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DEARTH OF ANTI-MARXIST CABINET MINISTERS ?

**WILL J. R AND MOHAMED GET ISOLATED**

All leaders and followers of the United National Party, in one strain shouted from housetops that they were out to save the nation from the viles of the Marxists. The Nationals, because they were largely anti-communist turned out of power the Sirima Bandaranaike Government which showed a positive trend of embracing Marxism through their unholy alliance with the LSSP and the Communists. These same people who rode into power on the crest of a wave of the nation's dislike for Marxism are today flouting the same wishes and aspirations of the people and are acting as if they are on a spree to outdo the communists with their turn-coat treatment of public and national issues.

Within the Cabinet if one definite anti-communist Minister can be found it is indeed Mr. M. H. Mohamed, the Minister of Labour. According to those close to this Minister, it is learnt that he too is frustrated because his Cabinet colleagues do not appear to give him any form of encouragement towards the anti-Marxist Muslim front he has organised from amongst his supporters. Those associated with this positively anti-Communist Muslim leader are also complaining that their efforts at building a worthwhile opposition to the ever increasing false propaganda build up of the Reds in Ceylon, cannot be successful with the Governing party taking such a dim view thereof.

Meanwhile it is amply demonstrated that the day the SLFP will be swallowed up by the Reds in the Coalition is very near at hand. Statements attributed to right-wingers in the SLFP like Felix Dias Bandaranaike clearly point out that they are fast succumbing to the viles of the Red strategists. Felix recently stated that the Marxists in the SLFP Coalition have all publicly accepted the (non-existent) Bandaranaike policies. The statement that Anura Bandaranaike is an up and coming Ceylonese Leader may also be a statement made in the same context of ultimate Red Strategy.

The statement about Anura Bandaranaike may have been prompted by Felix Dias' ignorance of the fact that, in Ceylon with a

people who are grossly devoted to the Democratic Ideals, there are thousands of other youth fitter and better equipped to take on the leadership of the Nation, rather than allow family bandyism to grow any further and it may also be in the context of that "little bit of Totalitarianism" Felix Dias was wont to preach at the height of his power, fresh from his Russian exploits.

Another unseen battle for the leadership of the SLFP between R. G. Senanayake, Felix Dias Bandaranayake and Maithripala Senanayake is also said to be waging unceasingly. Well informed sources believe that the RG faction in the SLFP is destined to win this battle as was clearly seen in the manoeuvres to keep the Marxist Common Programme at bay since the last Annual Sessions of the SLFP at Boossa,

Within the SLFP itself, there are yet others who were shot up to power in 1956 purely on the goodwill of the anti-Marxists in Ceylon, who strongly opposed this urge to build up a few families to be the ruling Class in Ceylon. Not only do they complain about it, but will also oppose this openly at the right time. These are the same people who insist that there should be a positive anti-communist programme of work almost in line with the programme adopted by President Juan Carlos of Argentina for otherwise Red subversion will never permit to make Ceylon an economically independent country amongst the non-committed countries of the world. The current complaint is that this National Government is unable to beat the reds back and stabilise the economy of the country only because it has failed to adopt a clear cut anti-communist policy.

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**The Late**

# **Somasunderam Sellamuttu J.P.**

Foreboding gloom cast itself all over Pettah, when the news was splashed that Sellamuttu Somasunderam was dead. "Soma" as he was better known to his very intimate friends was not enjoying good health during the last three or four months. On the orders of his doctor, he refrained from participating in active business and

took it easy. But during the last few days his condition took a serious turn and with a failing heart, he passed away at St. Michael's Nursing Home, much to the sorrow of his family and a host of friends.

Somasunderam Sellamuttu was edu-

cated at Royal and later on joined his father in business. The firm of Sellamuttu Sivanathan and Company Limited which was established nearly 40 years ago, commanded great respect in business circles as a leading Textile Establishment. Towards this end he gave of his best efforts and together with his brothers, brought it up to the present position ranking foremost among Textile Merchants in Colombo.

As a Director of the Company during the early years his knowledge of the Textile Trade soon brought him to the forefront of business. This necessitated his visiting Europe and the Far East and contacting many of the firm's principal suppliers with a view to promote business interests further, since the firm was looked upon and much sought after by the entire Textile Community.



Apart from Sellamuttu Sivanathan and Company Limited, he later started a firm of his own Messrs. S. Sellamuttu and Company which exclusively confined its business to the import of quality Suiting, Shirting and Woollen materials for Sellamuttu Sivanathan and Co. Ltd and other merchants who placed indents with him. Channeling his great efforts on these two fronts, his sense of duty and unimpeachable integrity won for him the esteem and goodwill of the entire Textile Trade.

After the demise of his father, being the eldest of the family he became Chairman of the Board of Directors. His valuable assistance and guidance to his brother Directors was something remarkable and a wonderful sense of camaraderie and goodwill always ensued. He was never proud or conceited of his position in life but always remained the same from the time he left Royal College up to a few hours before his death.

As a Proprietary Planter actively interested in the Coconut Industry, he knew his subject to the finger tips. He was a member of the the Low Country Products Association and never failed to share his knowledge and experience with his fellow men. He took further interest in several companies of which he was a Director and also gave his unstinted services to the Agricultural Credit Co-operation of which he was a Director and a tower of strength.

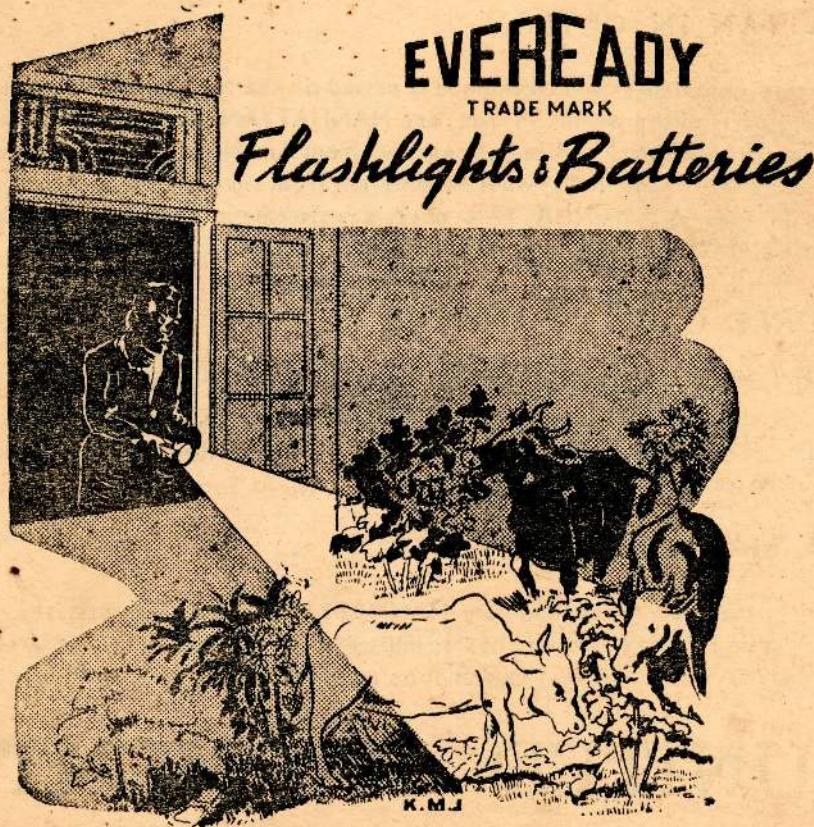
Government recognised his services to the trade of this country, and for the rare interest he displayed when called upon to participate in religious, social or trade movements, he was appointed a Justice of the Peace for the Island. He lived a full life and kept a lovely home which was the cynosure of all eyes. As a member of the Ceylon Turf Club and as an owner of Race Horses, his colours were always prominent. He had a

fair amount of success on the Turf and raced honourably and beyond question. He was a good Rotarian and a Director of Rotary and worthily maintained the high ideals of Rotary. There was a time when "Soma" used to play a good game of golf and the manner he handled the golf stick, one would have imagined that he was a wizard. But he gave up golf since business matters began to tell on his health.

Having known the late Somasunderam Sellamuttu intimately and well over for a quarter century or more it is indeed with great regret that I have to express these sentiments. He was a lovable character, very understanding and sincere, a jewel of a man!

He would never succumb to wrong-doing much less tolerate anyone who would do the dirty. For he was a businessman of rare qualities. He was unrelenting but at the same time his heart always enabled him to live the life of a good and sincere friend, philosopher and guide. He entertained lavishly, dressed well and generally lived the life of a dignified gentleman.

With his death an interesting chapter in the annals of Ceylonese Trade and Commerce has been brought to an end. The turf will not lie heavily on him.



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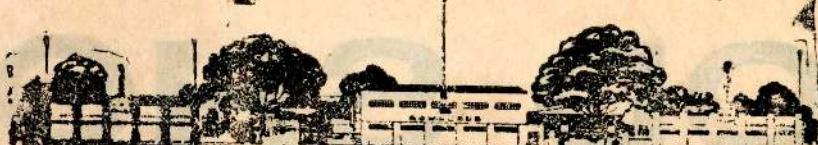


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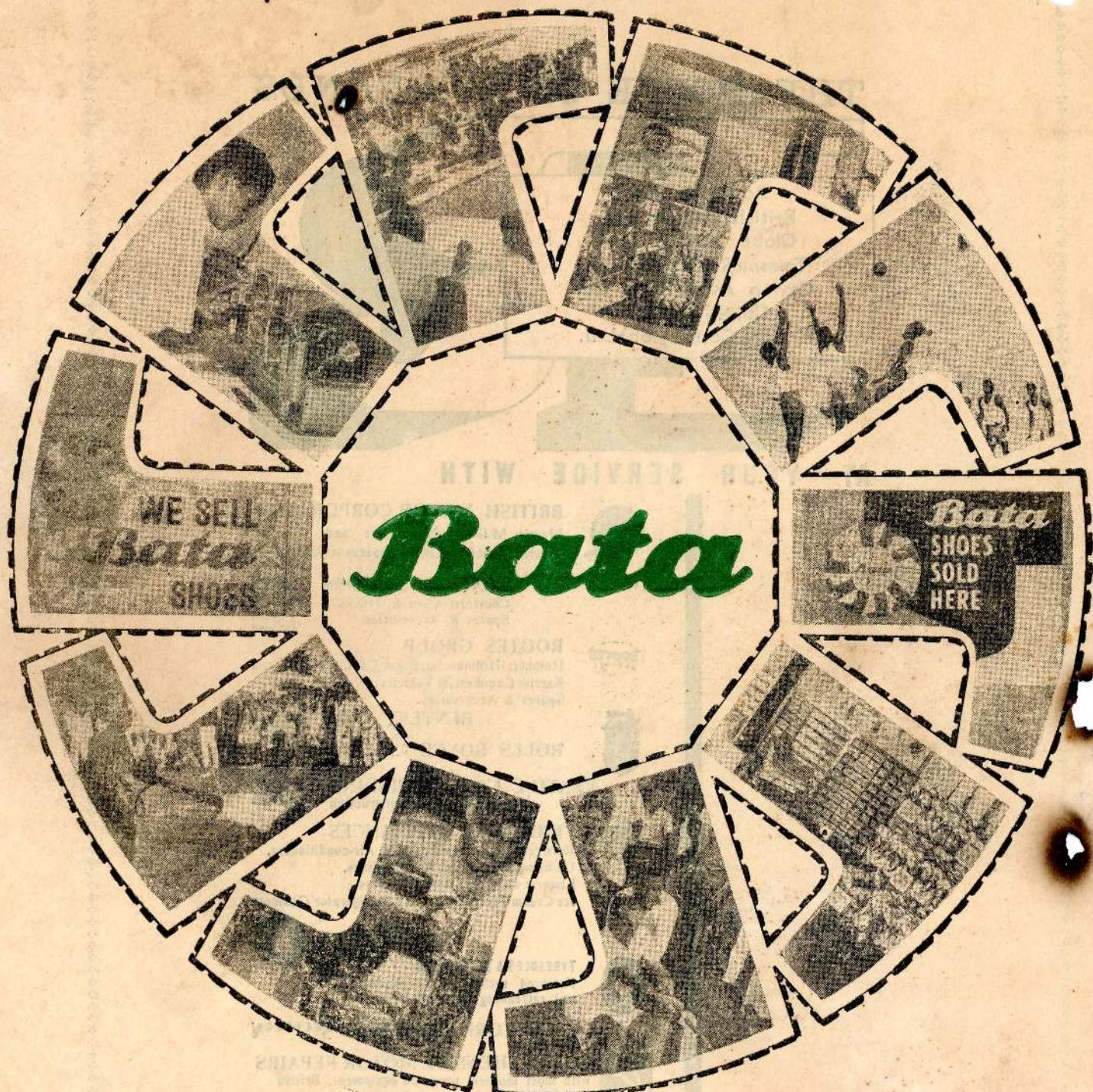
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