

SRI LANKA



WEEKLY INFORMATION SHEET ISSUED BY THE INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

Vol. 4

December 7, 1960

No. 38

'WE MUST ACHIEVE FREEDOM FROM IGNORANCE'

P.M.'s message to the nation

"It is my duty to carry into effect the policies laid down by my husband and to see that the people of this country have achieved not only political freedom but will achieve freedom from ignorance as well", said the Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike in a broadcast to the nation on Sunday.

The following is the text of the broadcast:

"THE 1st of December 1960 will go down to posterity as one of the most important days in the history of our country. As from this day a national system of education has been inaugurated and as a first step in introducing that system the Government has taken over the management of a large number of schools which up to now have been under the management of various religious and private educational authorities. After lengthy discussion and debate in the House of Representatives and the Senate this Education Bill has become law by the will of the vast majority of the people of this country. As from the 1st December the Director of Education became the Manager of 2,554 schools where nearly 60,000 teachers are employed and over two million children received their education.

Memorable Day

"On that memorable day in 1948 when Ceylon received Independence the late Prime Minister, Mr. Bandaranaike, said 'We must not, we cannot, allow our newly regained freedom to run the risk of remaining merely a theoretical concept, a thing dead and without meaning for the vast mass of the people. We must see that it quickens into a life of greater happiness and prosperity for us all. Political freedom comes alive only when we utilise it to achieve other freedoms—freedom from poverty, freedom from disease, freedom from ignorance and freedom from fear.'

"It is my duty to carry into effect the policies laid down by my husband and to see that the people of this country have achieved not only political freedom but will achieve freedom from ignorance as well. We are a young independent nation and it must be our endeavour in this multi-racial, multi-religious nation to live in peace and harmony. We cannot allow various sections of this country to live apart or to be educated in segregated compartments. If this country is to progress we cannot avoid

legislation merely because certain sections do not like it. We cannot postpone for all time legislation that is progressive.

"My Government has been returned to power on the decision of the majority of the people of this country, and we must in a democratic society do what is best for the country as a whole. The Government of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party has pledged a welfare state, and in every welfare state throughout the world vast changes are taking place. One such change all over the world is the transfer of responsibility in the educational sphere, from religious and private authorities to the state. It is the intention of my Government to effect this transfer wisely and smoothly with the co-operation of all concerned. You are aware of the benefits of the change that is to be effected by reason of the national system of education. Up to now certain classes of people have enjoyed the best of education at the expense of the vast majority of the poorer children throughout this country.

Asset to the Nation

"I have had contact with the rural masses of this island, perhaps more than anyone else in this island has had, and I know that there are millions of children

in the rural areas who do not have the privileges of a good education and thousands scattered all over who, given the opportunities that the children of the privileged classes have got, will do far better and be a real asset to this country. Furthermore, education must be conducted according to the needs of the country and not merely to fit children into a privileged society.

"It is the intention of my Government to set up a Commission to examine how best the education of this country should be fitted to the national needs.

"The Assisted Schools Act which came into force on the 1st of December took over the management of all Grade III and rural schools. The Government has given the various religious denominations who were the Managers of Grade I and Grade II schools the option of remaining as private schools. A great deal of misunderstanding has arisen in the country because the Heads of some religious denominations have not thought it fit to tell their people the full implications of this law. These denominations have pressed upon my Government that they should be allowed to levy fees and that this right should be given to them by Law. At the same time they have openly declared that it would be against

their religion to have their children educated in any other school. The parents therefore are left with no choice. The parents hitherto have enjoyed the benefits of free education for their children. Their religion demands that their children should be sent to their own schools. Those very religions also demand that the State should give them the power by Law to levy fees from these same parents. This Government certainly cannot make laws in such circumstances. But the Government has given the right to those religious bodies to levy fees if they can get the support of 75 per cent of the parents and teachers of such schools.

Need for Discipline

"It is most unfortunate that this Education Act has been distorted and various rumours have been allowed to spread without the people being told the truth. People have been told that the Government proposes to take over the schools by force and families are said to be occupying certain schools. I wish to state most emphatically that this Government does not propose to take over any schools by force. Certain religious leaders have also organised demonstrations by women and by innocent school children and are disclaiming the responsibility for such organisations. I wish to tell those religious leaders that the people of this country are not so foolish as not to know who the organisers are. I need hardly say that such demonstrations can easily lead

(Continued on Page 4)

NEW ERA BEGINS IN EDUCATION

Equal opportunities for all: P. M.

"TO-DAY marks the beginning of a new era, the era in which I sincerely hope every child that comes from the poorest home would be given the same education that I would like to give my son Anura", said the Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike at the graduation ceremony of the Royal Primary School held on December 1st.

The Prime Minister said:

"I am very happy to be among you today and to be the Chief Guest on this important occasion. As the Headmaster has told you I am no stranger to this place. We were told that to the pupils of this school I have always been known as 'Anurage Amma' I hope I would continue to be so to them.

"Today marks the beginning of a new era, the era in which I sincerely hope every child that comes from the poorest home would be given the same education that I would like to give my own son Anura.

"It was the long cherished ambition of my late husband, Mr. Bandaranaike, to establish a State controlled system of education to enable every child to have

an equal opportunity to educate himself and to contribute his best in the cause of the nation. Today marks the first fulfilment of that hope and I am glad that I am associated with this epoch making event.

"We have been told that Royal Primary no longer caters to a particular class, but now it has within its walls children of parents of all walks of life, rich and poor. It is our intention to have our educational institutions in different parts of the country open to all alike.

A Misnomer

"THE so-called 'take-over' of the Assisted Schools is perhaps a misnomer. It would be more correct to call it the 'throwing open' of the schools to all the children of this country. It means, to put it simply, the emancipation of the scope of education. We intend to introduce a unified system in the first place, and that system must cater to the needs of the nation.

Under the colonial system which has continued even after Independence our educational institutions have produced, by and large, civil servants, clerical hands—both in the public and private sectors and a small fraction of professional people.

"Such a system was good enough when a foreigner ruled the country and schools were only concerned with producing the men to man the administrative machine for the benefit of the rulers. After Independence, with the advent of free education, the continuance of this system is only producing an ever increasing number of educated unemployed. A national system of education would take into consideration the growing needs of a country such as ours and gear our educational system to a programme of development.

"The Headmaster has referred to certain recent experiments he has carried out to discover in the child its innate talents which should be developed to get the best from him. I hope his experience and the knowledge gained in these experiments will be made available to all schools. I

(Continued on Page 3)

IN SINHALA

THE Minister of Justice, the Hon. Sam P. C. Fernando, has obtained the approval of the Cabinet for the printing of the Sinhalese translations of the Evidence Ordinance, Criminal Procedure Ordinance and the Courts Ordinance.

THE SCHOOLS ISSUE

GOVERNOR-GENERAL PUTS THREE POINTS TO OBJECTORS

'You will not lose by collaboration'

THE Governor-General, Sir Oliver Goonetilleke said at the Royal College prize-giving on December 2: "Let us on this great day in the history of Royal College beg once again of the great and good men who lead this minority; beg of their deputies in the field to do three things.

"Firstly, please persuade the parents who occupy certain schools and the students who have thought it necessary to protest, to return to their normal life.

"Secondly, please collaborate fully with the Director of Education in the working of the Assisted Schools and Training Colleges (Special Provisions) Act. Each school will have its peculiar problems. You will not lose by collaboration.

"Thirdly, watch closely and judge fairly how the unified scheme is working and collaborate fully with the deliberations of the Commission on Education which will be appointed.

"There is a German proverb which runs like this:—

"Es wird nichts so Heiss Gegessen wie Gekocht ist"—

"Nothing is ever eaten as hot as it is cooked".

"In three months, in six months, in one year, those who control the 55 schools that have decided to be outside the National System may decide that in their own interest and in the interest of Ceylon they too should join the Unified Scheme."

The Governor-General said during the course of his address:

"I am very grateful to the Principal for the opportunity of being present here today. I share with all of you the pleasure and privilege of the very special circumstances connected with today's prize giving. This is the 125th Anniversary of the founding of this institution. It is the day for remembering your glorious history and your work in the forefront of education in this country. I share with each one of you the hope and confidence you have for the future of this institution as a model national educational institution of this country.

"May I begin by congratulating you, Mr. Principal, your Staff and your Students on the most encouraging report of work for 1960. The results of the College in its academic activities have continued to be of a high level. And so too are the results of the wide range of extra curricular activities undertaken by the College. I am personally aware of the great contribution that both you and your Staff make towards the progress of the College by giving your valuable services at all times and with great devotion to duty. With over forty societies and games to be looked after, it is but natural that, after a long and tedious day in the classroom, the staff will have to undertake these extra duties at great personal sacrifice. But owing to your capacity for leadership, your loyalty and your sense of duty, your shoulders have always proved broad enough to bear this burden. Your reward has been the turning out of disciplined and useful citizens to have brought credit to

their school by their contribution to the life of the community. In this we all know that the Royalists have excelled.

"From the Principal's Report we learn that the College has its own problems. Firstly, there is the difficulty of finding experienced teachers of Science to cope with the ever increasing numbers doing Physics, Chemistry, Botany and Zoology in the middle and upper school. Secondly, there is the problem of the maintenance of the school buildings and premises referred to in the report. And, thirdly, there is the problem of the Royalist joining the ranks of the educated unemployed. These problems are shared by most educational institutions in the Island.

125 years old

"ROYAL College is 125 years old. There is a lesson to be learnt from this. The 'Institutions' in our land—in all branches of our life, in the Rule of Parliament, in Justice, in Medicine, in Education, in the Public Services—are too deeply entrenched to be easily disturbed or disrupted.

Principal Dudley de Silva: You are the successor to Marsh, Boake, Todd, Harward, Hartley, Reed, Sampson, Bradley and Corea—great Principals, great men, who have trained so many leaders of our land. You have been Principal of Royal since 1953. I am sure that all will join me in wishing you many more years of service to Royal and to the cause of Education in this country.

My Prime Minister: Royal College, as you see it today, is certainly not an unresponsive relic of the Colonial era. It is an institution which has made vast strides of progress in keeping with the changes that have taken place around it. It is unique in that all races and religions mingle freely, study and live together as one family. It is unique in that every boy is taught his own religion and that all religious groups have active societies, functioning side by side in love and amity. It is unique in that pupils of varying political

persuasions freely express their views, and yet understand and respect each other.

Other features

"THERE are other important features to remember in the contribution that Royal College has made to the country during this long period. The College has maintained a high standard in academic work and in sport, and has always maintained a high standard of discipline. Each successive generation of pupils has made a substantial contribution to the public life of this country. Some of the elder generation, who were orthodox in their outlook, were inclined to disagree with some of the progressive steps taken towards allowing the masses to have a greater say in the affairs of the country. They did not hesitate to express their views, but they always did so with that characteristic dignity and decorum. When they were defeated by the majority, they accepted the umpire's verdict as final. They continued however to extend their full co-operation in the service of the nation. This was certainly one of the results of the principled training they had acquired at the Royal College. They had 'learned of books and learned of men, and learned to play the game'.

Sacred traditions

"MANY great Royalists were in the forefront of the struggle for our independence. Today, in Independent Ceylon, many of them lead in the struggle for the emancipation of our less fortunate brethren. They will not forget the great virtues of discipline, of tolerance and of fair play. They will always maintain the ability to win without undue exultation, and to take defeat in the right spirit. These are sacred traditions handed down to successive generations of Royalists by those great men who were your Principals and your Teachers.

(Continued on Page 4)

One of the many fresco paintings which will be exhibited at the Festival of Arts to be held from December 12-18. This Festival will depict the arts and crafts of the people. (See page 4)

GRADE 3 SINHALESE AND

TAMIL SCHOOLS

Education Officers—managers

THE Director of Education, Mr. S. F. de Silva, by a Gazette Extraordinary issued on December 1, delegated authority to Education Officers to function as managers of Grade 3 Sinhalese and Tamil schools in their areas.

This authority has been given under the provisions of the Assisted Schools and Training Colleges (Special Provisions) Act.

Areas listed

The following is the list of Education Officers and their areas of jurisdiction:—

Western Province—Education Officer, Colombo, Thurstan Road, Colombo 3.

Central Province—Education Officer, Kandy, Education Office, Kandy.

Southern Province—Education Officer, Galle, Education Office, Galle.

Northern Province—Education Officer, Jaffna, Education Office, Jaffna.

Eastern Province—(excluding all the schools in the Gal-oya Development Board Area and all assisted Sinhala schools in Batticaloa District)—Education Officer, Batticaloa, Education Office, Batticaloa.

North-Western Province—Education Officer, Kurunegala, Education Office, Kurunegala.

North-Central Province (excluding the Polonnaruwa District)—Education Officer, Anuradhapura, Education Office, Anuradhapura.

Uva (including all assisted Sinhala schools in Bintenna Pattu of Batticaloa District)—Education Officer, Bandarawela, Education Office, Bandarawela.

Sabaragamuwa Province—Education Officer, Ratnapura, Education Office, Ratnapura.

The Gal-oya Development Board Area (and all assisted Sinhala schools in the Batticaloa District excluding those of Bintenna Pattu)—Education Officer, Amparai, Education Office, Amparai.

Polonnaruwa District (and all assisted Sinhala schools in the Trincomalee District)—Education Officer, Polonnaruwa, Education Office, Polonnaruwa.



'NATIONAL SYSTEM WILL NOT HARM ANY RELIGION'

"I make this appeal to people of all denominations in Sri Lanka. It is my privilege to be able to address the parents of this country in my capacity as the Acting Minister for Education on this occasion, when we are about to take the first step, to establish in our country a National Education system, by taking over all assisted schools under the control of the Director for Education. According to the system of Education we have in our country today, most of the young men and women on leaving school—whether it be an Assisted School or a Government School—spend the rest of their lives without any type of employment. Whether these persons have passed their SSC or even a higher exam, it is difficult to find jobs for them in this country to suit the education they have obtained," said the Acting Minister of Education, Mr. V. T. G. Karunaratne, on the occasion of the schools take-over on December 1st.

Continuing the Minister said:

"This should not be because there are enough jobs in our country for all. Apart from the types of employment that we see as obvious, there are many other jobs not so obvious which can not only provide opportunities to earn one's own livelihood but which also enrich the society in which we live in. For such jobs the system of education we now have does not provide adequate preparation. To illustrate this point let us consider the children of this country who for centuries have received education under the present system. How many of them have been able to use their aptitudes to give of their best to this country?"

"The purpose in establishing a national system of education is to put a stop to the growth of unemployment in this country and to train people to be useful. It is to be regretted that when we are about to embark on this scheme a handful of selfish people through fear for their personal and petty gains have tried to mislead the masses by ascribing a religious character to this scheme.

False rumour

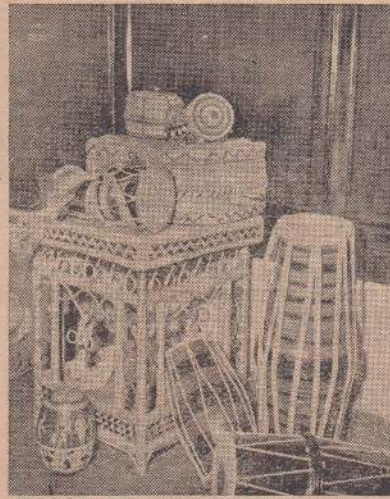
"One false rumour we often hear today is that once these Denominational Schools are taken over the Government will remove from the premises the religious statues and other symbols that have been erected.

As your Acting Minister for Education I can give my assurance that no such thing will be done by the Government once the schools are taken over. To illustrate further let me state that if a Christian School is taken over by the Education Department, any holy symbol such as the Holy Cross or the Statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary found in the premises will not be removed or tampered with. Similarly in the case of Buddhist Schools no Buddhist Statue found in the premises will be removed by the Government. Whatever is found in the school premises at the time of takeover will be allowed to stay there. I like to emphasize on this occasion that we do not contemplate in any way to cause harm to any religion or race by introducing this national system of education in our country.

"Under the present system there are thousands of children among us who do not receive any religious education at all. This number probably exceeds 100,000, therefore our purpose is to bring forth from our schools a generation which will be faithful to their religion, their country and their nation and not one which is irresponsible and irreligious. My reply to those who say falsely that religion is not to be taught is, that the Education Department has made religion a compulsory subject for the G. C. E. The problem we are faced with is whether the free education introduced in 1949 really allows the rich and the poor, to get an education according to the system we have today. The object we have in mind in introducing this national system of education is, to discover the talents of children whether they come from the town or from the country and to train them while at school in vocations suited to their aptitudes. For this purpose provisions have been made to offer 2,000 scholarships.

"Therefore we respectfully ask for your full co-operation to help us in this venture the primary object of which is to stop the growth of unemployment and to train in this country a set of young men and women who will be loyal to their country and faithful to their religion.

"By introducing this national system of education may the growth of unemployment cease! Victory for the National system of education!



A section of the exhibits which will be on view at the Festival of Arts to be held next week.

(Continued from Page 1)

NEW ERA BEGINS....

hope, in the near future, when the Government appoints a Commission to go into the question of the content and purpose of education, men like Mr. Sugathapala will not hesitate to be of assistance in whatever capacity they can serve the cause of education.

In Safe Hands

"I know the future of our educational institutions will be in safe hands if we could have at the helm of other schools men like Mr. Sugathapala and women like his wife, and a loyal band of co-workers that is on the staff of this school. Through personal experience I have realized that there are on the staff men and women who have dedicated their lives to the cause of education.

"It is not instruction alone that they impart here, but the personality of each child is developed and the individual truly educated. The teaching profession, needs, not hirelings but men of sacrifice. For the good shepherd gives his life for the sheep.

"I appeal to you parents who are present here today to realize the significance of the changes that are taking place in our midst, and to be conscious of the fact that we are today taking the most important step in the nation's battle for happiness. It is the

bounden duty of every patriotic citizen to give every co-operation to the Government in these crucial days. Let us have Institutions like Royal College and Royal Primary in every part of the Island. After all, Royal College is the premier Government school. It has produced men of culture, men of learning, men of character; above all, men of religion, of all religions, if I may say so, many of whom bear honoured names in this country. Let us hope that the atmosphere of discipline that pervade Royal and Royal Primary will pervade some other institutions as well.

Scheming Men

"I am sorry that I had to dwell today on what may be said to be a political question. But as it is an educational question and so topical, I thought I must make reference to it. I am indeed glad that I came here today, I feel very happy in the company of so many children. It has given me immense relief after a very arduous and anxious day's work. Sometimes we think that children create great problems for us parents.

"But such problems are not so disturbing as the problems created by scheming men who even use innocent children to further their sinister efforts to achieve selfish ends.

"I take this opportunity to congratulate those of you who are the prize-winners of today, and those who have not had the good fortune should redouble your efforts and be among the fortunate ones next year.

"In conclusion, today, Sir, is an important day and it is as you said a memorable day. The Government will consider making it a commemorative day but the children here will remember this day only if you compensate them in an appropriate manner on a future day for having brought them to school on this day.

The Governor-General, Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, inaugurating the fourth regional technical conference on water resources development at the Galle Face Hotel on Monday.



GOVERNOR-GENERAL PUTS....

(Continued from Page 2)

"Ladies and Gentlemen: There is another reason why today is a day of extraordinary importance to all who love this land. The Prime Minister of Ceylon, the World's first woman Prime Minister, is with you today, and to use her own words, 'yesterday was the beginning of a new era in our Island's Story'. Fifty-nine Grade I Schools, 37 Grade II Schools, 187 Grade III Schools and 2,340 Sinhala and Tamil Schools, making a total of 2,623 Schools, with their 25,941 teachers and 858,537 pupils, have come under the management of the Director of Education. When these numbers are added to those of Government Schools already managed by the Director of Education, from yesterday 7,500 Schools, 2,000,000 Children and 56,000 Teachers are in our Unified System of National Education. Forty-one Grade I Schools and 14 Grade II Schools, making a total of 55 Schools, involving 56,000 students and 2,500 teachers, have become private and non-fee-levying. Government has been paying as grants and salaries nearly Ten million rupees a year to these fifty-five Schools. It is now proposed to collect this amount in 'alms'. The total amount saved by all our people in 1959 in Savings Certificates, Post Office Savings Banks and the Ceylon Savings Bank was only 29 million rupees!

Constructive leadership

My Prime Minister: In your Speech at the Royal Primary yesterday you have explained clearly the position of your Government in this matter. I have your approval to underline a few points. For over a century and a quarter the Rule of Parliament and the Rule of Law have prevailed in this land. In the twelve years of our existence as a free and Independent Nation the position has been the same. The Laws of the land have been enforced. During the last few weeks there has been a remarkable contribution of constructive leadership and of understanding on this point from great leaders of Religion and from the great mass of our people. But there still remains a minority, angry, distrustful of Government, fearful of every kind of obstacle to the proper education of their children and now even beginning to imagine that their very religion is in danger.

"My Prime Minister: Too many of us have missed the implications of adult suffrage, which was given to us in 1931; of free education up to and including the University since 1951; of education in the mother tongue with the inevitable enthronement of Sinhala, the language of the majority of our people; of the impact of 58 Central Schools on the privileged position of Urban Schools. Above all, many of us find it difficult to understand the Sovereignty of a freely elected Parliament in a Democratic State. **My Prime Minister:** I know that however correct your position may be and however unreasonable the attitude of this Minority, you are not prepared to let this matter rest there.

"Although my words are being said in the very hall where in June, 1958, many of us saw scenes of indescribable misery, nobody need think that a situation is arising where Government will fail to give protection to life and property. What is happening, however, is something infinitely worse than outbursts of murder, looting and

arson. Nearly 50,000 homes in this land are being geared up to live lives of hatred against their Government. Children will grow up in this atmosphere of anger and hatred. We are a poor people and the collection of ten million rupees every year as 'alms' is only possible if the heat of the cauldron of hate in every such home is maintained increasingly. Where and how is all this going to end?

"Two very distinguished Old Boys of Royal will be speaking after the distribution of prizes—Sir Nicholas Attygalle, described many years ago as the greatest Gynaecologist East of Suez, President of the Senate for two years, Vice-Chancellor of the Peradeniya University for six years, and Mr. N. E. Weerasooriya, Queen's Counsel for 22 years, Honorary Manager for 16 years of Visakha Vidyalaya, the great gift to Ceylon of Mrs. Jeremias Dias. Sir: When you handed over this School last week to Government there were 2,250 students on the roll and 95 teachers. It was surely the premier Girls' School of Ceylon—perhaps the best in South East Asia. Sirs: Both you and Sir Nicholas have one other high qualification. You believe in Ceylon. You never forget that you belong to Ceylon. At all times the Prime Minister of this land is your Prime Minister. Will not both of you see these great religious leaders personally and persuade them to give this Unified Scheme of Education a fair trial?

My Prime Minister: I speak in this way because I know the importance and urgency of other problems that must engage the attention of yourself and of your Cabinet. I cannot believe that any section of leadership in this country will refuse the collaboration and assistance which you have been repeatedly asking for in the last few days.

"Mr. Principal, Members of the Staff, Old Boys and Present Boys: With undiminished faith in the continued greatness of our land I wish Royal College every success in the years ahead.

FESTIVAL OF ARTS TO BE HELD NEXT WEEK

WITH the assistance of the Department of Cultural Affairs the Arts Council of Ceylon is organising a festival of arts. According to the programme this Festival will include Kandyan, Low Country and Baratha Dancing, Exhibitions of Handicrafts, Copies of Temple wall painting, Mask and Puppet and Habarala and Gok Kola works.

The Festival will be opened by the Minister of Industries, Home and Cultural Affairs, Mr. Maithripala Senanayake on the 12th of this month at the Art Gallery. During the period of 12-18th December, the following Exhibitions and Evening Shows will be held:—

(a) EXHIBITIONS:—

- (i) Handicrafts Exhibition.
- (ii) Exhibition of copies of Temple Wall Paintings and original work on that style.
- (iii) Exhibition of copies of Temple Wall Paintings by Mr. L. T. P. Manjussri.
- (iv) Exhibition of Masks and Puppets.
- (v) Exhibition of "Habarala Kola and Gok Kola work."

Three more textile workshops to be set up

THE Department of Rural Development and Cottage Industries is taking steps to establish three more Art line Textile Workshops and a Screen and Block Printing Workshop which will print designs on locally produced textiles.

In addition to these Centres and Workshops run by this Department, Unions and Co-operative Societies will be encouraged to open their own Workshops.

In view of the increasing mechanisation of the Textile industry, handlooms will have to concentrate on special items of Textiles like high class furnishings, sarees and other art line textiles.

Even if all the art line textiles required in Ceylon are produced on handlooms, a greater portion of the loomage will continue to produce utility materials like sarongs which can be produced on a mass scale cheaper on powerlooms. Ultimately handlooms must be confined to the weaving of fabrics which are peculiarly suited to handlooms. In view of this it would be necessary gradually to encourage handloom weavers to take up to the decentralised powerlooms as is being done now in India. The Department is already operating

decentralised powerlooms in several places. This is a tendency that should be encouraged but through the co-operative sector.

According to a recent survey carried out by the Department of Rural Development and Cottage Industries there was a total of 17,060 looms working and 1,920 looms idling, totalling 18,980 looms, at the end of December, 1959. It is assumed that by the end of 1963, there will be a total of 25,000 looms. On this basis production might reach about 30 million yards by 1963 as against the 15 million yards now being produced per year.

An indiscriminate expansion of the handloom industry will result in the creating of problems that may well nigh defy a solution. Since the survey of December, 1959, referred to the number of handlooms has increased by about 2,000. Proposals are now under consideration for limiting the loomage to 25,000 and production to 30 million yards.

(Continued from Page 1)

WE MUST ACHIEVE...

to a breach of the peace and that lawlessness even on the part of the young will not be tolerated by any Government. If this is the kind of education that some of these schools have imparted to their children the Government must take notice of a lack of discipline in these schools.

Acted with restraint

"I am most grateful to the Buddhist public of Ceylon who have acted so far with a great deal of restraint and I appeal to them to act with the same restraint and show tolerance to those whose conduct may seem provocative. In order to explain to the Heads of various Christian denominations that the Government would wish to have their fullest co-operation I summoned a meeting of the various religious dignitaries at Temple Trees and after a six-hour conference these religious leaders signed a document which was very carefully considered in regard to every single word that appeared in that document. Everyone of those religious leaders signed the official communication which was released to the Press. The Government for its part stands by every word that is in that document. I must say that this Government is most grateful to the Anglican Church, to the Methodist Church, to the Baptist Church and to the Presbyterian Church for its rational approach to the problem and for their assurance of co-operation in full measure to the Government policy. I am aware that they were not altogether in favour of this legislation but they have quite rightly accepted the democratic verdict and are willing to co-operate. I am also deeply grateful to the large number of Roman Catholics, who have pledged this Government their support and refused to be misguided.

"The Buddhist clergy of this Island have appealed to the people to think of other people in a spirit of kindness, pity and mercy in all circumstances however difficult. I appeal to you myself to act with patience, calmness and restraint to allow this Government sponsored system of education, which is prevalent in so many parts of the world to be implemented in this Island as well, to enable our children to derive the full benefits of education and to be taught in a proper atmosphere to be law abiding citizens of the country".

19 NATIONS PARTICIPATE

REPRESENTATIVES of 19 countries and eight specialised agencies interested in Water Resources Development met on Monday at the Galle Face Hotel, Colombo, for the inauguration of the fourth Regional Technical Conference on the subject.

The Governor-General, Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, inaugurated the conference.

The Director of Irrigation, Mr. A. E. C. de S. Gunasekera, who is also the leader of the Ceylon delegation was unanimously elected chairman of the conference.

(b) EVENING SHOWS:—

- (i) Evening Shows consisting of traditional, classical and folk dancing items will be shown each evening at 6.30 p.m. throughout the week.

Following is the programme of evening shows:—

12.12.1960—Variety Programme of Kandyan and Low Country dancing and Baharatha Natyam.

The Government College of Music and Dancing and the prominent Dancing Schools in Colombo will participate on this day.

13.12.1960—Low Country Folk and Classical Dancing.

14.12.1960—Tamil Dancing.

15.12.1960—Kandyan 'classical and Folk Dancing by dancers of traditional dancing families.

16.12.1960—"Kohomba Kan-kariya".

17.12.1960—Puppet Show—"Mahadana Mutta" and "Wella Vehun"—a dance drama based on sokari.

18.12.1960—"Devol Maduwa".

The Evening Shows will be staged at the Open Air Stage, Art Gallery.