

u.n.p.



DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL HEALTH

Ceylon's Birthrate Highest in the World

"IN this country the concept of the practice of national health is undergoing an evolutionary development. In the wake of the State's responsibility for curing ill-health came a sanitary awakening and the control of the major communicable diseases to which was allied the management of primary threats to infant and maternal survival. The next inevitable step, if the experience of more advanced countries is to be our guide, is a close liaison of curative and preventive medicine with a vigorous attack on disease through research and community action. A decisive step to secure this evolutionary change was taken from the administrative point of view when the Health Services Act was drafted to cover the four great foundation pillars of an effective health administration, namely, Central Administration, Decentralised Divisional Administration, Hospital Administration and Local Authority Responsibilities. In October 1953, the Central Administration was set up under the Act, supported by a Health Council," states the Director of Health Services in the introduction to his Administration Report for 1954—a bulky volume consisting of 295 pages.

Policy of the Department
The policy of the Department is to provide the best facilities for the cure of disease and its prevention was combined in 1954 with the main emphasis on the improvement of rural health. With the improvement of rural health services, hospital facilities were expanded during the year both in the availability of beds, specialised medical care and aids to diagnosis. At the end of 1954 the State provided an overall average of one hospital bed to every 345 of the population as against the optimum average in modern communities of one to 200 of the population. There were also 154 specialists of whom 112 were in Colombo institutions alone. The total requirement of specialist officers for the expanded programme of eight Provincial General Hospitals and 13 Base Hospitals on the basis of a recommendation of the Health Council is 580. This figure includes the requirements of the General Hospital, Colombo, as well, reduced to a bed strength of 1,000 and the proposed Colombo South and Colombo North Hospitals which are to be of the Provincial Hospitals type with 750 beds in each.

Doctors not enough
The recruitment of doctors lags relatively far behind the growth of the Department's curative services. The total strength of medical officers doing clinical work is 688 (of whom 144 are absorbed by the Colombo General Hospital alone) which number even when added to the 814 non-Government Registered Medical Practitioners will give a total of 1,502 doctors to Ceylon's population of 8,385,000, that is, one doctor to every 5,583 of the population. The present number of doctors, will therefore, have to be stepped up two and a half times in order to provide a doctor to a population ratio of 1 to 2,000—the accepted optimum. The inevitable question is whether the national income of Ceylon can ever afford to employ a whole-time salaried doctor to every 2,000 of the population, asks the Director, and observes that it is not too early

in Ceylon for the State "to bring the private general practitioner into the National Health Service through a scheme to fit into the local needs and social structure."

Highest Birth Rate in the World

Referring to the general death rate of 10.4 per 1,000, further improved the rate of 10.9 for 1953, the lowest ever recorded in the country up to then, when the rate of the same year was for England 11.4, France 12.8 and Switzerland 10.2. The maternal death rate of 4.6 per 1,000 live births further reduced the record set-up in 1953 of 4.9 per 1,000 live births. The improvement in the infant death rate which was a noticeable feature in the vital occurrences for a decade was maintained with a rate of

increase of population for any country in the world for which reliable statistical data are available."

Malnutrition is Common
Deficiency of essential food and accessory food factors in the diet of the population are most noticeable among school children as disclosed on the course of medical inspection, in hospital treatment and in welfare clinics, though not to the same extent a decade ago. In 1954 no less than 34,279 cases were encountered in Government Institutions. Malnutrition was 16.48 per cent, of the total defects found in the medical inspections of school children and every sixth child examined was malnourished. This malady is said to be common to children of the rich and poor alike due to low intake of calories and proteins in children from working class homes and in all due to lack of vitamins. Proponents of population control" says the Director, "can now face with equanimity the jibe that "Ceylon's advanced low death rate has become out of depth with its old-fashioned high birth rate, when it has to be recorded for 1954 that the birth rate was 36.2 per 1,000 of the population as against 39.4 in 1953. Even with this rate Ceylon still has the highest birth rate and the natural 72 per 1,000 live births in 1954 as against 71 in the previous year. "Perhaps, Ceylon's prota-

paganda on a wide scale is being done by the Department to impress that what are required are the essential elements of nutrition in sufficient amounts and that "less than enough and no amount of anything else will do." It is stated that an alternative scheme to the discontinued free mid-day meal which was in itself valueless because of the way in which it was served up in most schools has not materialised as yet.

Routine Sanitation Necessary

The Director's answer to the question often asked why the curative services in the countryside are so overweighted is that the best way to keep a people healthy is to provide them with the means for ready and efficient treatment in sickness before they are

menacingly ill. This is only true of the degenerative and stress diseases, diseases created by conflicts and anxieties which are now gradually emerging in Ceylon's advancing society, but it is not true of those where there is only one remedy—the rigid enforcement of routine sanitation.

The diseases that are now burdening the resources of the Department are such that a Superintendent of Health in the reorganised scheme of responsibility, who over-rates the curative needs of his division but does not constantly keep before him as a primary official responsibility to suppress diseases arising from insanitation will have failed to appreciate its importance.

Progress of the Ceylon Society of Arts

"IT is not wishful thinking to believe that, in the last five years, there has been a definite revival of public interest in the Fine Arts and the Arts and Crafts of this country," states Mr. L. P. Goonetilleke, the Honorary Secretary, in his report presented at the 63th annual general meeting of the Ceylon Society of Arts held on Saturday at the Art Gallery. "There has been an increasing demand for the use of the Gallery which is the only one of its kind in Ceylon, and it is with great difficulty that the Society has been able to accommodate," he adds. Unlike in former years it appears that the various art institutions and prominent schools in Colombo now hold their own exhibitions at the Gallery and hardly a week passes without some exhibition in progress. The Society has determined a new policy of renting its Gallery only to those whose work has won recognition before or to those whose work is adjudged sufficiently good to sustain interest as a one-man show, as requests for the holding of individual shows have become too frequ-

ent. While visitors to exhibitions have been far more numerous than in the past, it is regretted that there has been but little response from the buying public. It need hardly be stressed that "artists cannot live on air", and the revival of interest in the arts must be reflected on an improvement in the conditions and rewards of the artist. The competitive exhibitions held in conjunction with the annual exhibition have brought to the forefront new talent and it is interesting to note that a number of competent young painters have emerged. In order to further encourage the new "discoveries" the Society proposes to hold an annual exhibition entitled young contemporaries. Due acknowledgement has been made of the generous donation of Rs. 25,000 by Sir Ernest Fernando which has enabled the Society to complete the new wing of the Gallery, and of the financial contribution by the German Minister in Ceylon, Dr. Georg Ahrens, which helped to meet, the cost of the entire decor of the new wing.

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PEACE WITH JUSTICE

(Continued from last issue)

The following is a continuation of President Eisenhower's address to the American Bar Association:

The spirit of Geneva, if it is to provide a healthy atmosphere for the pursuit of peace, if it is to be genuine and not spurious, must inspire all to a correction of injustices, an observance of human rights and an end to subversion organized on a worldwide scale. Whether or not such a spirit as this will thrive through the combined intelligence and understanding of men, or will shrivel in the greed and ruthlessness of some, is for the future to tell. But one thing is certain. This spirit and the goals we seek could never have been achieved by violence or when men and nations confronted each other with hearts filled with fear and hatred.

Geneva spells for America, not stagnation, then, but opportunity—opportunity for our own people and for people everywhere to realize their just aspirations.

Eagerness to avoid war—if we think no deeper than this single desire—can produce outright or implicit agreement that injustices and wrongs of the present shall be perpetuated in the future. We must not participate in any such false agreement. Thereby we would outrage our own conscience. In the eyes of those who suffer injustice, we would become partners with their oppressors. In the judgment of history, we would have sold out the freedom of men for the pottage of a false peace. Moreover, we would assure future conflict!

The division of Germany cannot be supported by any argument based on boundaries or language or racial origin.

The domination of captive countries cannot longer be justified by any claim that this is needed for purposes of security.

An international political machine, operating within the borders of sovereign nations for their political and ideological subversion, cannot be explained away as a cultural movement.

Very probably, the reason for these and other violations of the rights of men and of nations is a compound of suspicions and fear. That explains. It cannot excuse. In justice to others and to ourselves, we can never accept those wrongs as a part of the peace that we desire and seek.

Firm but Friendly

We must be firm but friendly. We must be tolerant but not complacent. We must be quick to understand another's viewpoint, honestly assumed. But we must never agree to injustice for the weak, for the unfortunate, for the underprivileged, well knowing that if we accept destruction of the principle of justice for all, we cannot longer claim justice for ourselves as a matter of right.

The peace we want—the product of understanding and agreement and law among nations—is an enduring international environment, based on justice and security. It will reflect enlightened self-interest. It will foster the concentration of human energy—individual and organized—for the advancement of human standards in all the areas of mankind's material intellectual and spiritual life.

Can we achieve that sort of peace? I think we can. At times it may seem hopeless, far beyond human capacity to reach. But has any great accomplishment in history begun with assurances of its success? Our own republic is a case in point. Through a long generation there was almost a unanimous world conviction that the United States of America was an artificial contrivance that could not long

endure.

And the republic survived its most perilous years—the experimental years—because of dedicated efforts by individuals, not because it had a built-in guarantee of success or a path free from obstacles.

Our case for peace, based on justice, is as sound as was John Marshall's for the Constitution and the Union. And it will be as successful—if we present it before the bar of world opinion with the same courage and dedicated conviction that he brought to his mission.

In our communities we can, each according to his capacity, promote comprehension of what this republic must be—in strength, in understanding, in dedication to principle—if it is to fulfill its role of leadership for peace.

In the search for justice, we can make our system an ever more glorious example of an orderly government devoted to the preservation of human

freedom and man's individual opportunities and responsibilities.

No matter how vigorously we propose and uphold our individual views in domestic problems, we can present abroad a united front in all that concerns the freedom and security of the republic. Its dedication to a just and prosperous peace.

Above all, conscious of the towering achievements manifested in the republic's history under the Constitution, assured that no human problem is beyond solution given the will, the perseverance and the strength—each of us can help arouse in America a renewed and flaming dedication to justice and liberty prosperity and peace among men.

So acting, we shall prove ourselves—lawyers and laymen alike—worthy heirs to the example and spirit of John Marshall. Like him in his great mission, we shall succeed.

Land Alienation Policy

In the column "Waga Thuga" in the 'Lankadipa' of 28th September, some inaccurate information has been published regarding the Land Ministry's policy on land alienation.

It is stated in the article that persons are recruited to work in the Land Development Department on the promise that they will be given allotments in colonisation schemes if they work for 500 days.

The correct position is that when labour was recruited to the Land Development, no promise of allotments in colonisation schemes was held out. Representations, however, were made by labour engaged in the pioneering work connected with the development of colonisation schemes that their services should be recognised by some of them being selected for the schemes.

As a result, the Government decided to alienate annually five per cent. of the allotments that are available in colonisation schemes to labourers of the Land Development and

Survey Departments and of the Anti-Malaria Campaign. Selections were to be made from among those who had done 500 or more days of satisfactory work. Preference was to be given to married persons with large families and, among them, to those who had worked the largest number of days on colonisation schemes.

For the current year, 134 allotments were available for alienation to labourers on this basis. The allotments were allocated to the Revenue Districts as follows:—Anuradhapura 42; Trincomalee 35; Jaffna 21; Kurunegala 16; Puttalam 5; Matala 13 and Badulla 2. The 21 allotments in Jaffna were reserved for labourers in the Iranamadu Scheme of the Northern Province. There were 187 labourers who were eligible to apply for these 21 allotments, and selections from among the 187 were made by the Government Agent of Jaffna.—(Press Communication).



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FILARIASIS IN URBAN AREAS A PROBLEM

THE anti-malaria campaign has successfully reduced the incidence of malaria in Ceylon. It has enhanced the reputation of the campaign in 1954 when the incidence was reduced to 4.5 per thousand of the population — "the lowest ever recorded in this country and also at the census time reduced the annual cost of control measures by nearly one and a half million rupees. Time was when the jungles of the dry zone and many other parts of Ceylon were forbidden territory and could not be developed. Though many attempts at settlement were made, malaria always drove the settlers back to healthier areas. The anti-malaria campaign by its conquest in the under-developed areas has not only reduced sickness in the country but also has helped to keep the annually rising population in balance with existing food production.

ANOTHER PROBLEM— FILARIASIS

A new menace has arisen—Filariasis which has succeeded in maintaining a seemingly relentless foothold in the populated urban areas of the Western and Southern Seacoasts from Dehiwala upto Matara. In spite of nearly ten years of effort to eradicate the disease. At present there is no therapeutic agent which will prevent an individual becoming infected and the efforts made by the Medical authorities were directed towards the control of the carrier—the common house mosquito in this country. The infection rate in the mosquito trapped in the endemic areas is as high as 12.9 per cent in Weligama town, 12.6 in Matara town and 8.0 in Dehiwala town, and their suburbs. Among the population in the

same towns, the blood examination shows that nearly one in every 25 persons examined was positive for microfilaria.

The medical authorities are of opinion that control of this infection depends essentially on improvements of the environment to eliminate the mosquito which lives in close association with man and breeds in catch-pits of latrines, discarded water collecting receptacles, blocked roof gutters, stagnating fowl drains, etc. — all man-made breeding grounds. As with all diseases with high morbidity and less mortality there is indifference regarding this disease on the part of the general public and the Local Authorities.

The fight for its control has been an unevenly matched competition between the medical authorities to eliminate mosquito breeding places and the householder to create them. The householder has won. He has increased the breeding places from 1950 to 1954 by about 50 per cent., according to the report of the Director of Health Services. In the areas of all Local Authorities, particularly in those where Filariasis is prevalent, the mosquito-borne Diseases (Prevention) Regulations of June, 1946, are a dead letter.

A SUCCESSFUL WEEDICIDE

In urban filariasis the present precarious situation has been laid partly at the door of "recalcitrant local authorities even though limitation of finance has prevented local authorities undertaking expenditure of institution of essential sanitary measures as proper drainage, sewerage and pipe-borne public water supplies". It is said that the mos-

quito carrier of this disease is easier to be eliminated than in several of the other tropical infections.

In the case of rural filariasis which is a problem in Ceylon associated with collections of water where the Pistia plant grows the introduction of the Weedicide Phenoxylene 30 for their destruction has been totally successful. This method of eradication of Pistia has considerably reduced the expenditure incurred by the medical authorities in the past for manual removal of the plant. The work has been so successful that the medical authorities "state with a certain amount of confidence that the problem of rural filaria has been overcome and will no longer be a public problem unless the carrier mosquito changes its habit to associate in its breeding other aquatic plants than the Pistia."

Filariasis is also named Elephantiasis. The Sinhalese term is Seepada or barawa rogaya. There are two varieties of micro-filaria, the germ which is communicated by two varieties of mosquito bangeroffi and malaye. The former is found in urban areas like Mt. Lavinia and Moratuwa and the malaye type in places like the North-Western Province and along the Western and Southern seaboard. This disease brings about certain changes in the human body, manifesting itself in the swelling of a leg or hand and other parts, so much so that a human leg can take the proportions of an elephant's leg. Sometimes other parts of the human body so infected makes the subject entirely dependent on his normal avocations, and on his normal avocations, and becoming a hideous sight.

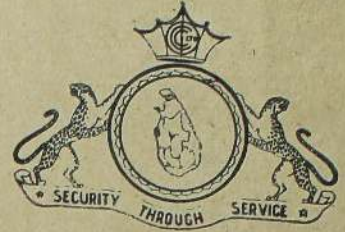
CGR Ticket Examiners Haul Rs. 34,000

The Travelling Ticket Examiners of the C.G.R. are composed of eight Ticket Inspectors and 80 Ticket Examiners of whom 26 examiners are detailed for the purpose of issuing tickets on rail cars, thus leaving 54 examiners distributed to eight points in the Railway to perform their legitimate functions of the examination of tickets on trains. Ticket travellers are on the increase and suitable measures are taken by the authorities to check this menace.

In Colombo Division there are 24 Ticket Examiners whose activities are confined between Maho-Colombo, Matara-Ratnapura, Chilaw.

The following results of the excess fares and other revenue collected by the Ticket Examining Staff for the year ended September, 1954, are interesting: In the Northern Division the number of offenders was 468 at Anuradhapura and 1,841 at Jaffna. In the Upper Division 258 at Nanu-Oya, and 457 at Kandy. In the Colombo Division the number was 1,463 making a total of 4,487. The number of those whose luggage was reweighed was 682. While the number prosecuted was 324 in all divisions. Excess fares collected totalled Rs. 23,480-32 and the amount collected on reweighings were Rs. 6,066-44 and revenue derived from fines was Rs. 2,596-35, making the substantial total of Rs. 34,143-11.

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14th October, 1955

ALLOCATION OF GOVT. FLATS

THE first of the flats built by the Ministry of Housing will shortly be allocated to applicants. We take this opportunity of congratulating the Ministry and the Commissioner of National Housing on the speed with which the houses were brought to completion. While doing so we would urge the Ministry to consider the cases of certain groups of people when allocating these flats and we know that most bases of allocation would be contested and it would never be possible to satisfy all parties.

There is, however, one group that is definitely in dire need. We refer to those who are under order from our Courts to deliver peaceful possession of their present dwellings to the respective owners. We are not thinking of those who have been asked to quit for non-payment of house rent. We are referring to many hundreds whose dwellings are required for residence by their owners and have received orders to quit.

Such groups could easily be checked, because certified copies of judgments could be called for before allocation is made. We hope the Ministry of Housing will give such people a measure of priority in disposing of the flats at Bambalapitiya.

We would next draw the attention of the Ministry to that category of people who now live in annexes and have been doing so for a considerable time. There are people who pay as much as Rs. 100 for a room without food and without any conveniences attached. Some of these unfortunate couples have one or more children. Their condition surely merits the utmost consideration. Perhaps the Ministry to housing may evolve a formula so that groups of this nature can be given adequate priority.

In the case of public officers, statements in regard to present living conditions can be backed by a letter from the local Inspector of Police who

would be the person to whom the most convenient reference can be made. The same provision could be adopted in considering applications from non-public service people as well.

There is a third group in the armed services of the Government. We are aware that officers and men in the Army, Navy and Air Force have not all been provided with residential quarters. The building of such residence will take several more years to complete. Until then these officers and men live in the most uncongenial surroundings and often in annexes and similar make shift buildings. We hope the Ministry of Defence through its liaison officer will be able to pick up such cases as need the most urgent attention and persuade the Ministry of Housing to allocate a few flats at least to meet the difficulties experienced by the Services.

We consider a formula based on some such consideration as above to be fairer than purely income basis of allocation by any Board because there is experience of several housing estates, particularly the working class where people have obtained houses from such Boards under various pretexts and have turned them into boarding houses. The whole idea of housing is to put an end to the ill-health caused by overcrowding. It would be an appalling mistake if the flats at Bambalapitiya regenerate to the standard obtaining in the Municipal quarters within the city. In such quarters living conditions have become worse than in the so-called slums in the city.

We look forward to an early announcement from the Ministry of Housing in regard to the basis on which these flats will be allocated.

Gal-Oya Workshop Lay-out Praised

THE regional technical meeting and training centre on farm mechanization and workshop problems which the Food and Agricultural Organization was conducting at Amparai in the Gal Oya Valley closed on Saturday, the 1st instant. Participants attending the meeting witnessed an interesting demonstration of how much labour could be saved by the use of improved hand tools. Mr. H. Muchmann conducted the demonstration and operated a number of selected tools gathered together from a number of countries. Particular interest was shown in a tool known as a bush scythe. It was shown that with this implement the work of clearing ditches and bunds can be cut by 50 per cent. He pointed out that the Food and Agricultural Organization was assisting many countries in the development and use of better hand and animal powered equipments. These tools were quite inexpensive and well within the purchasing power of the small farmer.

In closing the session the F.A.O. officials declared that they felt that the Gal Oya Development Project offered the best facilities that exist in South-East Asia for study of the operational maintenance and managerial problems encountered in the use of mechanical equipment. The workshop lay-out of the Project the experts declared was a model for the world.

CHANCE FOR ILLITERATES
 One of the points brought out in a discussion on the training of personnel was that illiterate people could be trained to become excellent machine operators and that educational standards need not be a primary consideration when selecting men for such jobs. For workshop staff it was agreed that a somewhat higher educational standard was necessary. However if the policy of appointment by promotion was followed, all men should start by being employ-

ed in the simple maintenance jobs such as greasing and tyre-changing.

It was agreed that appointment by promotion in all phases of a project was the most desirable policy and that only under exceptional circumstances should men be started off in a higher grade. Low grade personnel should know that they had a chance of advancement. This would be an incentive to efficiency. It was the general opinion that some form of periodic testing of both operators and mechanics was desirable. As written examinations were not too practicable in the field of field and workshop tests, oral answering of a standard questionnaire were suggested. There was general agreement that Government education departments should include technical training and the curricula of schools from the junior grades upwards.

PM. Praises NCP Food Production

Presiding at the 9th annual general meeting of the Eppawala Co-operative Agricultural Produce and Sales Society, Sir John Kotelawala, Prime Minister addressing the large gathering present said that the guaranteed price scheme was to ensure that cultivators received their fair share for helping to increase the food of the community. "I am proud that the North-Central Province is doing so much for the production of food. Now that we are a free country it was up to all of us to co-operate to make this land self-supporting particularly in food", he added.

After the meeting Sir John motored back to Anuradhapura where he inspected the New Town, the work in connection therewith was well ahead of schedule.

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"PLANT GOOD PLANTS AND TEND THEM WELL"

Says Governor-General At Tree-planting Ceremony

TODAY, the inauguration of the Second Year of the Tree Planting Campaign will, I hope, focus attention of the people as to how much their well-being depends upon the land and its vegetation, and on how the land and its vegetation are used. Healthy forests on the hills wisely handled means irrigation water in the valleys for rice and other foods. They maintain regular supplies of water, uniform water flow for river transport and hydro-electric power," said the Governor-General, Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, when he gave a start to the Campaign on Sunday at the Royal Botanical Gardens, Peradeniya, by planting a red sandalwood plant on a selected site.

Sir Oliver said:

It was in October last year that the National Tree Planting Campaign Vana Mahothsavaya - was first inaugurated by the ceremonial planting of trees at Independence Square, Colombo. The organising of a nation-wide Tree Planting Campaign was first conceived by the Honourable J. R. Jayawardene, Minister for Agriculture and Food. It is being conducted with his characteristic vigour. Nearly 2 million plants were distributed throughout the Island in connection with the Campaign in 1954. Generous gifts of plants and seeds representative of their respective countries, but suitable for planting in Ceylon, were contributed by the heads of the embassies and other foreign diplomatic missions here. We are grateful to them for their splendid gesture. The active co-operation of the Rural Development Societies, Mahila Samities, Kantha Societies, Village Committees, School and Health Authorities, Local Government, Revenue Officers, Agriculture, Forest and Food Production Officials, made the Campaign a great success.

To the casual visitor, the greenness of Ceylon is an everlasting wonder. The luxuriance of our vegetation, the apparent ease with which trees spring up, grow, flower and fruit in profusion make us who live in this land believe that in

a climate such as ours, nature is bound to look after herself. Even forests mean little to the average citizen. So long as he can get his day-to-day requirements without too much effort and expense, he is unconcerned about their future.

THE SECOND YEAR

Today, the inauguration of the second year of the Tree Planting Campaign will, I hope, focus attention of the people as to how much their well-being depends upon the land and its vegetation, and on how the land and its vegetation are used. Healthy forests on the hills wisely handled means irrigation water in the valleys for rice and other foods. They mean regular supplies of water, uniform water flow for river transport and hydro-electric power. The direct or indirect use of forests need hardly be enumerated—the supplies of timber, fuel and other produce; the provision of employment supporting industry and assisting agriculture; the protection of animals and crops against strong winds; the increase of the relative humidity and the enrichment of the soil with humus; the prity of water and storage capacity; the prevention of soil erosion. It is for these reasons that people should understand their responsibilities in the proper husbandry of the land and its forests. The longer the misuse of forests and of farm lands, the

more critical will be the danger to the growing population for food, shelter and other necessities of life. During the war years, the prohibition of felling of Jak Trees focussed the attention of the people on the necessity for retaining valuable timber to meet urgent needs of the village population. I hope that this National Tree Planting Campaign will impress upon us that we should develop an abiding interest in the proper nursing of trees.

A BIRTHDAY CUSTOM

The family as a unit can contribute greatly to the success of this Tree Planting Campaign. We can make it a custom to plant a useful tree not only during the Tree Planting Week, but on the birthday of every member of the family. The tree could be either an ornamental tree or preferably a fruit tree. If the home garden is already fully planted, useless trees could be replaced by useful ones. Similarly, the community as a whole could plant trees to commemorate some notable local event. The planting could be done both at the community centre and in the local school garden. The various Town Councils and Municipalities in the Island have already taken a lead in planting ornamental and shade trees. I feel confident that they will take the opportunity of the Tree Planting Campaign to plant more trees again this year. The main spring of the Campaign is, however, the Department of Agriculture. Theirs is the responsibility to provide each year suitable planting material in increasing quantities and to secure the collaboration of the Public and of the whole machinery of Government.

It gives me great pleasure to inaugurate the Tree Planting Campaign again, this second year, by planting a red sandalwood tree amidst the delightful setting in these gardens, which for beauty and charm take pride of place among the best Botanic Gardens in the world. It is in keeping with the wonderful traditions of these gardens whose history dates as far back as 1371 that this tree should be planted here today. The Royal Gardens of the Sinhalese Kings of Kandy were on this site. The present gardens were established in 1821. It is the forethought of those responsible for planting trees that has given us these gardens. The first memorial tree—a Bo-tree—was planted in 1875 by His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, who later became Edward the VII. The last one was planted by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, in 1954. Among the memorial trees is a tamarind tree planted by the first Prime Minister of Ceylon—the Right Honourable D. S. Senanayake—on 4th February, 1948, to commemorate Independence Day. I am very fortunate indeed to have the honour to plant a tree in these gardens to inaugurate the 1955 Tree Planting Campaign.

Honourable Minister, I am very privileged to be with you and your Departmental Officers this morning. You have in recent months given new targets to five national efforts, greatest possible importance—the rubber re-planting scheme, the small-holders' tea rehabilitation scheme, the coconut re-planting scheme, the drive for better paddy cultivation, inaugurated each year with the Wap Magal Ceremonies and the National Tree Planting Campaign. Honourable Minister, if you continue to progress in these efforts, as you are doing now, the present and future greatness of this land is assured. Let us plant good plants and tend them well

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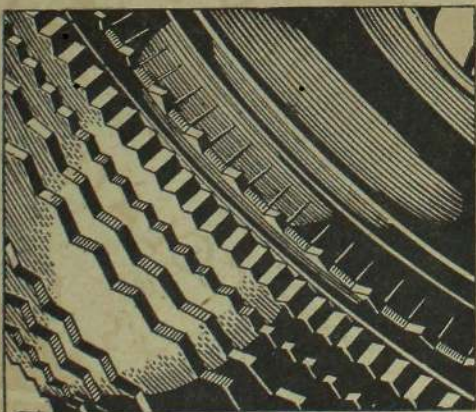
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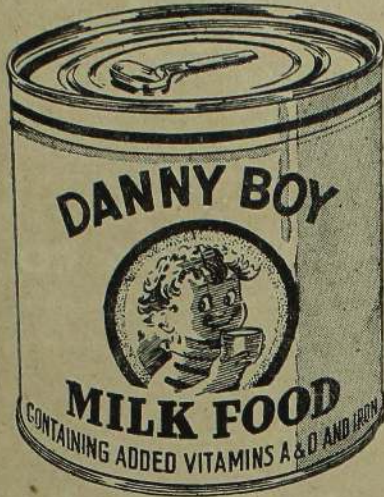
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MARCH ON KASHMIR

A tentative date for a "non-violent" march by Pakistanis across the Kashmir cease-fire line has been set and it is Thursday of this week. Volunteers for the march have been signed up in various religious and civic organizations and their number is now said to be about 10,000. Meanwhile Pakistan's Prime Minister, while not giving official sanction to the march, has again called upon India and the United Nations to come to grips with the question of a Kashmir plebiscite, asserting that both are committed to it and that Pakistan has, from the beginning, given assent.

The Pakistani Prime Minister has been throwing all the weight he could against the idea of the march by giving repeated assurances that the question would continue to be pressed both in the United Nations and with India. It is not at all certain that these assurances will be sufficient to dissuade the thousands of Pakistanis who want action on the issue. If the march goes through there is strong likelihood that it will not remain "non-violent" and that the eventual settlement of the question will be still further impeded by the bad blood that would inevitably result from any clashes.

Pakistan has a good case on the Kashmir issue. The ultimate political disposition of the province should be in accord with the popular will. Pakistan has been willing to allow that will to be expressed. India, on the other hand, while subscribing in the beginning to the plebiscite idea—which was actually first proposed by Prime Minister Nehru—has obstructed agreement on the necessary plebiscite machinery and caused the question to be dragged on, month after month and year after year, even after the United Nations had formally entered the picture.

But Pakistan's case ought not to be jeopardised at this stage by a "liberation march." If there is bloodshed, and that is probable, India can and will charge aggressive action. The result will be more delay, more charges and counter-charges, more bitterness and less likelihood of an ultimate solution.

The right place for Pakistan to press the case, now, is in the United Nations and in New Delhi. The wrong place is on the border. The United Nations can help if it shows more determination to effect a solution. India can ease the tension by showing a willingness to carry out what the Pakistanis rightly insist is a "commitment." (New York Times dated 44th September, 1955).

"Mock Session" Of Parliament

THE Supreme Court has ordered notice to issue on the two Members of Parliament, Mr. Edmund Samarakody, M.P. for Dehiowita, and Mr. W. Dahanayake, M.P. for Galle, to show cause why they should not be punished or otherwise dealt with for breach of the privilege of the House of Representatives.

In consequence of the application by the Attorney-General, the issue of the notice was sanctioned by Mr. Justice Fernando, returnable today.

The proceedings are a sequel to an alleged "mock session" of Parliament and a subsequent resolution passed by the House of Representatives referring the matter to be inquired into by the Supreme Court.

Fruit Canning The Earl of Home Advisory Board on Tour

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food has appointed an Advisory Board to advise the Minister of fruit canning and processing. The Board will consist of the Commissioner of Marketing as Chairman, the Director of Agriculture, the Director of Commerce, Senator (Miss) Cissy Cooray, Chairman, Co-operative Wholesale Establishment, the President, Chamber of Commerce of Ceylon, Mr. M. W. H. de Silva, Q.C., Mr. S. N. B. Wijeyekoon (Ceylon Ceramic Corporation), Dr. A. A. Hoover (Medical Research Institute), Mr. N. Sellamuttu and Mr. N. C. Gunawardene.

The Board will advise on the following matters:

- Increased production of fruit, particularly pine-apple, and the offer of guaranteed prices for different varieties of fruits.
- Issue of raw materials and containers to manufacturers at reasonable prices.
- Improving the quality of locally prepared canned fruits, fruit juices, etc.
- Use of improved containers to facilitate marketing.
- Training of personnel in modern fruit preservation methods locally and abroad.
- Enforcement of the Grading and Marketing Act for canned fruits, jams, jellies and cordials, etc.
- Restriction of importation of canned fruit when local production increases and export of locally canned fruits and fruit juices.
- Recommended other measures for the orderly development of fruit canning and processing in Ceylon.
- Recommended at what stage the canning and processing activities of the Marketing Department should be run by a Corporation.

The Rt. Hon. the Earl of Home, Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations, after visiting Australia and New Zealand on a fact-finding tour, arrives in Colombo this noon and will remain in Ceylon till the 20th instant. On his arrival at Ratmalana he proceeds to the "Temple Trees" and after lunch call on the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Sir John Kotelawala, at the Senate Office.

Tomorrow, Lord Home will call on the Governor-General, visit the United Kingdom High Commissioner's Office, hold a Press Conference after which he will call on the Minister of Agriculture and Food, and on Sir Cyril de Zoysa, President of the Senate. In the afternoon after lunch with the Governor-General, he calls on the Minister of Industries, Housing and Social Services.

On the 16th he leaves for Kandy, visits the Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradeniya, and the University of Ceylon. In the afternoon he leaves for Sigiriya and proceeds to Polonnaruwa where he spends the night and the following day.

On the 18th he visits the colonization schemes in Polonnaruwa and see the ruins, and returns to Colombo in the evening.

On the 19th the programme includes calls on the acting Minister of Finance, the acting Chief Justice, the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association entertains Lord Home to lunch. There will be a recording of a Radio Talk. He will attend a joint tea party given by the Royal Empire Society and Overseas League at the Galle Face Hotel.

The Prime Minister will hold a reception at the "Temple Trees" at 7-30 p.m.

Lord Home who is proceeding to India and Pakistan, leaves Colombo on the 20th by air for Bombay.

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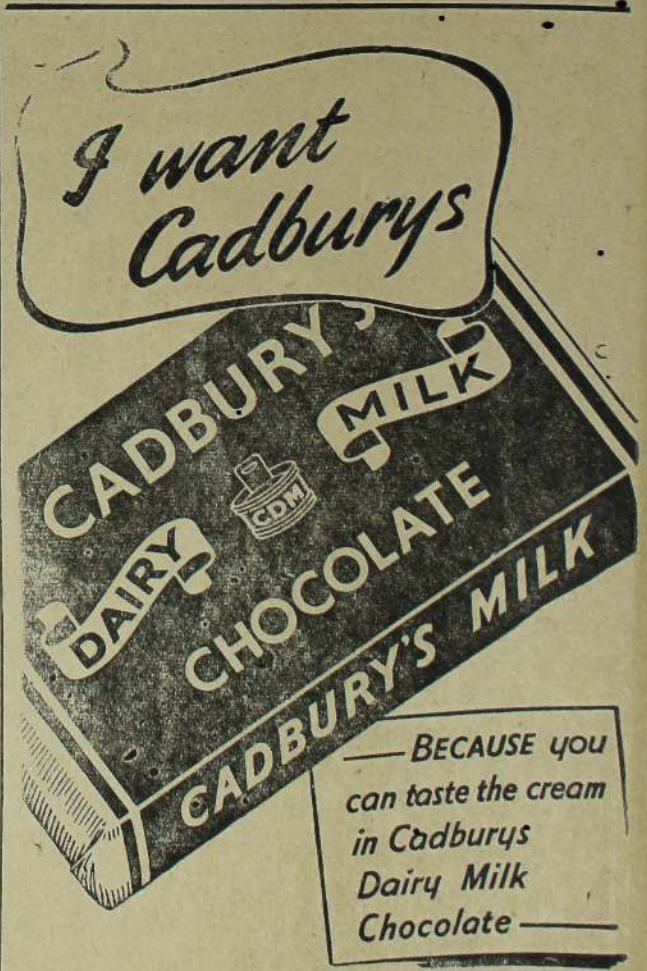
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Yalta Conference—

One of History's Major Tragedies

By S. SITTRAVEL

WHEN the secrets of the Yalta Conference were on the verge of being released by the U.S. Sir (then Mr.) Anthony Eden, the then Foreign Secretary of Britain, sent a message to the White House deprecating the publishing of a detailed account of an international conference so soon after the event. Sir Winston Churchill said, "if this became the established practice, it might hamper the free exchange of views at future conferences". But a British weekly commented that "the British Foreign Office is making itself slightly ridiculous by standing in the way of publication in the U.S. of the secrets of the Yalta Conference. It is of course, only following its old stuffy rule which attempts to hide all documentary facts from the historian until fifty years after the event". A foremost Political thinker said, "a useful purpose will have been served if every official, who participates in the negotiations realizes that he has an ultimate accounting to the people and that his will have to stand the light of history."

However under a heavy storm of criticisms the 'far-sighted' President Eisenhower released the report and thus the secrets of the Yalta Conference came to the lime-light. Sir Winston had to retire from public activities since he must have thought that staying in office was against his conscience—the pledge he gave at Yalta not to release the record before fifty years of its signing. And what the three heads of the States expected in 1945 have changed vastly now and Churchill must have also realized it. Hence the Yalta Conference may be termed "one of history's major tragedies".

Yalta Conference has proved to be one of the most controversial meetings of three Heads of prominent States ever held. It was at this conference that Josef Stalin obtained the lion share for keeping the Japs at bay in the East when U.S.A. and U.K. grappled with the Nazis and the Fascists in Europe and North Africa. It was at this conference that President Roosevelt and Mr. Winston Churchill conceded to the requests of the 'Kremlin's Chief' that Russia should be given Asian territory, a part of Poland and Germany, and a huge war indemnity from the Japs. When the Far Eastern question was taken up at this conference, Stalin wanted the southern half of Sakhalin, the Kurile Islands, Dairen and the Manchurian railroad. But President Roosevelt had said, that there was some problem about whether Chinese should be consulted regarding Dairen and the Manchurian railroad. Stalin had said, "it is clear that if these conditions are not met it would be difficult for me and Molotov to explain to the Soviet people why Russia was entering the war against Japan. They could not understand why Russia would enter a war against a country with which they had no trouble". However Stalin was granted his request though his entry into the war was too late to be of any military significance. One critic of the Yalta Conference said, "Clearly we may agree with the objective—World Peace—and yet disagree with the system of personal and private conferences whereby three men carve up European territory without allowing the corrective influences of public

opinion to be operative and without, indeed, taking the people into their confidence on the reason why pledges solemnly made already during the war are casually, if not flagrantly disregarded by our allies."

Poland and China were totally victimised. Neither of them were represented at Yalta and the consequences was that both the countries had to go under the banner of "hammer and sickle". Yalta papers show a thorough disregard for the weaker nations China which was consulted at every important international talks was neglected. Even a newspaper critic called this agreement as "flagrant denial of a great principle—the right of the peoples everywhere to establish governments of their own choosing."

In the Atlantic Charter the U.K. and the U.S.A. had emphasised the rights of all nations chose their own governments. But this right was denied to the Poles at the Yalta talks. This problem was one of the major criticisms of the Yalta talks. The arguments against Russia's claim in Poland were not based on the principles of self-determination for even the smallest nation. The official secrets show that President Roosevelt "begged" Stalin not to embarrass him before the Polish voters at home and had stated, "there are six million Poles in the U.S. It would make me easier at home if the Soviet Government would give something to Poland". In a similar tone Stalin had retorted, "What will the Russians say? Without the Polish territory I cannot go to Moscow". Stalin was given Poland. Thus the principles of the Atlantic Charter was thrown overboard.

It was at this conference that they decided to dismember and disarm Germany. France was given an occupation zone carved out of the U.S. and the British zones and made a member of Four-Power Allied Control Commission. They also decided to set up Reparation Commission at Moscow to exact payment from Germany as war indemnity.

Putting in a nutshell, the conference which is now regarded as "one of history's major tragedies" sowed the seed for the United Nations Organisation.

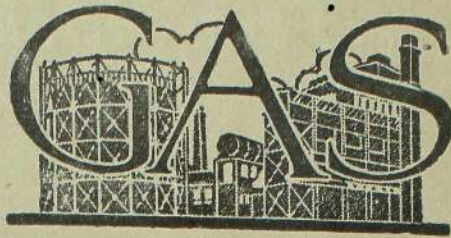
New ensign for Royal Ceylon Navy

Her Majesty the Queen's consent has been obtained to a new Ensign which will be worn by ships and establishments of the Royal Ceylon Navy.

The Ensign of the Royal Ceylon Navy, which at present follows the pattern of the White Ensign of the Royal Navy, will be revised so as to consist of the Red Cross of Saint George in a white field with the National Flag of Ceylon in the upper canton next to the staff.

This new Ensign will be flown for the first time by ships and establishments of the Royal Ceylon Navy on 9th December, 1955 on which date the Royal Ceylon Navy will have been in existence for five years.—(Press communique).

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STEPS TOWARDS TRANQUILITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Address by John Foster Dulles

The following is the text of a speech delivered by United States Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles, before the Council on Foreign Relations, in New York City.

ONE of the first things I did as Secretary of State was to go to the Middle East. I wanted to see for myself that area so rich in culture and religious tradition, yet now so torn by strife and bitterness. So, in the spring of 1953, I visited Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia. Upon my return I spoke of the impressions gathered on that trip and of the hopes which I held as a result of talks with leaders and people there.

Some of those hopes have become realities. At that time the Suez base was a centre of controversy and of potential strife. Now, as a result of patient effort, in a spirit of conciliation, the problem of the Suez base has been successfully resolved.

Another problem which was then concerning many of the leaders in the Middle East was that of the security of the area. It was clear that effective defence depended upon collective measures and that such measures, to be dependable, needed to be a natural drawing together of those who felt a sense of common destiny in the face of what could be a common danger. Here, too, there has been some encouraging progress.

A third problem which called for attention was the need for water to irrigate land. I mentioned in my report the possibility that the rivers flowing through the Jordan Valley might be used to make this valley a source of livelihood rather than dispute. Since then Ambassador Eric Johnston has held talks with the governments of countries through which the river Jordan runs. They have shown an encouraging willingness to accept the principle of co-ordinated arrangements for the use of the waters. Plans for the development of the valley are well advanced. Ambassador Johnston is now on his fourth visit to the countries concerned in an effort to eliminate the small margins of difference which still exist.

A beginning has been made, as you see, in doing away with the obstacles that stand in the way of the aspirations of the Middle Eastern peoples. It is my hope—and that is the hope of which I would now speak—that the time has come when it is useful to think in terms of further steps toward stability, tranquillity and progress in the Middle East.

THE ARAB-ISRAEL PROBLEM

What are the principal remaining problems? They are those which were unresolved by the armistices of 1949 which ended the fighting between Israelis and Arabs. Before taking up these problems specifically, I would first pay high

tribute to what the United Nations has done to preserve tranquillity and to serve humanity in the area. Despite these indispensable efforts, three problems remain that conspicuously require to be solved.

The first is the tragic plight of the 900,000 refugees who formerly lived in the territory that is now occupied by Israel.

The second is the pall of fear that hangs over the Arab and Israel people alike. The Arab countries fear that Israel will seek by violent means to expand at their expense. The Israelis fear that the Arabs will gradually marshal superior forces to be used to drive them into the sea, and they suffer from the economic measures now taken against them.

The third is the lack of fixed permanent boundaries between Israel and its Arab neighbours.

There are other important problems. But if these three principal problems could be dealt with, then the way would be paved for the solution of others.

These three problems seem capable of solution, and surely there is need.

Border clashes take an almost weekly toll of human lives and inflame an already dangerous mood of hatred. The sufferings of the Arab refugees are drawn out almost beyond the point of endurance. The fears which are at work, on each side, lead to a heavy burden of armament, which constitutes a serious drag on

economic and social progress. Responsible leaders are finding it hard to turn their full attention and energies to the positive task of creating conditions of healthy growth.

SERIOUS SITUATION

Serious as the present situation is, there is a danger that unless it improves, it will get worse. One ill leads to another, and cause and effect are hard to sort out. The atmosphere, if it worsens, could becloud clear judgments, making appear attractive what would in fact be reckless.

Both sides suffer greatly from the present situation, and both are anxious for what they would regard as a just and equitable solution. But neither has been able to find that way.

This may be a situation where mutual friends could serve the common good. This

REFUGEES

These projects would, of course, do much more than aid in the resettlement of refugees. They would enable the people throughout the area to enjoy a better life. Furthermore, a solution to the refugee problem would help in eliminating the problem of recurrent incidents which have plagued and embittered the settlements on both sides of the borders.

The second principal problem which I mentioned is

that of fear. The nature of this fear is such that it is hardly within the capacity of the countries of the area, acting alone, to replace the fear with a sense of security. There, as in many other areas, security can be assured only by collective measures which commit decisive power to the deterring of aggression.

President Eisenhower has authorized me to say that given solution of the other related problems, he would recommend that the United States join in formal treaty engagements to prevent or thwart any effort by either side to alter by force the boundaries between Israel and its Arab neighbours. I hope that other countries would be willing to join in such a security guarantee, and that it would be sponsored by the United Nations.

By such collective security measures the area could be relieved of the acute fears which both sides now profess. The families located near the boundaries could relax from the strain of feeling that violent death may suddenly strike them; the peoples of the area whose standards of living are already too low would no longer have to carry the burden of what threatens to become an armaments race if indeed it does not become a war; the political leadership of the area could devote itself to constructive tasks.

If there is to be a guarantee of borders it would be normal that there should be prior agreement upon what the borders are. That is the third major problem. The existing lines separating Israel and the Arab states were fixed by the armistice agreements of 1949. They were not designed to be permanent frontiers in every respect; in part at least they reflect the status of the fighting at the moment.

The task of drawing permanent boundaries is admittedly one of difficulty. There is no single and sure guide, for each of two conflicting claims may seem to have merit. The difficulty is increased by the fact that even territory which is

barren has acquired a sentimental significance. Surely the over-all advantages of the measures here outlined would outweigh vastly any net disadvantages of the adjustments needed to convert armistice lines of safety. In spite of conflicting claims and sentiments, I believe it is possible to find a way of reconciling the vital interests of all the parties. The United States would be willing to help in the search for a solution if the parties to the dispute should desire.

If agreement can be reached on these basic problems of refugees, fear, and boundaries, it should prove possible to find solutions for other questions, largely economic, which presently fan the flames of hostility and resentment.

It should also be possible to reach agreement on the status of Jerusalem. The United States would give its support to a United Nations review of this problem.

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