

JUL 7 - 1947

# U.N.P.



Organ of the United National Party  
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Editor: J. L. KOTELAWELA

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VOL. I. No. 17.

FRIDAY, 4th JULY 1947

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## 60,000 INDIANS MORE IN ONE YEAR

THE Indian population of Ceylon has increased by nearly 60,000 in one year. According to the preliminary report on the Vital Statistics issued by Mr. G. L. D. Davidson, acting Registrar-General, and published in the Government Gazette of June 27th (Page 1029) "the total estimated population of Ceylon on December 31st, 1946, (excluding the military and shipping population) was 6,784,000, as against a population of 6,606,000 on December 31st, 1945. The number of immigrants exceeded the number of emigrants by 56,790."

### AN OCCASION FOR A "TAMASHA"

THE above statement of the acting Registrar-General is a matter of paramount importance to the Bolshevik Leninists and Sama Samajists. They should have a "tamasha" to celebrate the addition of nearly 60,000 Indian immigrants, for their life work is to bring here so many Indians that they will outnumber the local population.

To quote from Dr. Colvin R. de Silva's statement in Madras:-

"The Bolshevik Leninist Party of Ceylon stands for complete freedom of entry into Ceylon of Indian workers and for their right to exercise the franchise in Ceylon."

After this profound declaration, worthy of a Doctor of Philosophy, Dr. de Silva continued:

"We are opposed to any restriction which takes away or limits the rights of Indian workers. We do not regard the Indian working classes as aliens.

"Our Party will always be in the forefront of the struggle for the rights of Indian workers in this Island."

### Nominated



The Hon. Mr. Rajah Hewavitarne  
(Kotte Seat)

### New Nominations

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Kotte: Mr. Rajah Hewavitarne  | Weerakoon and N. A. Liyanage (open) |
| Maturata: Mr. M. D. Banda   |                                     |
| Kotagala: Messrs. T. Edwards and E. W. Wanigasekera (open)          | Welimade: Mr. Alick Divitotawela    |
| Buttala: Mr. Leo Fernando   | Chilaw: Mr. C. A. Abeyratne         |
| Alutnuwara: Messrs. C. E. Kumbalwela, P. B. M. Bandaranayake, U. B. | Bingiriya: Mr. G. E. Attanayake     |
|   | Ruanwella: P. C. Imbulana           |
|   | Muttur: A. R. A. M. Aboebucker      |

## LEADER'S TRIUMPHAL TOUR OF MIRIGAMA

THE Leader of the United National Party, whose election campaign had not begun in earnest in his electorate at Mirigama owing to urgent and important duties of State, made a triumphal tour of the Mirigama area during the last few days.

Sama Samajists who had gone about for months campaigning against him opened their eyes one fine morning last week to find the village roads full of a moving procession of people bound for a public reception to Mr. Senanayake which had been organised by local initiative. Men and women from remote places were wending their way at the news that the Leader was on tour.

Desperately pathetic efforts were made to stem the tide.

Loud-speaker vans were rushed hither and thither, but the people moved on.

That very night a special meeting of the Local Party Headquarters was held and urgent summons were sent to the Colombo High Command. The telegram sent read as follows:-

"SITUATION CHANGING RAPIDLY STOP SPECIAL EFFORTS NECESSARY STOP SUGGEST NEXT RALLY HERE STOP SAMARAKKODY."

### DOMINION STATUS CELEBRATIONS

AS part of the celebration of the winning of Dominion Status, the public of Kurunegala District will welcome the Leader, Mr. D. S. Senanayake, on Sunday.

He will be met at the junction of Negombo Road and led in procession along the Colombo Road to the Maliyadewa Girls' School where a public meeting will be held.



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# MAGNIFICENT ACHIEVEMENTS

## of the Ministry of Health

WE PUBLISH IN THIS ISSUE AN ARTICLE BY THE HON. MR. GEORGE E. DE SILVA, MINISTER FOR HEALTH, IN WHICH HE GIVES A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF HIS MINISTRY.

Mr. de Silva writes with great modesty, but the facts stated bear sufficient testimony to support the contention that in the short period of the Donoughmore Constitution a revolution has been effected in the health services of this Island. It is heartening to be able to note that elected representatives have achieved so much in so short a time.

The professional liars who go about the country traducing every Minister dare not refute the charge of being guilty of deliberately suppressing the facts of achievement in order to deceive and dupe the public of Ceylon.

AT the commencement of the Donoughmore Constitution in 1931 it could be said without exaggeration that the Health Services existing in the country were of a very rudimentary character.

The Medical Service which had been established over a 100 years ago was being run on the same lines as before with little attention to the needs of the permanent population.

The total number of hospitals in existence in 1931 was 125 and more than half this number were located in the healthy areas of the Island where the large company estates were to be found and were intended to cater to the entire labour population.

The Preventive Service could count on only twenty Medical Officers of Health and the work was devised purely to control epidemic diseases and to improve the environmental conditions.

No attempt to afford individual care in the shape of Maternity and Child Welfare work, School Health Services, Malaria Control, etc., had even been initiated.

The entire expenditure of the Department of Medical and Sanitary Services was only 9 million rupees with a per capita cost of Rs. 1-50. Shortly after the inauguration of the Donoughmore Constitution the largest known epidemic of malaria broke out in 1934, which resulted in the State Council making liberal provision for Health Services and the creation of fifty-five new posts of Medical Officers of Health, who were designated Field Medical Officers.

The readiness with which the State Council provided the necessary funds for the inauguration of health work and the administration of relief saved the country from a calamity which might otherwise have been disastrous.

During the past sixteen years the Medical and Sanitary Services have made vast strides and the best method of valuating this work would be to consider the expenditure incurred by Government and the Vital Statistics of the period.

IN 1946 the total expenditure had risen from 9 million to 34 millions giving a per capita cost of Rs. 5 per head. The Vital Statistics showed a steady improvement in regard to general deaths, infant deaths and maternal deaths up to 1942, when the lowest infant mortality rate of 120 per 1,000 was reached and the maternal death rate dropped to 13 per 1,000 births. Compared with the rates of 1931, viz., 169 for infant mortality and 20 for maternal mortality, this showed a considerable improvement.

Unfortunately with the outbreak of the Second World War and the entry of Japan into the conflict the people had to undergo great hardships in regard to food and this was evident by a rise in the mortality rates.

The improvements that have been effected during this short period of a decade and a half in the Curative and Preventive Services have no parallel in this country.

During this period 98 new hospitals were opened bringing the total up to 213. Some of these have been gifted to Government and the rest built from Government funds, including 17 Cottage Hospitals. A total of 125 Rural Hospitals have also been sanctioned for construction and 11 donations have been accepted. Of these, 68 have already been completed and opened; 48 new Maternity Homes were opened to the public, about 20 of which have been specially built by Government for the purpose, and the rest housed in rented buildings, donated buildings or buildings taken over from other Government departments and converted for use as Maternity Homes.

There are also 44 Homes in various stages of construction and some proposed donations which have yet to materialise.

Large scale improvements were effected to the General Hospital in Colombo, to the hospitals in Kandy, Galle and Jaffna, and in the District Hospitals additions were effected to the extent of 29 Light Construction Wards, 20 Venereal Diseases Wards, 4 X-ray Blocks, 1 Deep Ray Therapy Unit and one Dental Clinic.

Plans and estimates have been prepared for a Second Maternity Institution in Colombo at a cost of a million rupees and the work in this connection will be started during the course of the year.

Voluntary donations amounting to nearly 7½ million rupees received by the Minister of Health indicate the appreciation of the public towards the efforts that have been made for the better provision of medical care to the people.

A new Tuberculosis Hospital of 300 beds has been acquired at Welisara, and the construction of a similar hospital is being started at Hambantota. Two large and well-equipped hospitals belonging to the Military and located at Kankasantural and Puttalam have been acquired for the use of the civil department. All these present a volume of constructional work which is unique particularly in view of the fact that nearly all of this work was undertaken during the war years when men and materials were most difficult to secure.

IN like manner the medical personnel has been increased by nearly 100 per cent. There were in 1931 only 300 medical men to man the hospitals and the other curative services. At the present time there are nearly 550 medical men. In spite of this very large increase there is a persistent demand for more medical men, which is the best indication that the medical services are being appreciated and that there is a genuine demand for such services.

In the training of Nurses a radical change has been effected by the selection of girls educated in Sinhalese and Tamil in addition to those who are qualified in English. At the present time there are 217 girls in this category undergoing training.

On the Preventive side too a considerable measure of progress has been made and today there are 96 health areas manned by full time Medical Officers. In spite of the difficulties in recruiting permanent Medical Officers for health work, very good progress has been made and



Hon. Mr. Geo. E. de Silva  
(Minister for Health)

during the last decade and a half Ceylon has become a training ground for medical men and subordinate personnel from as far East as China to Cyprus in the West.

Among the outstanding services of the Health Branch of the Department is the immunity from disease that was afforded to the country during the war years when quarantining regulations had to be relaxed as a war-time measure and infection was being constantly brought into the Island.

In the organisation of the A.R.P. services the Medical Department made a notable contribution in that all the casualty services, particularly in the outstations, were manned by Officers of the Government Medical Service.

The measures adopted for the control of Malaria by the large scale organisations of D.D.T. Units to combat this disease on an island-wide scale is without parallel in any other country and the results that are already being achieved indicate that this disease will not be the major cause of ill-health that has obstructed the progress of Agricultural and Industrial Development of the country.

The Maternity and Child Welfare work and the School Health Services are by far the most popular and there is constant demand for increased services in this direction.

IN 1931 there were only 12 Public Health Nurses and 103 Midwives. At the present time there are 46 Public Health Nurses and 925 Midwives, of whom 675 are in the Public Health Services.

The fight against Venereal Diseases and Tuberculosis has been undertaken with great vigour and clinics are being established throughout the country to combat these diseases.

Dental Clinics have been established in six areas and action has been taken to train more and more dentists so that similar work may be established in other centres. Already a Dental Van is in operation to cater to the needs of the rural population and it is hoped shortly to place several more in the field when the required personnel become available.

For the better control of the environment Government has organised a scheme of subsidies for latrine constructions and in the current year's vote a sum of Rs. 50,000 is provided for this work.

The basis of all health work is Health Education. A Publicity Branch has been created in the Department of Medical and Sanitary Services and Health Propaganda is being carried out through the Press, the radio and a periodical called the Health News is published regularly. There is in addition the Annual Health Week in which all the other Departments co-operate.

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"Writers, Artists, and men of Thought must get together and work out the destiny of Man"—

## THE ARTIST IS EQUAL TO THE POLITICIAN

WHILE it is true to say that some people are born with a greater sensitivity and spiritual delicateness than others, it is an exaggeration to believe that they are destined to flower out themselves without hard work and persistence. Somebody has facetiously defined genius as "one who has three-fourths perspiration and one-fourth inspiration." Although the phrase is not a very hygienic one, yet it does sum up to an extent a truth. For inspiration again is only a subtle habit of consciousness and can be cultivated even as the flower in a flower-pot can be.

An artist needs to labour at his art. He is as much a labourer as a peasant on the field or the worker in the factory or the scientist at his test tubes in a laboratory. The great artist is always working, working, working. To him there is no day nor night; for his consciousness flows from shape to shape moulding the destinies of ideas and ideals; flows parallel as it were to a constant sensation of the eternal without beginning and without end!

He is aware of the exterior being wedded to the interior, every colour he sees corresponds spontaneously to a dream within, and every sound and shape persuades his being into a marriage of wonderful creations. But it is no joke, arranging these marriages! They involve planning and ceaseless organisation.

An artist is made not born. This is not a maxim, but could easily become one, since it embodies a living truth, the truth of the life around the artist which perpetually keeps on moulding his thoughts, his habits, his attitudes. After all, an artist who has the dark and hideous variety of the experience of famine and life-lack around him is different from the artist who has only lived surrounded by plenty and roseal illuminations.

Politics are a part of art. This comes as a bombshell to the ivory tower dreamers who do not realise that there are bomb-laden planes hovering like ruthless vultures over its height, and around its silence; who imagine that "God's in his heaven, all's right with the world." God is not in his heaven, and all is not right with the world today. The atom bomb threatens God's earth and the giant shrieks and groans of machines that kill and men that are killed tear the old silences of the sky and drive Him out of His safe and star-burgeoning gardens! All is definitely wrong with the world; and who is more sensitive than the artist to record these misdeeds of life and destiny? Who better than the artist can register the sadness and the brokenness of humanity today?

For the force of life and of politics will whip us out of our complacency and make things impossible for the lazy artist who yawns and does not want to leave the comfort of small successes. The artist will be driven out of his safety and will have to come face to face with such realities as will make him for the first time play his real role in the history of the country. For all this he will have to undergo a new training, his mind shall have to be drilled into knowledge, without which no amount of genius can truly succeed in a grand and magnificent manner.

The time has come for us to combine and work out a common destiny which is the most uncommon thing to achieve. If only the various groups of artists could meet and discuss programmes and carry out their plans towards a single goal, the goal of the liberation not only of "the people" (as we hear it said constantly today) but of ourselves who are full of chains and of mental and spiritual bondage.

It needs courage to examine one's own achievements. To become famous in the world is not at all a difficult matter but it is not an easy matter to become famous within one's own heart. Self-examination which is so necessary to

Says

Harindranath  
Chattopadhyaya

the serious artist is such a searchlight that it brings out into prominence all the dark places of the being, all the subtleties, the intriguing deficiencies of our knowledge and of our understanding. We put on masks of great wisdoms, but behind those masks, alas! we are pigmies who have refused to become the giants we were meant to be, who have neglected the sacred duties of an artist which are equal to the duties of the real politician, one who must perforce be ever ready to place his life on the altars of sacrifice and, while he has life, to make it worthy of large human history.

### Woman Candidate Finds No Favours

MRS. AYISHA RAUFF who is contesting the Colombo Central constituency as an anti-U.N.P. candidate, received the greatest shock of her life when she held an election meeting at Garden No. 247, Wolfendhal, on Sunday, the 15th June, 1947, when her candidature was completely turned down by the crowd. Not one voter of that ward came forward to support her candidature.

Less than a hundred people attended the meeting and even there a majority of them were supporters of Mr. T. B. Jayah, the U.N.P. candidate for the Colombo Central constituency. They just went there to watch the fun. Mrs. Rauff could not get a voter of that area to preside over her election meeting and as the result she was compelled to bring in Dr. A. P. de Soyza, the philosopher of the South, an unknown figure, to the masses of that area, to preside over her election meeting.

None of the speakers in that meeting were voters of that area—in fact the speakers were completely unknown even to that small gathering present there. One Mr. Kamali, one Dr. Cader, from some unknown area, one Clive Fernando and one Mrs. Kanakarathnam from South India—these were the people who tried to persuade the people to support the candidature of Mrs. Ayisha Rauff. It is no wonder they failed and failed miserably to win the sympathy of even the few people present there. Mrs. Rauff's statement that she was coming forward as an anti-U.N.P. candidate was ridiculed and turned down by the crowd.

A copy of questions which was handed over to the Chairman, Dr. A. P. de Soyza, to be answered by Mrs. Rauff were not answered. Some voters through these questions pointed out the great services rendered by Mr. Jayah to the Muslim community during the course of the last twenty years—politically—socially—culturally and educationally—and further they pointed out that in the best interests of the Muslim community Mrs. Rauff should withdraw her candidature in favour of Mr. T. B. Jayah. It was also pointed out that if there is one amongst the Muslims of this Island who is fit enough to represent the Muslims in the legislature of this Island it is no other than Mr. Jayah.

Therefore I ask the Muslims, both men and women, to think many times before they vote and to cast their three votes to Mr. Jayah, the great leader of the Muslims in Ceylon.

"Down with Mrs. Ayisha Rauff."

"Long live Mr. T. B. Jayah and the U.N.P."

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# "A CHAMPION OF THE UNDER-DOG"

OUT of the 35 categories of public servants whose causes I often espoused about thirty categories deal entirely with the departments under the control of the Hon. Col. Kotelawala.

In the case of almost all these categories I can claim, more than perhaps any other private member, credit for the achievements but not sole credit because my endeavours and my persistence would have been in vain but for the steadfast sympathy and understanding on the part of Col. Kotelawala. In the majority of these cases I found Heads of Departments sympathetic but it was well nigh impossible to overcome the objections raised by the Treasury. I then had occasion to appeal to the Minister. I soon found that where I had a good and strong case, I only had to satisfy the

By  
Susanta de Fonseka M. S. C.

Minister of its justness and fairness. Then it was he who fought the Treasury, who pleaded the case before the Board of Ministers and secured redress. In at least twenty of these cases it was he who fought and won over the Treasury. He used to send me confidential documents for reference and return, copies of correspondence with the Treasury where he opposed their viewpoints and upheld my own which no Minister is expected to do, and in every possible way he gave me help and encouragement. He has been the greatest champion of the under-dog. He is however depicted by his political opponents as a tyrant and a dictator, who cannot and does not feel for the poor and the down-

trodden. No greater libel could be made. No other Minister has done half as much for the employees of his departments than the Hon. Col. Kotelawala. It is not difficult to understand why the Sama Samaj leaders cry for his blood. In their eyes he is a bulwark that stands in the way of the attainment of their reign of ruin and chaos. Memories are notoriously short in this country. Eight years ago he was a hero in the eyes of the daily-paid employees of this country, when he boldly terminated the services of a large number of Indian employees in the Government Workshops so as to provide employment for Ceylonese. It brought about a serious crisis between Ceylon and India but Ceylon stood firm and none stood firmer for the Ceylonese employees in Government Workshops than Col. Kotelawala. As false rumour spread like wildfire in the midst of that crisis that Col. Kotelawala had been shot at and wounded by a discharged Indian workman, I shall never forget the large number of Ceylonese employees who flocked to my house that night to ascertain the truth of that rumour and if true to seek vengeance on the assailants. So great was the love and affection in which he was held for standing up for the rights of daily-paid Ceylonese labour and for conserving for Ceylonese employment in Government Workshops. Let us always remember that the policy adumbrated by Dr. Colvin R. de Silva

is that every Indian in Ceylon should be entitled to equal rights with Ceylonese. Let us also not forget this, that it was due to Col. Kotelawala that even today no workman is employed in any Government Workshop unless he makes a declaration by way of an affidavit that he is a Ceylonese and of Ceylonese parentage. Imagine the situation which would otherwise have arisen when hundreds of Indians would simply have thrown out of employment the Ceylonese; and they would have been prepared to work on scales of wages very much lower than what Government is paying today. The Ceylonese labourer was saved by that courageous and bold step taken on the initiative of Col. Kotelawala eight years ago. Such is life, Saviours are later crucified.

When I had succeeded in redressing the grievances of employees in several departments in the Public Service, Col. Kotelawala addressed me the following letter as Minister for Communications and Works:—

Sir.—I have the honour to convey to you my thanks and congratulations on your successful efforts to ameliorate the conditions of the "underdogs" in the departments under my control. Some time ago His Excellency sanctioned your proposal to transfer the daily-paid clerical hands in the Railway to the permanent establishment. Some time before certain minor employees in the Post were similarly benefited at your instance. It was to a large extent due to you that my Executive Committee appointed a sub-committee (the Simon Abeyewickreme Committee) to investigate and report on the salaries and conditions of daily-paid hands and minor employees in our departments.

It was four years ago when you first mooted your proposals—when my predecessor was in office—and I know well that nothing would have been done but for your perseverance. You have achieved all your objects and your success is all the more commendable as it is very rarely, if ever, that a private member is able to achieve so much.

## "TOUGH-GUYS" OF THE RAILWAY SECURITY SERVICE

OF the major problems that confront post-war Ceylon today the resettlement of the ex-Serviceman—a by-product of World War II—constitutes a task of the highest magnitude and importance.

This problem has received very careful consideration by Government and in the past month we witnessed the inauguration of several colonization schemes sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands for the resettlement of ex-Servicemen personnel.

By far the most successful and popular project in this direction was launched nearly twelve months ago by Mr. J. L. Kotelawala, Minister for Communications and Works, when a hundred and twenty-five hand-picked "toughs"—the flower of the Ceylon Defence Force—were recruited to the Railway Security Service.

The spate of applications for enlistment in the new branch of the Ceylon Government Railway, received from ex-Servicemen personnel at the time the very first announcement regarding the proposed inauguration of the unit was made by the Minister, and the steady stream of applications that keep pouring into its headquarters, daily, bespeak its wide popularity.

The unit now comprises five officers and 120 other ranks—all drawn from the various units of the C.D.F. and the R.A.S.C. Nearly all these men count on an average five years of unbroken, strenuous war service—five years of "comply and complain"—of "breaking in"—enough to turn any wild colt into a noble steed.

As outlined by the General Manager of Railways, the duties of the Railway Security Service consist in working in conjunction with the rest of the Railway staff to prevent thefts from goods sheds, stores and wagons and preventing passengers from riding in higher classes of carriages than their tickets entitle them. Attention is also to be focussed strongly on the prevention of footboard travelling—joy riding in trains and on the elimination of those elements that are out to harass or molest passengers travelling unchaperoned, and on those vandals who seek pleasure in adding to the soaring losses of the Railway by way of wilful and callous damage to Railway property.

It is hardly a year since the new service came into operation, and it is not fair to sit in judgment on it, or, in the light of the results of their activities, to endeavour to ascertain whether it has contributed anything towards the elimination of those evils they have been called upon to suppress.

The frequent strikes and the consequent dislocation of the essential ser-

vices, which caused innumerable responsibilities to devolve on its shoulders, have served to place a spoke in the wheel of its activities and to force it to abandon its plan of action to meet the more urgent needs of the abnormal period.

Nevertheless, reports of the activities of the Railway Security Service "speak goldenly of its profits."

During its period of existence it has escorted on an average over 3,000 wagons per month. Losses from wagons escorted by the members of the service have been reduced to a bare minimum of two per month.

In view of the limited number of men at its disposal the Railway Security Service has not found it possible to focus its attention on train thefts and other irregularities on the entire 900 or more miles of railway track in the Island, simultaneously, but at the moment the Main Line up to Polgahawela, the Kelani Valley Line and the Coast Line, receive more than the usual degree of vigilance.

Besides the hum-drum duties of escorting of wagons and the prevention of footboard travelling the men of the Railway Security Service have been of tremendous service to the public in giving pick-pockets and other undesirables who use the Railway compartments and stations as their hunting ground, a very rude shock.

A Government clerk was rushing home one evening when he was relieved of his entire pay by a member of the light fingered gentry. It happened during the time when the rush of pilgrims during the exposition of the Sanchi Relics was at its peak.

A lynx-eyed member of the Railway Security Service arrested the purse-snatcher while on the act.

During the recent epidemic of strikes and organised hooliganism the entire force was sworn in as special police officers and the part they played in guarding vital points of the Railway has left nothing to be desired.

A vigorous campaign is on foot against footboard travelling and nearly Rs. 1,300 accrue monthly to the country's revenue by way of fines.

A very hostile group of footboard travellers—armed and dangerous robbers and the presence of a number of treacherous accomplices among the Railway staff, have helped to make the job of the Railway Security man a hazardous and unenviable one.

Lt.-Col. VanLangenburg points that if there is to be increased and sustained efficiency there should be the assurance that it would in the near future be made a permanent appendage of the Ceylon Government Railway.

The recruitment of ex-Servicemen has been viewed with disfavour in certain Government departments like the Police—but it could now be said that in the Railway Security Service they have proved beyond a doubt that they have delivered the goods and that whatever comes their way they are able to take it.

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# Jawaharlal Nehru writes on THE URGE TO FREEDOM

THIS ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN THE MAGAZINE "ASIA AND THE AMERICAS" IS DRAWN FROM PANDIT NEHRU'S BOOK, "THE DISCOVERY OF INDIA," WHICH WAS WRITTEN WHILE DETAINED IN THE AHMEDNAGAR FORT.

India has had many distressful periods in the course of her long history, when she was ravaged, by fire and sword or famine, and internal order collapsed. Yet a broad survey of this history appears to indicate that she had a far more peaceful and orderly existence for long periods of time at a stretch than Europe had. And this applies also to the centuries following the Turkish and Afghan invasions, right up to the time when the Mogul Empire was breaking up.

The notion that the Pax Britannica brought peace and order for the first time to India is one of the most extraordinary of delusions. It is true that when British rule was established in India, the country was at her lowest ebb and there was a break-up of the political and economic structure. That indeed was one of the reasons why that rule was established.

### THINKING RESPECTED

"The East bowed low before the blast. In patient, deep disdain she let the legion thunder past. And plunged in thought again," so says the poet and his lines are often quoted. It is true that the East, or at any rate that part of it which is called India, has been enamoured of thinking, often of thinking about matters which to those who consider themselves practical men seem absurd and pointless.

She has always honoured thought and the men of thought, the high-brows, and has refused to consider the men of the sword or the possessors of money as superior to them. Even in her days of degradation, she has clung to thought and found some comfort in it.

But it is not true that India has ever bowed patiently before the blast or been indifferent to the passage of foreign legions. Always she has resisted them, often successfully, sometimes unsuccessfully, and even when she failed for the time being, she has remembered and prepared herself for the next attempt.

Her method has been twofold: to fight them and drive them out, and to absorb those who could not be driven away. She resisted, with considerable success, Alexander's legions, and immediately after his death drove out the Greek garrisons in the north. Later she absorbed the Indo-Greeks and the Indo-Scythians and ultimately again established a national hegemony.

She fought the Huns for generations and drove them out; such as remained being absorbed. Afghans spread further only gradually. It took them several centuries to establish themselves firmly on the throne of Delhi. It was a continuous long-drawn-out conflict and, while this struggle was going on, the other process of absorption and Indianization was also at work, ending in the invaders becoming as much Indian as any one else.

### AKBAR'S IDEAL

Akbar became the great representative of the old Indian ideal of a synthesis of differing elements and their fusion into a common nationality. Because he identified himself with India, India took to him although he was a newcomer. Because of this he built well and laid the foundations of a splendid empire. So long as his successors kept in line with this policy and with the genius of

the nation, their empire endured. When they broke away and opposed the whole drift of national development, they weakened and their empire went to pieces. New movements arose, narrow in outlook but representing a resurgent nationalism, and though they were not strong enough to build permanently, they were capable of destroying the empire of the Moguls.

### INDIA LEFT BEHIND

They were successful for a time, but they looked too much to the past and thought in terms of reviving it. They did not realize that much had happened which they could not ignore or pass by, that the past can never take the place of the present, that even that present in the India of their day was one of stagnation and decay. It had lost touch with the changing world and left India far behind.

They did not appreciate that a new and vital world was arising in the West, based on a new outlook and on new technique, and a new power, the British, represented that new world of which they were so ignorant. The British triumphed, but hardly had they established themselves in the North when the great Mutiny broke out and developed into a war of independence, and nearly put an end to British rule. The urge to freedom, to independence, has always been there, and the refusal to submit to alien domination.

It seems absurd and presumptuous to talk of an impulse, or an idea of life, underlying the growth of Indian civilization. Even the life of an individual draws sustenance from a hundred sources; much more complicated is the life of a nation or of a civilization.

There are myriad ideas that float about like flotsam and jetsam on the surface of India, and many of them are mutually antagonistic. It is easy to pick out any group of them to justify a particular thesis; equally easy to choose another group to demolish it. This is, to some extent, possible everywhere; in an old and big country like India with so much of the dead clinging on to the living it is peculiarly easy.

There is also obvious danger in simple classifications of very complex phenomena. There are very seldom sharp contrasts in the evolution of practice and thought; each thought runs into another, and even ideas keeping their outer form change their inner contents. Or they frequently lag behind a changing world and become a drag upon it.

### CONTINUAL CHANGE

We have been changing continually throughout the ages and at no period were we the same as in the one preceding it. Today, racially and culturally, we are very different from what we were; and all around me, in India as elsewhere, I see change marching ahead with a giant's stride.

Yet I cannot get over the fact that Indian and Chinese civilizations have shown an extraordinary staying power and adaptability and, in spite of many changes and crises, have succeeded, for an enormous span of years in preserving their basic identity. They could not have done so unless they were in harmony with life and nature.

Whatever it was that kept them to a large extent to their ancient moorings, whether it was good or bad or a mixture of the two, it was a thing of power or it could not have survived for so long. Possibly it exhausted its utility long ago and has been a drag and a hindrance ever since, or it may be that the accretions of later ages have smothered the good in it and only the empty shell of the fossil remains.

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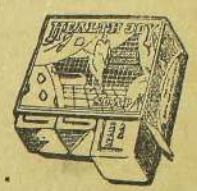
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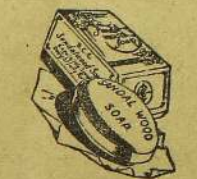
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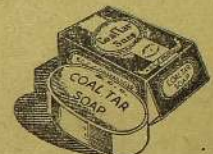
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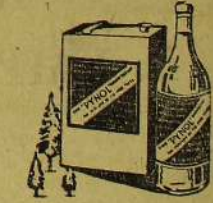
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**SPORTS**  
*Commentary*

COVER-POINT

**RUGGER** makes the main news in this week's sports summary. If racing is the hub of August Week, this carnival would never be complete without at least one Rugger Test. And so, it is very much in the fitness of things that the Ceylon Rugby Football Union has decided to stage an Up-country vs Low-country match, as part of the August attractions. All clubs and districts have plenty of very promising material at hand and two well balanced teams should take the field.

By way of preparation for this Test, the leading clubs turned out in strength last week.

In Colombo, the two principal metropolitan teams, the C.H. & F.C. and the O.R. & F.C., were in action against scratch XV's and showed to advantage. The most impressive display in these two matches was given by Roellofsz who, though almost a veteran, showed that he is as nippy and alert as he was ten years ago.

The end of the week saw two inter-district matches but, unfortunately, both were played away from Colombo, and all my information about them is second-hand.

The C.H. & F.C. travelled down to Badulla, where their three-quarters gave such a brilliant exhibition that UVA were well and truly beaten. The Colombo team scored as many as six tries but only one of them was converted. Resolute tackling by the C.H. & F.C. foiled several last minute breakaways by the Merrie Men.

The KELANI VALLEY kept an engagement with Kandy on the Bogambara but had to acknowledge defeat after leading at half time. It was Kandy that called eth tune in the second half, Lushington being the outstanding player.

THE first entries have closed for the C.T.C. July Meeting, with which the curtain rises on the racing stage in Ceylon after an interval of six years.

As was only to be expected, most of the races scheduled for the Meet are sprint events with a few middle-distance ones thrown in. Considering that the majority of the thoroughbreds will be racing for the first time in their lives in the East, their introduction to the great game naturally is through the medium of these sprints, which will prepare them for the "plums" of August.

As in pre-war years, the July Meet has two races on the calendar, which are generally regarded as dress rehearsals for the two principal prizes at the Big Meet. The Black Buck Stakes, over 9 furlongs, usually gives Governor's Cup candidate a chance of showing their paces, though it is the exception rather than the rule that the winner of the Black Buck Stakes has gone on to take the Cup as well. Speaking from memory I think Silverton was the last horse to complete this double.

Arabs in Class I also have a mile race in July to prepare them for the Roberts' Cup. This year, the class of Arab which we have in the Island is far and away the best we have ever had and if the going is good, the time record for the mile is almost certain to be broken.

WHILE still on the topic of racing, I should like to refer to the retirement of Fred Darling, the

Master of Beckhampton, who is acknowledged to be one of the greatest trainers of all time in England. Darling saddled the winners of as many as seven Derbys, two Oaks, two St. Legers, four 2,000 Guineas and two 1,000 Guineas. His successes in the other big races in England would take a volume to enumerate. Suffice it to say that for years running, he was at the top of the Trainers list and Beckhampton was a name to conjure with in racing circles.

One of those who will feel his retirement most keenly is Gordon Richards, who has been associated with Darling for 15 or 20 years.

The "little man," who once again was baulked of a Derby victory when Tudor Minstrel came unstuck at Epsom, may now decide to give up riding for the slightly less arduous task of training. Darling's retirement will leave a big gap to be filled and Gordon as well as some of the older jockeys, who recently took out Trainers' licences, like Harry Wragg, Carcy and others, may profit in the share-out.

The only race of note, which actually falls within the period under review, is the Irish Derby and that, too, because the winner turned up in the Gaekwar of Baroda's 20,000 guinea Nearco colt, Sayaji Rao, who had finished a poor third in the Epsom classic. Sayaji Rao always had the measure of Grand Weather and his victory should have brought some consolation for his Derby failure. According to present plans, the Nearco colt is to run in a 100,000-dollar race in the United States towards the end of the year. Racing conditions in America are so different to those in England and Europe that personally I do not set much store by Sayaji Rao's chances in the New York classic, even if he is good enough to win on merit. The fate of the 1923 Derby winner Papyrus, who was beaten out of sight by the very moderate Zev, is a case in point against the chances of an English thoroughbred on an American track.

BRITISH Summer Sport reaches its summit this week with the holding of the British Open Golf Championship, the Royal Regatta at Henley, the Third Test match between England and South Africa at Old Trafford and the concluding stages of the Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships.

It is already quite apparent that overseas competitors are going to have a clean sweep of all five Wimbledon titles.

British prospects for the Golf Championship at Hoylake and the Rowing Regatta on the Thames at Henley cannot

be regarded too highly, although Britain might win the Test match. There was a time in the distant past when Britain was as all powerful at Golf as she was at cricket. Today she cannot make such claims in either sport.

For at Golf, the United States hold all the British major titles as well as their own. At cricket, Australia can justifiably claim to be No. 1. Numerically, the foreign challenge in the Open Golf is not very great with some dozen players in an entry of over 250 but it is formidable enough with United States professionals like Johnny Bulla and Vic Ghezzi and the Australian champion Norman von Nida, to say nothing of the brilliant Belgian, Flory Van Donck. Britain will pin her hopes on Dai Rees and Henry Cotton who, although not having a good season as yet, is capable of out-playing any other golfer in the world.

THE Government Service Boxing Meet finds a place in this summary, chiefly because of the participation of Albert Perera, who was making his first appearance in a Ceylon ring after his return from England. He boxed, well within himself to win the feather-weight. As one of the certainties for the Olympiad, his form will be under the closest scrutiny from now.



**PROFESSOR REILLY'S** tribute to the architectural designs of the University buildings at the Peradeniya Site in the Sunday "Observer" reminds me of an interesting episode in the old days when the Dumbara Valley site was in high favour. It will, for ever, remain green in my memory because it was one of the rare instances when a Governor's legs were pulled!

It was at the farewell dinner to Mr. E. B. Alexander that the Governor (Sir Hugh Clifford) described this "one of the most forcible episodes in my long official career." The Governor had visited the Dumbara site (300 acres of land in the most beautiful part of Ceylon) along with a party of Legislative Councillors, including the late Sir Baron Jayatilaka and Mr. D. S. Senanayake.

The party were taken back to see crowds of beautifully-attired village damsels kneeling and weeping passionately against the choice of this site. These "hired" mourners carried banners "sent up for the purpose from Colombo" to wring the hearts of the Legislative Councillors. The banners read: "Don't Hurt Us! We are poor, feeble people," "Don't rob us, we are feeble."

But when these women were asked why, having dressed so well, they insisted on kneeling in the dust, they sat back on their heels and forgetting their tears, burst into laughter!

These villagers were even tutored to make remarks, within the hearing of the Legislative Councillors, deprecating the choice of the Dumbara site.

With all solemnity they were heard to say: "This is a rock. It will cost much money to blast it." "This is a hill. It will cost money to fill and level it." "Here is a valley. It will cost money to fill it."

These remarks were interpreted in English for the Governor's benefit by Mr. D. S. Senanayake.

**Arduous Journey**

THE Governor and the Legislative Councillors were taken on the roughest of routes to this Dumbara site. Most of the Legislative Councillors lost themselves in the tortuous paths. Only the Governor and Mr. D. S. Senanayake, it was reported, were able to stand the strain of the grilling forced marches.

The Governor was heard to express his discomfort in Malay to Mr. T. B. Jayah.

The actual site was, however, not shown, neither were the architects, who were present, consulted.

In exasperation the Governor asked: "Where is the river?" There was no river, although it was one of the chief amenities of the site selected by the Akbar Committee.

An amusing diversion occurred when Mr. X., a gentleman in horn-rimmed spectacles, forced himself on the gathering and addressed the party in Sinhalese "on behalf of the villagers." Sir Baron (then Mr. D. B.) Jayatilaka acted as interpreter at the Governor's request. Mr. X. said that he would like to remove a misconception that Mr. Alfred Ratwatte, Ratamahatmaya of the district, was the leader of the agitation against the site, though he (Mr. Ratwatte) had been unanimously chosen by the villagers to speak for them.

The Governor: "How many villagers?" Mr. X.: "Thousands."

The Governor: "I'll take a bet they comprise not more than 400. I was not born after the last paddy harvest."

The Governor told them that they should not be afraid; in the last resort their interests would be looked after by the Government Agent "the redoubtable champion of the villager."

Sir Baron translated the word as "mahayodhaya".

When offered young coconuts as refreshments, the Governor said: "You cannot charm me. I am leaving on May 28. I cannot do anything in the matter. It lies entirely in the hands of the Councillors. You may try to charm them."

**Office Duels**

A LONG and drawn-out duel is going on in a Government Department where two near-Heads of Departments share one waste-paper basket. Boys will be boys and even responsible men will be schoolboys in a petty matter. One day the waste-paper basket is drawn towards Mr. A's table; the next day Mr. B. pulls it over to his side.

It was so reminiscent of the "Battle of Flower-pots" staged two decades ago at the Central Telegraph Office, where the offices of the Superintendent of Telephone and Telegraph Traffic and of the Chief Telegraph Engineer were approached by one common stair-case.

It struck the former that a touch of nature in the drab Government building would brighten up the place. So he applied to the Government and to the P.M.G. for permission to place three ornamental flower-pots on the stair-case, which was so designed as to accommodate flower-pots.

When they arrived, however, the Superintendent had in the meanwhile been transferred from the C.T.O. to act as Assistant P.M.G. The Chief Telegraph Engineer, on seeing the flower-pots on the staircase, thought it was not quite the thing and ordered their removal.

There were two reasons for his conduct: the aesthetic sense was hurt, and he was pained by the fact that he was consulted by the Superintendent before ordering or placing these pots.

"Are flower-pots desirable in a Government Office?" That was the burning question of the day, and the controversy dragged on.

A wag suggested that this matter should be reported to the Secretary of State and a Commission be appointed not only to enquire into flower-pots but also to decide whether it was proper to let grass grow under the feet of Heads of Departments.

**Motor Show**

ACCORDING to local agents of the motor industry, new cars of superlative design are ready for export from Britain to Ceylon. Some of these new cars have already arrived and some of the super-designs are an attraction on the road.

When a sufficient number have arrived it will be a good idea to stage a motor exhibition. It was in 1927—so far back—that we had a first rate motor exhibition.

Sideshows and other forms of merriment gave the show the atmosphere of a carnival. There was the memorable "Palais de Joie" where everyone enjoyed themselves. The show was tastefully arranged, the illuminations enhancing the exhibits.

I believe the "Palais de Joie" was sold under the hammer to Mr. A. P. Casie Chetty for Rs. 4,800. Small lots in the show ground were bought by Sir James Pieris, Sir Solomon Dias Bandaranaike, Messrs. A. J. Vanderpoorten, G. C. Schokman, D. D. Fonseka and others.

**The Yellow Press**

A NUMBER of never-dowell who have proved conspicuous failures in other walks of life have drifted into journalism and are issuing a yellow news sheet which is hawked about the streets. These individuals are easily recognizable psychological types. Frustrated and suffering from imaginary grievances brought upon themselves by the hallucinatory idea that they deserved better of this world, they have to let off what they imagine to be a lot of "steam." They have, in the event, succeeded in producing a few pathetic squeaks. Even this effort must have cost them dear, for we understand that they have to recuperate in the toddy tavern in the Pettah which is strategically placed for the exclusive benefit of such loonies.

**Natural Defences**

A TOUR in the interior of the Island shows the vast extent of clearing up done by the military during the war. Forests have been cleared and aerodromes and macadamised roads have sprung up. All this reminded me of the ancient rule of the Kandyan kings which read: "No one, on pain of death, shall presume to

cut a road through the forest wider than is sufficient for one person to pass."

But it was a different age. The Kandyan kings depended on natural defences and they deliberately encouraged wild vegetation to enhance their security.

At some selected points thorny plants and climbers were planted by Royal Order to help to form a natural fortification. At each pass, which led to the level country, movable gates, formed of formidable thorny beams, were placed as a barrier against any invader.

The Mahavamsa mentions that in Dutugemunu's campaign against Elara, one of the towns was surrounded on all sides by the thorny "dadambo creeper within which was a triple line of fortifications with one gate of difficult access." Moats filled with thorns were another form of defence.

**Double-deckers**

ARE our double-decker buses safe? Eighty per cent. of the street accidents in any town, declares Mr. Walter Luff (Transport Manager of Blackpool's bus service), "are bus-step accidents—fares stepping in or off while the bus is in motion." The staircase and the single open step exit are death-traps to many unthinking fares.

A way out is the method adopted in Blackpool's double-deckers. It is a safety device—a vacuum-operated centre entrance double-door.

All the time the bus is in motion the door is closed flush with the side of the

vehicle, and the fares cannot get off or on until it stops, and the door is opened by the conductor's switch.

Although there have been very few accidents here, this idea could be worked up by our bus owners not only in double-deckers but in Nelson buses too.

**Europeans in India Want To Come Here**

WITH India granted her freedom in the shape of the twin dominions, Hindustan and Pakistan, and the European civil servants setting off home (some have turned farmers in South Africa), the European workers there are pessimistic about their future settlement. Many clerks, teachers and nurses thought Ceylon a haven and flooded the Government offices with applications for jobs. One such from an European lady in Quetta was typical:

"Since coming to India from Britain last December I have been running a school for British Army Officers' children in Quetta. My 3½ years' experience in teaching in British schools gave me the necessary experience for this work.

"Now, however, I feel that in a short time, due to political changes, I would prefer to be somewhere more settled, and I have often wondered if there is any scope at all for a white woman to earn her living in Ceylon."

"I do not require a large wage but enough to live on, according to expenses in your part of the world."

On the day her letter arrived, the granting of Dominion Status to Ceylon was announced.

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