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FRIDAY NOVEMBER 25, 1955

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Australia and New Zealand Sentinels of Asian Democracy

Says Sir John in Parting Tribute

The Prime Minister, Sir John Kotelawala, paid a tribute to Australia in a broadcast talk over the Radio-Australia network at Sydney, New South Wales, during his goodwill visit, describing the friendly reception he had been given in Australia and New Zealand.

"They are great adherents to the democratic way of life," Sir John said, "and it would be educative for anyone to come here and see how democracy works in their midst."

Australia and New Zealand, he said, were "the sentinels of democracy along Asia's flank."

"This is something," he went on, "that Asia might realise. But Australia and New Zealand also must realise for their part that, while culturally they are of the West, they fall geographically within Asia's orbit. That is why I have been reminding them that their best defence is the prosperity and well-being of the peoples of Asia."

"That they realise this for themselves is evidence from the friendship they have shown towards Asia, and the interest they are taking in the welfare of Asian countries."

"I might add, however, that this friendship is given freely and disinterestedly, and with no thought of return."

Good friends

Sir John Kotelawala expressed the happiness of the people of Ceylon in counting Australia and New Zealand among their best friends and then added:

"To us in Ceylon, Australia and New Zealand have a special interest because they are, with us, members of the Commonwealth of Nations, to which two other Asian countries, India and Pakistan, also belong. We of the Commonwealth share a common outlook in most matters, particularly in the political field."

"We consider it to be an enlightened outlook and one that is entirely consonant with the good of the world. We dis-

cuss and we differ no doubt, but the sentiments and the way of thought are always there."

"I came on this visit of mine to our two sister Dominions of the Southern Hemisphere upon a goodwill invitation extended to me by their Prime Ministers, Mr. Menzies and Mr. Holland. I am very glad I came. I have enjoyed myself immensely, and everyone has been more than kind to me wherever I went. I have

also been seen in the manner in which they have received Asian students into their midst. The students are happy with them, and they are happy with the students."

"There are no social levels amongst the Australians and the New Zealanders, and the Prime Minister is not a 'sahib' whom the cab driver is expected to look up to. That is all to the good."

"In New Zealand, it was inspiring to see how two races, of totally different ethnic origin, the European and the Maoris, have settled down in perfect harmony into one single community. They live like brothers. The friendliness of people in these two countries, especially towards Asians, was

also to be seen in the manner in which they have received Asian students into their midst. The students are happy with them, and they are happy with the students."

Both countries were keenly conscious of their responsibilities for the future, he concluded. Both are large countries, even though their populations are small and they have thus been able to maintain a high standard of living.

Welcome Home



P. M. Returns Today

also seen much that is both interesting and instructive and I should indeed be happy to tell the world what I saw."

"The world is today a small place, and in these days of air travel we have all become next-door neighbours to one another. It is thus the duty of nations nowadays, as much as of individuals, to cultivate the quality of good neighbourliness. That is why I believe so much in going to see my neighbours. Wherever I have been, I have noticed how much there is in common amongst peoples and how unimportant are the differences."

Friendly people

"In any country, it is the people and their way of living that are of particular interest to others. I have found the people of these two lands of the Southern Cross the friendliest I have ever met. There is an easy informality about

Visit of U.S. Congress Members

Seven members of the United States Congress including a woman arrived in Ceylon last week by special plane on a round-the-world tour. They called on the Acting Chairman of the Cabinet, Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, at the Prime Minister's office. They were on a two-day visit and were accorded a reception at "Temple Trees."

"If Ceylon could successfully sweep out the rival claims of those other South Asian countries which are seeking selection to provide the site for the American Colombo Plan project to establish regional atomic research and training centre, the Battle Act is not likely to prove a stumbling block."

This assurance was given by Mr. Clement J. Zablocki, Chairman of the group and leader of the team of Congress members who said that Ceylon was one among the South Asian countries which were being considered in connection with the project.

"Our purpose in visiting Ceylon is as members of the Congress. We want to learn a little bit more about your country. We have admired the real progress you have made and the steadfast devotion to democracy by your Government and people," he added.

BOOST FOR OUR TEA

The Ceylon tea producer should be grateful to the Prime Minister, Sir John Kotelawala, for having spoken up for Ceylon Tea in Australia. It was very fortunate that Sir John happened to be in that country at the time the Indian tea delegation was there negotiating for Indian tea. Sir John's presence and his frank and friendly approach more than neutralised the efforts of the Indian rivals to promote their tea in Australia.

Mr. C. Loganathan, General Manager of the Bank of Ceylon, who has returned from a visit to Australia, expressed himself as stated above. He remarked that the Prime Minister's mission to Australia though a goodwill mission had resulted in a very successful tea mission for the economy of Ceylon and the tea industry in Ceylon as a whole.

He mentioned that Sir John had met all principal tea importers in Australia informally and cemented the ties already existing between the Ceylon tea industry and the Australian tea importers.

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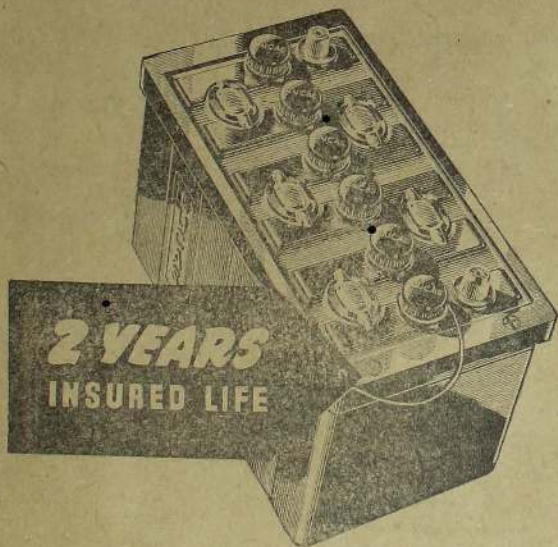
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WHY RACECOURSE WAS SELECTED FOR C-PLAN EXHIBITION VENUE

THERE has been a fair amount of criticism in some quarters regarding the decision of the Colombo Plan Exhibition authorities to hold the Exhibition at the Race Course. The selection of this site has been criticised on the ground that several permanent buildings are to be erected and demolished after the Exhibition is over. It has been argued that in the context of the housing shortage and the shortage of warehouses, godowns and cheap office accommodation, the government has an excellent opportunity of constructing some permanent buildings to relieve this shortage by choosing as a site for the Exhibition an undeveloped area. It is also visualised that some of the participating countries would erect pavilions which could after the Exhibition remain for permanent use and be a monument of their goodwill and friendship towards Ceylon.

2. These criticisms are very largely based on misunderstanding. The venue of the Exhibition is not the Race Course alone, but includes several existing buildings, such as the C.L.T.A. Pavilion and tennis courts for staging the Asian Tennis Championships, the Art Gallery for an International exhibition of paintings, the Museum and the Grandsands of the Turf Club for housing valuable exhibits, the Royal College Hall for the Film, Dance and Music Festivals, the Independence Memorial Hall for South-East Asia's Buddhist Art exhibits, the Independence Stadium for Sports competitions and other displays, and all available open land between Maitland Place and McCarthy Road. The Race Course was chosen because of its close proximity to these permanent buildings. To provide such facilities in any other part of Colombo would involve a very considerable period of time, and would cost several million of rupees. The expenditure of such large sums of money, under present circumstances, is impracticable.

3. A total area of about 160 acres of land is required for the Exhibition. But there is no site in Colombo or in the vicinity of Colombo, other than the Race Course site, which could offer anything like that extent of space. Neither is there any suitable Crown land outside within easy reach of Colombo. The alternative is to buy some private land outside the Municipal limits. This had to be ruled out for many reasons, and the chief among them the fact that it would not be possible to provide all the amenities that would be essential to meet the requirements of vast throngs of people during the month-long period of the Exhibition. No half measures, for example, would do in the matter of water service, drainage and sanitation without grave risk of causing an epidemic.

4. It must also be emphasized that the existing buildings in the vicinity of the Race Course site provide the essential security for the thousands of valuable exhibits which will be housed in them. To supplement these permanent buildings, other structures will be erected out of pre-fabricated materials, which can be assembled and dismantled at very little cost. This pre-fabricated material will afterwards be used, for Government buildings, such as schools, hospitals, food stores, etc.

5. In regard to the argument that the foreign Governments participating in the Exhibition would gladly allow their National Pavilions to remain undemolished in order that they may be put to permanent use, it will be recalled that at the 1952 Colombo Exhibition the foreign Governments used pre-fabricated materials to suit their own designs for their own Pavilions. These pre-fabricated materials which they use are usually of two kinds. Some Governments use materials which they transport from country to country whenever they participate in Exhibitions. Others use materials, which are of purely temporary life lasting hardly six months. The Exhibition authorities are of the opinion that to ask these Governments to put up instead permanent buildings at the Colombo Plan Exhibition at a considerably higher cost would simply be to ask them not to participate in the Exhibition. Even to obtain the consent of these Governments to participate in the Exhibition was in itself a matter which took considerable time. The invitation was sent to them over a year ago, and it was several months later that the Ceylon Government received their acceptance of the invitation, the delay being due to their having to investigate the question of funds and to ascertain whether adequate funds could be voted by their respective legislatures for their participation.

6. The Exhibition authorities also attach some importance to the fact that as this

is an International Exhibition, in which over 20 countries will be participating, the site should be one within easy reach of the Port of Colombo in order to enable foreign countries to transport their imported materials, equipment and exhibits to and from their respective National Pavilions with the minimum inconvenience and expense. Again, from the point of view of overseas visitors to the Exhibition, whether delegates, officials or sightseers, the venue has to be one within easy reach of the larger hotels and guest houses in the City of Colombo—(Press communication).

Ceylon's Diplomatic Link with Thailand

The Prime Minister's visit to Thailand has resulted in Ceylon linking diplomatically with Thailand.

Notes have been exchanged at Bangkok between Sir John and Colonel Nai Warakbancha, the acting Foreign Minister of Thailand, establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries with effect from the 20th instant.

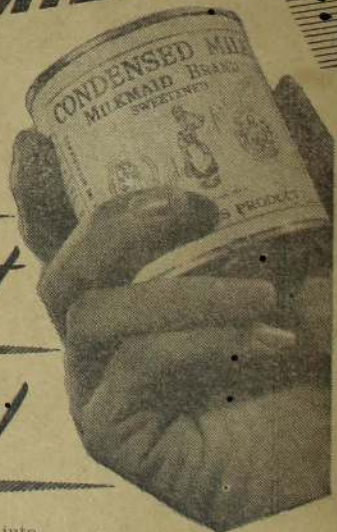
An External Affairs Ministry spokesman stated that representatives with the rank of Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary would be exchanged presently.

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CHEMICALS ADDED TO FOOD

International action needed

PRIMITIVE man discovered one useful chemical substance to make his food taste better and keep longer. That was salt. Modern man still uses salt, but has added to it literally hundreds of other products which are now used to flavour, colour or preserve food.

Recent surveys indicate that in the U.S.A., over 800 chemicals have been recommended as food additives; in Sweden, 500 are in current use, and a list prepared in Germany is said to contain over 1,000 of these substances.

Faced with this flood of chemicals, a number of countries have expressed concern over the potential danger of this situation, and the World Health Organization (WHO) and FAO were requested to investigate this very complex problem.

As a result, a joint conference of the Food and Agriculture Organisation and WHO was held recently at the Palais des Nations under the chairmanship of Dr Norman Wright (United Kingdom) to explore what action could be taken by the two organizations on the international level. All member countries were invited to participate in this technical exploratory conference. Twelve countries sent delegates, 1 an observer; while 4 scientific groups were also represented.

The conference reviewed the situation as it exists in various countries and decided that international action on food additives was necessary because: the potential health hazards are worldwide; both the less-developed and the highly developed countries are exposed to these hazards, especially the latter, as they use a greater variety of additives; the size of the problem makes it impossible for a single country to undertake all the investigations needed;

apart from health aspects, food additives affect international trade and the free movement of foods; early international action is necessary because many countries are currently reviewing their legislation on food additives; laboratory facilities for work on food additives are inadequate in most countries and international co-operation is needed to put them to their most effective use.

The first step, the conference decided, should be to recommend uniform methods for evaluating the safety of food additives, and to formulate general principles governing their use. In addition, FAO and WHO should collect and disseminate information on pertinent legislation and on the various properties and effects of individual food additives. Finally, the two organizations should assist in the co-ordination of investigations, to prevent overlapping and duplication of research.

Of the classes of additives now in use, the conference recommended that priority should be given to the work concerning food colours, preservatives and emulsifiers.

Food colours are generally added to make it look more attractive. Originally, they were only of animal, vegetable or mineral origin, but the situation has become much more complex since the synthesis of the so-called "coal-tar" colours. Over 2,000 of these synthetic dyes have been prepared, but, fortunately, only approximately 80 are currently permitted in foods. There is at present no internationally agreed list for either natural or synthetic colours, although attempts have been made to obtain international acceptance, in Europe, of a list of 7 synthetic and 5 natural colours.

There are wide divergences in the legal provisions cover-

ing food colours, and early consideration of these substances is urgent, in the opinion of the conference.

Preservatives, including both antimicrobial agents and antioxidants are of special value in limiting wastage and deterioration in the world's available food supplies. They are of special importance for the storage and orderly disposal of surplus commodities. Finally, they are particularly valuable in tropical areas, where storage presents special problems. As antimicrobial agents are more extensively used, especially in hot climates, they should be given higher priority.

Emulsifiers. This group of additives is of special significance in relation to bakery products, which form one of the main staple foods of many people.

The conference was not concerned with chemicals unintentionally added to food—for instance residues of agricultural chemicals, such as insecticides—but considered that they merit attention, and laid special stress on the importance of establishing analytical methods for such residues in foodstuffs. It was glad to learn that FAO, ILO, and WHO were already dealing with this subject and that a special study group would consider the problem next year.

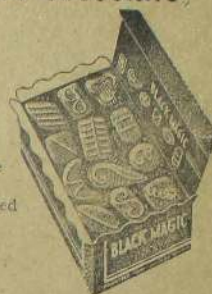
The following countries participated in the conference: Canada, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, U.S.A.

Australia sent an observer. The following organizations were also represented: Commission Internationale des Industries Agricoles (CIIA), Comité International Permanent de la Conserve (CIPC), Union Internationale contre le Cancer (UICC), Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG).

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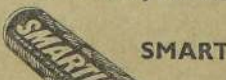


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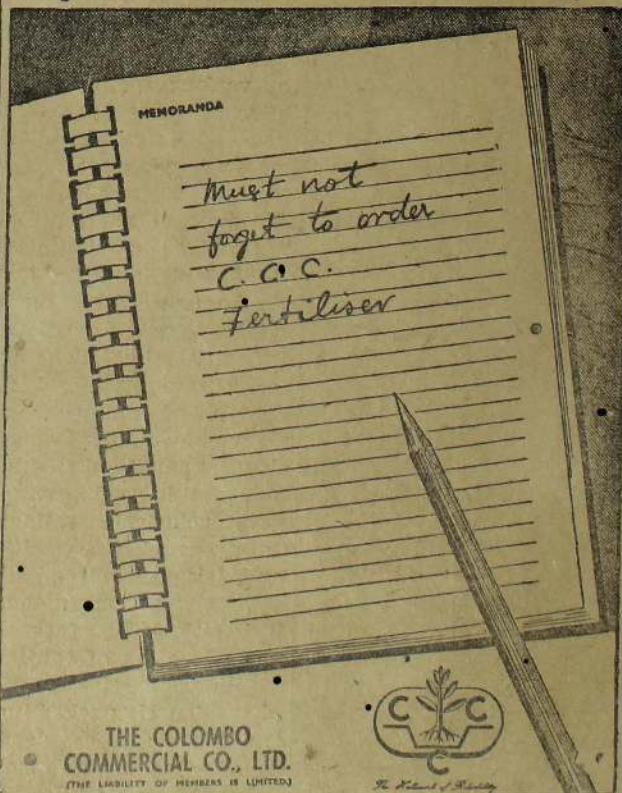
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Pooling Ayurvedic Knowledge

The Hon. Minister of Health had an informal discussion last week with a group of Ayurvedic physicians on the need for developing organizations among Ayurvedic physicians themselves for the pooling of their knowledge regarding the treatment for specific diseases and for a full and frank exchange of opinion. The Hon. Minister observed that such organizations were very necessary for the proper development of Ayurveda and would be of great assistance to the Ayurvedic Research Council contemplated in the White Paper.

It was felt that in the first instance an attempt should be made to collect information as regards the various Ayurvedic techniques of diagnosis. The Minister decided to convene a Seminar for the purpose consisting of both Ayurvedic practitioners and prominent practitioners of Western medicine interested in Ayurveda, where papers on this subject from various Ayurvedic Physicians of repute in the Island could be read and discussed.—(Press communiqué).



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SOLUTION OF THE HOUSING PROBLEM

The exhibition of modern housing in Germany which opened at the Art Gallery last week gives the visitor an idea of the method followed and the means employed to solve the housing problem in Germany to overcome the shortage which followed the two global wars with the consequent devastation and destruction. As was stated by the Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany in Ceylon, Dr. Georg Ahrens, the exhibition is not an exhibition of architectural designs, beautiful pictures of stately mansions, castles and outstanding monuments but an exhibition of a number of panels which indicate in various ways modern town planning on maps and also areas which had been densely populated before the war and now transformed into an exclusively residential quarter with spacious buildings, broad streets and open air spaces, with hardly a trace of the population density that was. It is an exhibition for the benefit of the technician, the expert and the town planner who can gather much useful knowledge from the display of results of those who have devoted their energies to the giant task of reconstruction.

Housing problems in this country do exist due to various causes. The inflow of residents in rural areas flocking into towns and annexing all the available accommodation, the shortage of building materials, the limitation of buildable land, the lack of finance for house building are a few of the difficulties that have to be surmounted. The growth of shanties on every available space, along canal banks, high road, and in regions which were exclusively residential areas of the wealthy and leisured class, has become a serious menace to health. The task of reconstruction of sanitary dwellings in slum areas where densely packed huts and hovels were demolished was by no means an easy one, while the selection of decent areas

for the temporary accommodation of the de-housed tenants was even a much more difficult and complex problem. It was stated by the Minister that in Germany the women in rural areas volunteered to help in rebuilding; women collected with their hands broken rubble and helped the building workers and thus tackled the problem of reconstruction and replanning.

This is no new phenomenon in the East, where village women consider it their duty to assist their husbands or brothers in their daily tasks. As wage earners on plantations or as labourers in road construction or house building schemes the women in the East are as efficient and hardworking as their counterparts in other parts of the world. They are just as industrious and appreciate the value of work and realize the benefits of gainful employment as a supplement to their home budget. Of course this reference is to the masses, not the classes of any country East or West.

There is a lesson to be learnt from Germany where the problem has been effectively solved. The planning of dwelling units has been so directed that in building houses that care has been taken to keep housing as cheap as possible without impairing its quality. This has been achieved by the adoption of a certain minimum of standardisation. A characteristic of the post-war housing is the predominance of small apartments with rooms of a limited size. Those times when on one side huge rooms in mansions with plenty of bedrooms were constructed, while cheek by jowl there were densely packed tenements, seem to have gone for ever. Thus the deficiencies of old style buildings have been eliminated and replaced by airy homes. The exhibition should make the people in this country to realize for themselves what could be achieved by means of hard work, proper organization and discipline. The Ministry of Housing, established for the first time in this country has much to learn about the legal and financial aspects of the task of tackling the housing problem which is now engaging the close attention of the Ministry. According to the Housing Act in Germany the legislative basis for the implementation of the housing

plans has been provided. The Housing Act divides housing projects into three categories: (1) Social housing projects supported by Government subsidies, (2) Housing projects aided by tax exemption, (3) privately financed projects. The first category is meant primarily for the great masses with limited means. The Government and local authorities help to finance the kind of house building by granting loans on a very low rate of interest. No public money is allotted for the building of houses of the second category but tax reduction of various kinds are granted. Privately financed housing is carried out without any aid by public funds or tax exemptions. Dwellings of this category are not subject to any restrictions whatever regarding size, amount of rent and control by the housing authorities.

Although Ceylon did not suffer damage during or after the global wars, of such catastrophic dimensions as Germany, the housing problem does exist and a study of what has been achieved in the field of reconstruction as revealed in the exhibition is certainly worth while and should prove profitable to our Ministry of Housing in the task of finding a solution to our housing problem.

THE GENEVA AGREEMENT

The following is the full text of the statement of the three Western Powers on Germany and European security published at Geneva:

The Foreign Ministers of France, the United Kingdom and the United States of America tried to reach agreement with the Soviet Foreign Minister on what the four heads of government in July agreed were the closely linked problems of German Reunification and European Security.

Free Elections

To this end, they made a proposal for the reunification of Germany by free elections in 1956 and for a treaty of assurance giving the Soviet Union far reaching safeguards against aggression when Germany was re-united.

Marshall Bulganin in July had agreed that the reunification of Germany was the common responsibility of the four powers and should be carried out by means of free elections.

The Soviet Foreign Minister however despite the directive of the heads of government made it plain that the Soviet government refused to agree to the re-unification of Germany since that would lead to the liquidation of the East German regime.

Counter proposals

He made counter proposals which would have involved the continued division of Ger-

(Continued on Page 7)

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WHAT HARDWORK AND DISCIPLINE ACHIEVED

An Example Worthy of Emulation

"I wish to say that this is not an exhibition of architecture, though many of you here present may have wished to see many beautiful pictures of Stately buildings in Germany. No this is no such exhibition. This exhibition is of very serious nature dealing with a problem—an international one of the first order. That is a problem which has been aggravated in Germany through the Second World War. It is the housing problem. Young people who wanted to found a family could not get the necessary housing. It not only in Germany that this difficulty is experienced. It exists in England, in Italy, in Holland, in France and certainly in the U.S.A., and in other countries. The devastation brought about in Europe can be compared to the destruction of an ant hill by the tread of an elephant. Germany was seemingly dead after the devastating and destructive period, but the people did not cease to live. They lived and those who survived built up again and in that process, the men being away the hard task fell on the women who nobly rose to the occasion and did all the hard work of collecting the broken rubble with their hands. There were no men to help. They removed thousands of tons and pulverised them to prepare building material for their future houses. Such was the psychological effect of the devastation that spread over their country."

The above declaration was made by Dr. Georg Ahrens, Minister to the Federal Republic of Germany, in Ceylon in welcoming those assembled at the Art Gallery on Thursday last to the exhibition of "Modern Housing in Germany" and inviting Sir Kanthiah Vaitianathan, Minister of Industries, Housing and Social Services, to declare the same open.

Continuing he said that the main object of holding that exhibition was to give an idea of the manner in which the people of Germany helped themselves in the task of restoration, reconstruction and rehabilitation. He was aware of the problem of a similar nature existing in Ceylon and was hopeful that the exhibi-

tions would help the people of this country to solve their own housing problem. It was an exhibition of a technical nature and the process of reconstruction was detailed on the 28 panels which should appeal to technicians and experts who could realize the great work done in Germany which was likely to help Ceylon to solve the problem.

ENDEAVOUR AND ACHIEVEMENT

Sir Kanthiah Vaitianathan before declaring the exhibition open said that in encouraging the idea of the exhibition, it was his intention that "our people in Ceylon should see and realise for themselves how much can be achieved by the common people by dint of hard work, discipline and proper organising, even against tremendous odds." The Government and the people of Ceylon should, therefore, be grateful to the Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany for the trouble and expense incurred over the exhibition. "The thoroughness and efficiency of the German people is a household article of faith with us in Ceylon, but we have yet to realize how, even in defeat and destruction, these qualities can rise above idle curiosity—such as it pleases us to indulge in—towards great endeavour and immense achievement. We bow, Sir, to you and your people," added Sir Kanthiah.

NATION BUILDING

"I make no apology, therefore, to underline categorically what you state in the booklet which you have placed in our hands, about the odds against which Western Germany started this most important nation-building programme of modern housing.

1. For many years before the Second World War, the war preparations of Hitler diverted building materials and skilled labour away from housing, so that when the war actually started, you already had a serious housing shortage problem.
2. Between 1943 and 1945 in Western Germany alone, nearly 2 1/3 million dwellings had been completely destroyed. The destruction has been assessed by international authorities at over 40 per cent. of loss in an average German city and as much as 70 per cent. in cities like Cologne and Wuerzburg. It is sad to think that some towns in Rhineland were completely flattened out; in Deuren, for instance, the ravages of war left only 101 houses standing out of 2,485.
3. This was not all. With armistice 8 1/2 million refugees trooped into Western Germany, and this flood rose to 11 million when Soviet-occupied Central Germany applied their peculiar political pressure on their population.
4. To the above we must add the requirements of at least a million newly married couples since the war.

SIX MILLION DWELLINGS
It is no wonder, therefore, that you have estimated the post-war housing requirements of Western Germany alone at 6 million dwelling units. But, what is most significant to our people is that

(Continued on Page 8)

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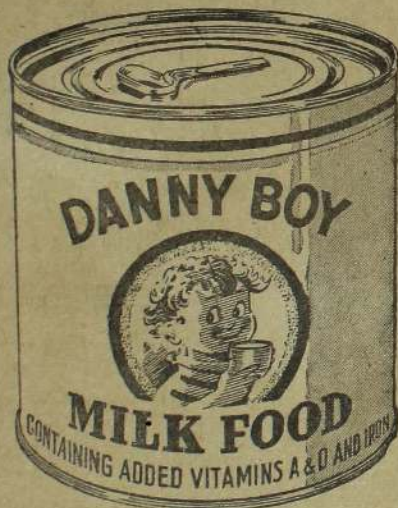
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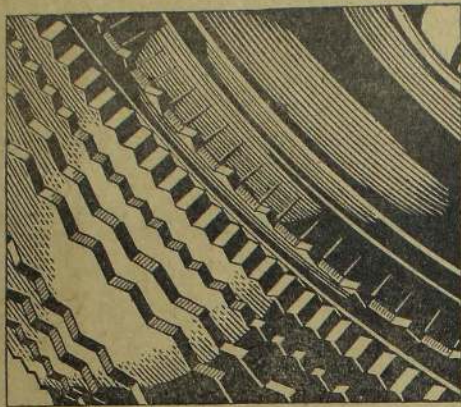
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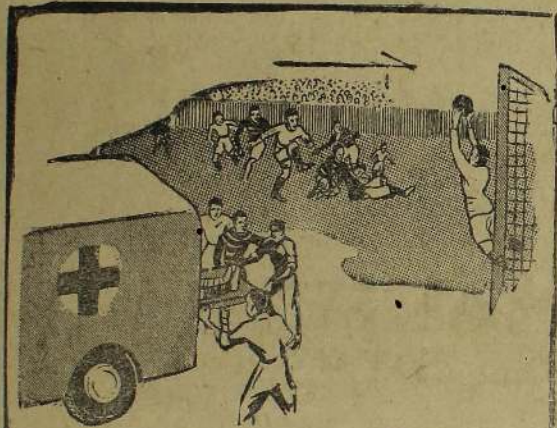
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Sponsoring Needy Families

Under the patronage of the Governor-General a Benefit Show at the Regal Theatre was given on Friday the 18th inst. in aid of the All-Ceylon Malay Association Rupee Fund.

The Fund inaugurated just three years ago has carried out a vigorous policy of "sponsoring" the needs of destitute families following H.E.'s advice at a committee meeting of the A.C.M.A. Rupee Fund at Queen's House last June, postponing its ultimate objective — the establishment of a Home for the Aged.

As a result of a survey carried out, 15 very poor families have so far been adopted by the Association. Assistance is afforded to these families in the following ways:

- (a) Food**—Bread is supplied by the Association by an arrangement with a bakery who render their bills monthly to the Association for settlement.
- (b) House rent**—House rent in some cases is paid direct to the landlord.
- (c) Arrangements** have been made to supply cod-liver oil, milk and other nourishment to the sick, the aged and under-nourished children.
- (d) Clothing**—Articles of clothing are collected from well-to-do and regular requests are made to cloth merchants for remnants and these are distributed among the poor and needy.
- (e) Education**—All possible assistance is given to poor children to gain admission to schools. Facilities are arranged for them to purchase school books and other school requisites.
- (f) Employment**—The A.C.M.A. is in close touch with the Central Employment Exchange with a view to securing for unemployed persons suitable work with the minimum delay. Opportunities are provided for persons to acquire various types of skill such as weaving (the Association has sought Government assistance for the establishment of a Textile Weaving Centre) sewing, shorthand and typewriting as well as handicrafts of various kinds.

In recent months two young women and four young men were set up in employment through the efforts of the Association.

Annually 500 destitute persons regardless of race and creed have received 1 measure of rice, 2½ yards of cloth and 2 banyans each in commemoration of the institution of Zakat during Ramazan.

Live-wire behind the scenes of this useful work is energetic Mrs. Mashmoon Dye who rousing the social conscience of the Malays provided the focal point for history-making by Malay ladies in the field of social service. Encouraging assistance has been extended by the Minister of Labour, Dr. M. C. M. Kaleel who sponsored the A.C.M.A. Rupee Fund's case to be placed in the list of approved charities and an appeal against the assessment of Rs. 1,092-00 as income tax.

If the example of these Malay ladies has inspired others of their community to follow in the same selfless way of serving the under-privileged as in the last three years in the coming years the life of the A.C.M.A. Rupee Fund should be as redoubtable as its early eventful years.

AMERICA AND WORLD POLITICS

(By Bertil Ranasinghe)

IT is only natural that the masses of independent Asia should aspire to an independent foreign policy which steers clear of the so-called power blocs. But such aspirations cannot blind them from a realistic view of the present international situation. We in Asia desire peace with all our hearts and are thus unequivocally pledged to refrain from being involved in the struggles of the two world power-blocs—one led by the United States of America and the other by Soviet Russia. We want peace to develop our economies which have been shattered by foreign exploitation as well as by the second World War.

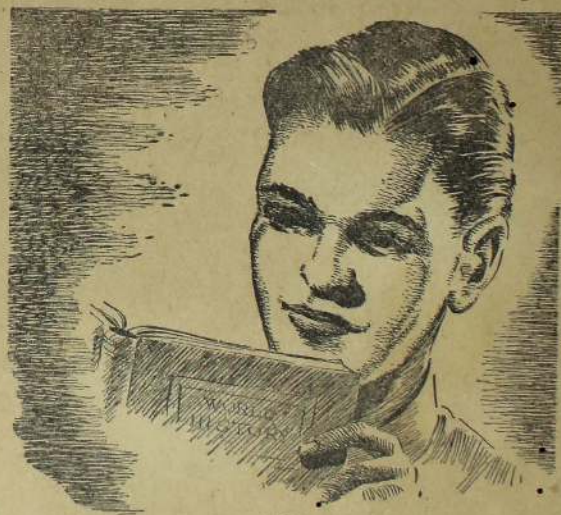
India's Nehru has always received admiration for the sincerity of his efforts to preserve world peace. But there are major flaws in this policy.

The policy of "neutrality" has as its greatest snag the failure to unambiguously brand the Communist dominated "bloc" as the greatest danger to world peace. Although India concluded a pact of non-aggression with Red China sometime ago, she cannot make the world forget that Red China annexed a part of India—Tibet—by naked aggression. Besides the so-called "new look" displayed by Russia at the "summit" meeting seems to be devoid of any sincerity. This softer policy has been adopted by the Kremlin merely as a matter of expediency. Soviet Russia has realised that any further aggression will be thwarted by American military force. But this does not imply that the fundamental objective of world domination has been finally rejected by

the Communists. This will always remain a fundamental objective for all orthodox Communists. The methods used to achieve this sinister objective will be either internal subversion or open aggression. But the freeworld led by America has made it abundantly clear ever since the Korean war that no further Communist aggression would be tolerated. S.E.A.T.O. was inaugurated with the specific objective of checking Communist aggression in South-East Asia.

It must be noted that the masses of free Asia have rejected the Communists as traitors and agents of Soviet Imperialism. Sir John Kotelawala surely voiced the sentiments of the whole of free Asia when he charged the Soviet bloc with perpetuating colonialism especially in Eastern Europe.

Though Russia poses as the champion of colonial peoples she is herself guilty of the most diabolical type of colonial oppression. The whole of free Asia would have been subjected to Communist tyranny but for the deterrent effect of America's might. Though we may admire the British way of life more, we must be grateful to America for halting Communist aggression which could easily have subjugated all-Asia. The United States must not be content with giving only military aid to her allies, she must give economic aid especially to the struggling under-developed countries of free Asia. The more poverty there exists in an Asian country the more vulnerable it becomes to Communist subversion. America must never relax her vigilance or fail to fulfil the historic mission of checking the advance of Communist tyranny.



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Free Mid-day Meal to School Children

Need For Nutritious Food

THE free mid-day meal to school children which was discontinued in 1953, is to be revived, the person behind the revival being the Home Minister, Mr. A. Ratnayake, who has just returned from the Food and Agricultural Organization Conference in Rome, who has succeeded in an assurance from surplus food producing nations of aid by way of their surpluses to needy nations so that these nations will not continue in want. The plan for the re-introduction of the free mid-day meal described as "a boon to thousands of school children" envisages the supply of milk and bread instead of curry and rice or curry and bread. Since the abolition of the mid-day meal it has been reported to the Education Department that a noticeable drop in the attendance of school children, particularly in rural schools has been recorded. The discontinuance was decided on because Government found it uneconomical to supply the growing number of children daily, for lack of funds, many attempts made to re-introduce it by Members of Parliament failed on the score of financial stress.

Home Minister's Gesture

Now that a way out of the difficulty has been found by the Home Minister through his representations at the worldwide assembly in Rome, plans have been drawn up covering all schools in the Island. The diet to be provided had been varied from time to time without any attempt to determine whether it was of such "a scientific high-protein food" with any value in meeting the problems of Ceylon. Has any research been made to produce a comparable food been undertaken by the appropriate Government Department? It is true that the Medical Research Institute has conducted a survey of nutrition with a view to determine the nutritive value of the fruits and vegetables and other articles of diet common to Ceylon, but so far it is not known whether the idea of a "cheap but nutritious" food had germinated as a result of the survey.

Example from U.S.A.

It is interesting to recall the visit of Miss Florence Rose, Executive Secretary of the Meals for Millions Foundation in June this year who brought 3,000 pounds of Multi-Purpose Food (M.P.F.) popularly known as "Friendship Food" for free distribution and for research purposes in Ceylon, as a token of friendship from the people of America to the people of Ceylon. Miss Rose who spent nine days in this country had discussions with the Minister of Food and the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Home Affairs and explained the worldwide programme of the Foundation and the results of the various projects undertaken to produce cheap and nutritious food. She presented 2,000 lbs. of the M.P.F. meals to the Red Cross Society for distribution to the poor and needy and the remaining 1,000 lbs. she donated to the Department of Pediatrics of the University of Ceylon for study of the relationship of nutrition to the cure and prevention of childhood diseases rooted in malnutrition. There was another allotted shipment of 11,000 lbs. which the Foundation had promised the Red Cross Society for distribution to the National Association for the

Prevention of Tuberculosis, the Leprosy Group, the Lanka Mahila Samitis, the Rotary Club Society and the UNESCO project at Hingurakgoda.

WHAT IS M.P.F.?

M.P.F. or Multi-Purpose Food is a protein food made of soya bean, an adequate supplement to inadequate rice meal on which most Asians subsist, and which cannot be provided by most other available foods. Moreover the encouraging approach to "normal diets" by some countries only emphasizes the lack of protein in the cereal diet. Even where animal products are available most Eastern people are too poor to buy them, while certain religions such as Hinduism forbid the eating of meat. This particular meal is cheap and has proper nutritional values, could be easily shipped, be capable of storage for long periods and not offensive to any religious or racial groups. After exhaustive experiments by food experts this new rich food has been developed. During the nine years of existence of the Foundation, over forty million M.P.F. meals have been shipped throughout the world. Over two-thirds of the shipments were to Asia while Iron Curtain countries have also received shipments.

Primary Purpose

The primary purpose of the Meals for Millions Foundation is not merely to provide relief to the hungry, important though it is, but it aims to provide multi-purpose-food as a symbol of what modern technology can accomplish in the sphere of food, as well as demonstrate that it could create similar foods in other countries. The Foundation also offers its facilities in "sponsoring field tests to ascertain the values of such new products as regards palatability, durability and stability in addition to its nutritive values." In India, for instance, the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore has already developed a food using groundnut as its base. Additional field demonstration of the Indian product are now being carried on, with other cereals. Similar experiments could be carried out in Ceylon where in addition to rice, there is a variety of cereals such as moving, meneri, Kurakkan, iringu (Indian corn), which contain protein, which could be made the base of a product, cheap but nutritious, available for the purpose of providing the free mid-day meal to school children, which is going to be re-introduced in the near future.

GENEVA AGREEMENT

(Continued from Page 4)

many as well as the eventual dissolution of the Western security system.

It is for this reason that the negotiations have failed. The Foreign Ministers of France, the United Kingdom and the United States of America are aware that this result must bring a sense of cruel disappointment to the German people East and West of the Zonal border which now unjustly divides them.

However, the three Foreign Ministers believe that the Soviet Government will come to recognise that its own self-interest will be served by ending the injustice of a divided Germany.

ORIGIN OF THE COCONUT

(By T. M. G. Samat)

THE coconut, with its 10,001 uses, did not come from the three-eyed Gana Deviyo, but was a gift from America. The basis for this view of Von Martins is that all palms originated from the West coast of Central America. But Fridrich thinks that America got the coconut palm from Polynesia. Mayurnathan, another authority, claims the first coconut from New Guinea.

According to historical evidence, Candolle is inclined to the view that the coconut floated East and West from the Eastern Archipelago. Coconuts are capable of development after having floated in the sea for some 3,000 miles involving a period of 110 days. The nuts can germinate and continue so whilst floating. Washed up on shores in that condition they could easily establish themselves in a tropical climate.

Legends about America and the coconut are, however, rare; on the other hand, there

are many legends about the coconut relating to Ceylon. They are essentially Eastern in character and concern superstitions, religious practices and customs.

One Ceylon legend concerns an astrologer. In a discussion about auspicious hours he told his King that, even if a stone was planted at a certain hour that day, "it will grow to be of invaluable service to man." "And suppose we were to plant a man's head?" asked the king.

"Even that head will grow to be of invaluable service to man" was the reply.

"Then we will put your knowledge to the test," said the king and had the astrologer beheaded. The head was buried at the auspicious hour. Not long after the first coconut plant emerged at the spot, where the head was buried. When the first nut was husked people were amazed to find that it resembled human face with eyes and fibre-like hair.

The Kusta-Raja tradition

claims curative properties for the coconut oil. Kusta-Raja, whose statue hewn out of naked rock and known as Kusta-rajagala (now a Well-gama show-piece) was a king afflicted with a severe skin disease (kusta). He came to Ceylon from India in a search of a cure and was advised in a vision to bathe in the sea and eat coconut which was then considered poisonous.

The Mahavamsa makes reference to coconuts in Ceylon for Gothambaira, one of King Dutugemunu's giants used a coconut palm as a club to beat up the Cholas in battle.

The Chinese Fa Hien found Ceylon flourishing with coconut in A.D. 5 and Arab traders introducing the art of making ropes with coconut fibre. King Agga Bodhi and Parakrama Bahu were notable Sinhalese kings who gave encouragement to coconut planting.

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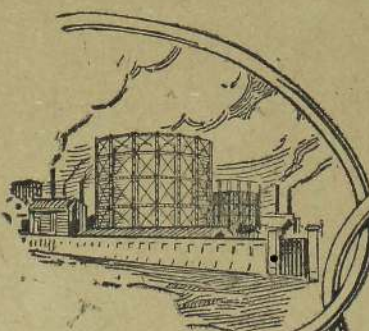
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AN EXAMPLE WORTHY OF EMULATION

(Continued from Page 5)

the job of re-building villages had been largely completed by the villagers themselves "at a time when heavily damaged towns were only just beginning to tackle the problem of reconstruction and re-planning." You say that the rural population, despite the monetary inflation and shortage of money in their hands, helped themselves in this direction by bargaining food stuffs for materials and, feeding the building workers from their farm produce. Such grit of the German people is worthy of emulation, by us, Sir, even in some small measure. This fact alone is sufficient justification for an Exhibition like this.

The legal and financial policy of your Government, as summarised by you, appears to me to be no different from ours. In fact, you state that "no public money is allowed for the building of houses which are aided by tax exemptions," and further that "privately financed housing is carried out without any aid by public funds and tax exemptions." But we in Ceylon have had to start with pampering our people without any such restrictions. Nevertheless, I must admit that our achievement dwarfs before yours. You rightly thank your public servants in Central, Provincial and Local Government Administrations, your Commercial banks, Savings Banks, and Insurance Companies and, above all, the initiative of the individual citizen of Germany; and may I add to this category, the characteristic energy, discipline and high endeavour

Hope For Millions In Africa

It has been thought by some people that Africa was one of the original homes of yaws and that it was carried to the Americas at the same time as the slaves.

Whatever the truth is there can be no doubt that when doctors started penetrating into Africa they found yaws widely spread and often of high prevalence in a broad belt of tropical Africa roughly between 10 deg. north and south of the Equator.

At present there live in this area about a hundred million people of many different tribes, cultures, languages, etc. Today these people are citizens of a number of states but a century ago these divisions would have run into thousands.

of the German Nation. I hope to be able to thank our people similarly in the near future. I need add nothing about the achievement of your people and the architectural victories of your engineers. I will let your friends who have gathered here to see for themselves the feast you have so well laid out before us. I wish that many more of our engineers, builders, financiers, and slum-owners will visit this Exhibition.

Sir Kanthiah then lit the traditional brass lamp and declared the Exhibition open, and went through a round of inspection of the exhibits, which were explained by Mr. H. Pallashe, Attache to the Legation of the Federal Republic of Germany.

At that time there must have been an extremely high prevalence of yaws because even now, after the considerable reduction in yaws that has followed many years of free treatment with bismuth and arsenical preparations, there are still estimated to be millions of sufferers in Africa.

Exact knowledge can be obtained only by careful surveys of total populations. This is done in modern yaws campaigns and each case is given a single injection of a long-acting penicillin preparation. According to the prevalence of active yaws, other groups of the population receive protective injections of half these doses.

Yaws campaigns may be said to have become modern when such penicillin preparations were introduced and the contacts was recognized. These campaigns have been carried out in Africa for the past few years only.

The first was started in Liberia by the Government with the invited assistance of WHO and UNICEF. At present there is a large and successful campaign in Nigeria. A very interesting campaign is being undertaken in the Gold Coast which was organized by the Government doctors. This in some ways follows the lead set by the Haitian campaign.

Reports show that considerable success is resulting from the treatment of all cases and of all children under puberty. This policy is being followed because there is only a moderate amount of active yaws in the populations.

However, it is well-known that the mass treatment of an endemic disease cannot permanently control it if nothing has been done to change the conditions that allow it to be spread. In yaws the factors that most readily encourage the spread of yaws are the absence of cleanliness, both personal and domestic.

In some campaigns Rural Health Centres are being established in areas in which successful mass treatment campaigns against yaws are being held. In other areas it appears that the provision of widely dispersed but more adequate water supplies is helping to maintain the reduced prevalence of yaws following mass treatment.

In the latter areas the general prosperity of the people has also improved and that equi yaws of padiqu ospe seq disease.

Yaws is not a venereal disease but it is a disease of people who, for one reason or another, are not benefiting from the developments that are occurring in other parts of the world. In Africa efforts are being made in many countries to correct the lag.

Big developments are occurring in many parts of Africa in many different spheres. These include political independence, development of hydro-electric works, improvement in agricultural and veterinary techniques. In many countries water supplies are being greatly improved and, as has already been said, modern yaws campaigns are being undertaken in widely dispersed parts of Africa.

There is every prospect that, by careful co-ordination of anti-yaws activities, the disease will, within a reasonably short time, be under control and on the way to eradication throughout Africa. — (W.H.O. Newsletter).

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THIS well-known Office commenced operations in Ceylon in the year 1906 and it can truly be said that the Association has pioneered Life Assurance in the Island. The very large volume of business that is now written by it is ample testimony of the goodwill shown to it by the insuring public. In the very early years it was apparent that Life Assurance on a very substantial scale had come to stay in Ceylon, and in 1913 the Head Office Board agreed to the erection in Ceylon of a building worthy of housing its activities. In 1915 the well-known land-mark the "National Mutual Building" was completed, and it remains today one of the finest modern Office Buildings in the City of Colombo.

The operations of this Association are spread throughout the Commonwealth, and besides having Branch Offices in all the capital cities of Australia and New Zealand, it has District Offices in practically every town of note in Great Britain and in South Africa, and in the East is represented at Bombay, Calcutta, Singapore, and Hongkong. Ceylon Branch is the central office for the control of the four establishments last mentioned.

The Association has been responsible for the introduction of some of the most important features of modern Life Assurance, and for many years has offered sound Life Assurance Contracts to the public for premiums well below the average, with full bonus rights, the figures of which have proved well above the average. This has been rendered possible by the careful selection of lives which has resulted in a favourable mortality experience, the marked economy of Management expenses and the cautious investment of funds. A Perusal of Financial Statements, will show that the security of the Association's policy contracts is above question.

One well-known British Journal writes of the Association as follows: "The contracts of the Association are liberal to the Assured. Its premiums are low and its financial resources second to none. In a word the National Mutual of Australasia is an Office which can with confidence be recommended to intending assurers."

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