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Round The Electorates

By Our Political Correspondent

IMBULANE MAKES HEADWAY IN RUWANWELLA

Samarakkody Will Lose His Deposit

KURUWITA VILLAGES SOLIDLY BEHIND ATTYGALLE

I HAVE been round several electorates and I am confident that U.N.P. candidates will win in all of them. Dr. N. M. Perera will lose at Ruwanwella to young V.C. Chairman, Imbulane, around whom has gathered all the leaders of key villages in the area.

I can also say that at Mirigama it is no longer a question of whether Samarakkody will win or not. Today he is fighting to save his deposit. He may have looked at Mirigama through red glasses and seen everything very rosy. But now he is fast becoming green about the gills. He has very little support from people on the Voters' Register, and his meetings are packed with camp-followers who don't belong to Mirigama at all. The Mirigama electorate is the best organised electorate today. The U.N.P. is working now to increase the margin of victory.

* ♦ *

YOUNG Imbulane will provide the surprise packet of this election when he beats the Sama Samajist Dictator, Dr. N. M. Perera. We have already shown in this paper how stupid Dr. Perera's propaganda is. He

imagined, probably, that any grandmother's tale would satisfy the peasants of Ruwanwella. His contempt for other people's brains and opinions has boomeranged and now other people don't worry about his opinions or his brains! He is a lone figure fighting a losing battle. He is as insufferable in defeat as he was in victory last October.



Mr. Cyril Attygalle
"Villagers Solidly Behind Him"

I WAS at a meeting of villagers of Kuruwita district held at the school hall at Pussella. That meeting was a fine example of the democratic system.

The villagers met to decide which of the several candidates for the Ratnapura seat should be supported. After

several speeches the meeting unanimously decided to vote and work for Cyril Attygalle, brother of Dr. Nicholas Attygalle. Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, of course, will smash his opposition at Kelaniya. Mr. Bodhipala Waidyasekera, the L.S.S.P. candidate, at Kelaniya, will lose his deposit.



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Sir Mohammed

WE have lived in peace and friendship side by side with men and women of other creeds, castes and races in this beloved Island of ours these many centuries. Our welfare has been so closely interwoven with the peace and prosperity of this Island that it is the clear duty of every Muslim to ensure that this land of ours shall continue to enjoy that same peace and prosperity in the future in full and even greater measure.

In a few days' time, the people of this Island will march to the polls to make a vital decision as to their future Government. Various parties have arisen whose programmes and policies are before the people. Muslim political organisations such as the Ceylon Muslim League and the All-Ceylon Moors' Association have among others cast their lot with the United National Party in the sincere conviction that the Muslims and other minorities will be accorded fair and equitable treatment at the hands of that Party; and it therefore behoves us Muslims to not merely cast our votes to U.N.P. nominees in the forthcoming elections but also to actively work and sponsor the cause of all such nominees.

Under the new Cabinet System the so-called Independent member counts for

naught, and his is that of the voice in the wilderness. I therefore honestly feel that it is through the closest collaboration and utmost co-operation necessary to ensure U.N.P. victory at the polls that we Muslims can ever hope to obtain representation in the Cabinet and so have a voice in the affairs of our country.

There are unfortunately a few among us who are under the erroneous belief that as between one non-Muslim and another it matters little whether the candidate of our choice is a U.N.P. nominee or not. I feel that those who pursue this line of reasoning are doing a great disservice to our country. When economic conditions are in a state of flux, it is doubly imperative that we should return to Parliament sober and seasoned

politicians whose record of service bears scrutiny. U.N.P. candidates who are contesting practically all the seats in Parliament fulfil in a large measure these pre-requisites. It is a significant fact that the one and only candidate elected uncontested to Parliament is a Muslim—Mr. H. S. Ismail, M.P. for Puttalam—a U.N.P. candidate and that too in an electorate in which the Muslim were just short of an absolute majority.

The future is bright. Every Muslim should support the United National Party so that we Muslims may have a responsible share in the Government of our land—the Dominion of Lanka. Assalaamu-Alaikum.

MOHD. MACAN MARKAR.

Election Cameos—2

THE Bolshevik Doctor, Colvin R. de Silva, has actually started a "revolution!" But not the kind of revolution he had bargained for.

It all happened as a result of advocating the lost cause—the Marxist cause—at an election meeting in a Colombo suburb.

The Doctor had for nearly an hour—between copious draughts of orange barley to slake his thirst—pleaded the merits of the candidature of his Party candidates. But the crowd was unimpressed. Something had to be done and done quickly to avert the anticlimax. He had to take a plunge and he did so rashly by way of digression.

Sensing the scepticism of his audience at his recital of the doughty deeds he attributed to the Bolsheviks, he digressed on an apologetic note to explain how it was that the last strike had fizzled out like a damp squib!

As is now well known sensible wives had played an important and dutiful role in persuading their husbands to return to work.

Blissfully smug in his under-estimation of the good sense of these wives he pompously proceeded to appeal to them "to stand by their husbands in the struggles that lay ahead."

That in itself was harmless enough, for these wives are only too well aware that the Bolsheviks' "shop talk" always centres round some "struggle" or other.

The Doctor's next step was the one that made him trip. Seeking to make his appeal take on a responsive, if not a poignant note, he placed it on the personal plane. "You of the permanent 'waves' and the flashy sarees and frocks, you owe it to your husbands to stand by them for you must remember that your husbands earn to provide you

with such things".... When the Doctor had said this (he made it worse by saying more) he had unwittingly said too much!

The repercussions which are due to follow may take various shapes and forms, but this much is certain. The infuriated wives concede that after making allowance for the eccentricities of the Bolsheviks, they may stretch a point and forgive the Doctor for his ridiculous references to flashy frocks and sarees. But they certainly do not intend to make any bones about registering their disapproval of his indiscreet reference to permanent "waves."

The wives have a legitimate grievance. The Doctor has actually insinuated that their hair styles are artificial while the wives insist—as indeed we readily affirm—that the "waves" are naturally permanent. Hence the "revolution." Tut, tut, Doctor.

"Caliph"

Reflects...

"CAN WE LET THE BURGHERS GO?"

THE Burghers want to go—shall we let them? Whence came this sudden urge to flee the shores of Lanka, at a time when she was attaining adulthood? It is an idea of only a few months ago. It never created a ruffle among the communities till then. Anyway, why must the Burghers go?

I have questioned hundreds of Burghers of all classes on this issue and have come to certain conclusions. I don't presume it was anything like a Gallup poll. But the number questioned certainly constituted a representative cross-section of the community.

The panic was only among the higher classes of Burghers. They feared interference with their class privileges. It is these class privileges that have been the bane of the community.

In contrast the poorer classes of people preferred to remain in Ceylon. According to one of them: "Let these Bourbons, with their class privileges, go. We shall hang on here."

I GOT an idea of these class privileges when I questioned one of these "Bourbons." "We are Dutch Burghers," he proudly said. "Don't confuse us with the common type." These shadows of Maatsuykers and Van Dycks (at least they claim ancestorship with them) prefer to live in their ivory castles, toasting to the noble ancestors of Holland, while their poor Burgher

brothers struggled for a bare pittance in offices and workshops.

The decline of a community, that held its head high in the early days of British occupation is not a little due to this class complex that has widened the gap with the advance of years.

These rich Burghers have not bothered to help financially or educate their poorer brethren. It is only recently that attempts were made to found an education fund. Thanks to their home language being English, the poorer Burghers have not found it too difficult to muster enough education to qualify them as mechanics, engine-drivers, firemen and clerks. But they could not go far, and remained a moderate class.

This idea of fleeing the country is cowardice in itself. For it means leaving the poorer Burghers to themselves. Perhaps the latter may be absorbed by other communities. But still they will be Ceylonese—and be proud of it.

Will it, on the other hand, avail the Bourbons to boast of blue-blood Dutch ancestry in countries like Australia and New Zealand where a brown alien is a brown alien and nothing more, whatever his supposed pedigree.

THE Burghers have always been among the intellectual men in the Island. From their ranks rose the political giants of old—Lorensz, Richard Morgan and others. The legal profession has seen luminaries like the Grenier brothers, Morgans and Maartensz's. Medical men—Koch, Vanlangenberg and others—also illumined the early periods.

In the Sri Lanka of today Justices Soeritsz and Kueneeman have risen to be the only Ceylonese Chief Justices (in acting ranks).

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EXPERIMENTS IN DEMOCRATIC PLANNING

THE Government machinery for dealing with investment has perhaps given rise to most misgiving. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has set his heart on a policy of "cheap money" or low interest rates, in order partly to ease the burden on the National Debt and partly for political views in the distribution of income. With low interest rates it becomes profitable today for a good number of firms to expand and for new firms to set up, much more than the resources of the country would allow. If uncontrolled this would lead to an inflationary bidding up of prices and money wages and the actual investment realised will be related to expected profitability rather than social urgency. This is clearly undesirable. Capital replacement, modernisation in important industries and the housing programme, naturally need priority from the point of view of the economy as a whole. The government has therefore imposed physical controls over investment. No investment project over a certain magnitude can be carried out except under government licence. This is understandable but it raises a difficulty of very great importance. On what basis does the government sanction an investment programme for any particular industry or firm? Why coal should get preference over some luxury industry it is not difficult to see, although even here considerations turning on the export trade and the consumer commodity market raise difficulties.

But when it comes to deciding between the competing claims of several different firms within the same industry, the criteria for sanctioning capital issues becomes most uncertain. Theoretically the most efficient of the several firms producing the same commodity should be allowed to expand. But there is no certain way of discovering the most efficient firm outside of the automatic and self-adjusting processes of the free market. But this would mean letting all have freedom to expand and judging by results, while the planners' task is to ration and allocate at the outset. Perhaps an elaborate government costing organisation would help, but so far no such organisation exists.

Moreover, methods of costing themselves have not reached sufficient perfection for the economist's purposes to justify their confident application. In the absence of these methods the decision must necessarily be arbitrary. The Capital Issues Committee has not publicly revealed any precise criteria even if such criteria exist. Past performance is perhaps the most likely objective test. But the dangers are great. It tends to give a premium to firms that have reached their optimum in the period considered and to handicap firms that are in the process of growth. It tends to stratify the structure at a certain period and to neglect the dynamic aspect in the development of firms and industries. With the resources for capital development relatively small and the priorities fairly evident, as at present, the problem does not fully reveal itself. But it is of the greatest importance in any long-term plan, specially since efficiency is so vital a requirement of the British economy.

THE NATIONALISATION ISSUE

WHERE does nationalisation come into the picture of democratic planning? Both in France and in Britain the governments have followed a policy of nationalising important sections of the economy. Opinion favouring nationalisation grew up with the Socialist movement. Classical Economic Theory had a bias in favour of private enterprise while recognising a limited degree of state intervention. With important qualifications obscured in footnotes and introductory paragraphs, Economic Theory demonstrated with compelling logic the virtues of a private enterprise economy in a free market. By assuming, in analysis, a given volume of resources and full em-

By
Ganini Corea

ployment, it assumed away the most urgent problem of the inter-war period. The Keynesian development of theory subsequently filled in the gap. Classical economics now became only a special case of a general theory of output and employment as a whole. Keynesian Economics implies the necessity for State intervention in the economic process to secure a maximum of employment compatible with flexibility in the economic system. State ownership of the means of production or even of the major industries is not a necessary condition for securing full employment. Once the responsibility of the State for conscious control is accepted, a variety of means, budgetary or otherwise, are open that would stimulate consumption and investment when necessary, and once full employment is achieved Classical Theory comes into its own once again. With full employment and a given distribution of income, the market mechanism is the best method that exists for securing the best possible distribution of resources. Socialist economists themselves admitted this, in the celebrated controversy on pricing in a collectivist economy during the thirties, and suggested the grafting of a pricing mechanism onto a collectivist economy. It follows that any obvious distortion in the kind of goods produced in a fully employed free enterprise system arises through the unequal distribution of income, and hence effective demand. The ideal distribution of income is a matter for subjective judgment.

A practical case may be made out for a more equalitarian distribution as an end to be aimed at, in so far as it does not affect adversely the total of wealth to be distributed itself, through harmful effects on incentives. This aspect of welfare economics is still controversial. But this is not an issue of private or State ownership. By taxes, subsidies, price control, etc., the State could modify the behaviour of private enterprise in any desired way. While maintaining the economy fully employed the State could influence the kinds and quantities of goods and services produced and the ways in which they are distributed. And these, after all, are the fundamentals of any economic system. The issue between pure capitalism with unfettered private production and pure socialism with public ownership of all the means of production becomes less real. They are not only the alternatives, one or the other of which we must choose. Our knowledge of the economic system has advanced sufficiently as to enable us to secure our desired ends with superior methods.

A fully socialist State can overcome some of the defects of uncontrolled capitalism; it can secure full employment and redistribute incomes. But apart from the political costs of this there is no guarantee that it will do it efficiently. In the absence of a market mechanism there is no certain way of finding what consumers exactly want, which units of production are best satisfying consumers' wishes, and which units should be allowed to expand. At best a central body could give consumers what it thinks they should have or make a guess as to their desires.

There is the co-ordination argument, but against it it may be urged that decentralisation allows the greatest scope for individual initiative and efficiency. We cannot go into these here. They are questions concerning human material. We cannot say with certainty that State appointed managers even if imbued with the greatest patriotic zeal are likely to be either more or less efficient than private managers working in their own interests.

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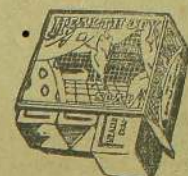


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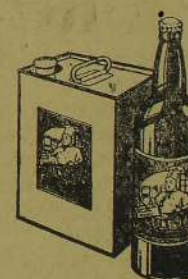
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Friday, August 15th, 1947

COMMUNALISM IS DEAD

THE wave of Communalism that swept over this country has spent its force. It rose to its greatest height during the visit of the Soulbury Commissioners and has now left the debris of shattered hopes on the beaches of the Jaffna Peninsula. In its time it crashed with great sound and fury. It swept away every moderate influence and silenced every moderate voice. Nothing else seemed to matter but the carving up of this little Island into several isolated units one hostile to the other. The intelligent and the illiterate alike walked with heavy tread glancing at members of other communities with scorn or fear. A nation's whole destiny was imperilled.

The time is now past when any effort, however strongly backed it may be, and however well directed, can bring any good to the Communalist. Ceylon has marched forward and has taken giant strides towards the direction of a free and united country. The question now is not what particular rights and privileges any single community shall enjoy but of the contribution each individual citizen can make to the development of this Island.

We do not believe that it is the special privilege of any single community to produce the political brains for the country's Government or the administrative talent for the Departments of State. We believe that whatever competition there may have been between people of different races to secure as great a proportion of appointments in the Government for themselves, that period is over and whoever is appointed to a post the only consideration must be his suitability for the work entrusted to him, or to her.

We want every brain and every kind of skill from the entire country for the one purpose of the good Government of Ceylon. It matters not at all from which class a person may come, it matters not at all what the racial origin of a person may be: we stand for absolute equality of opportunity for every Ceylonese citizen. When the country has developed to this stage it is futile for anyone, however brilliant and talented he may be and however gifted with the magic of a ready tongue, to incite any single community to rebellion. In the event, the result of such an action will be the political and economic ruin of the people he leads.

It is a thousand pities that a man like Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam whose administrative ability and intellectual gifts would have fitted him to per-

TWO ENGLISHMEN CEYLON SHALL ALWAYS HONOUR

CEYLON will remember them, two "patriotic" Englishmen who chose to serve the country of their adoption and its people. When the history of Ceylon's fight for independence is written the names of Messrs. George Wall and H. R. Freeman will have their own special niches. In the main gallery of our country's patriots shall their portraits hang. Their life and service for Ceylon have been almost similar each in his own way.

George Wall was one of those European colonists who took the cause of Ceylon really into his heart.

It was more than gratitude for rich capital obtained from coffee. It was a sincere affection for the people. Wall was a Ceylonised European who fought for us with more patriotism than any Ceylonese.

Since he came to Ceylon in 1846 a strapping "creeper" in the coffee estates, he steadily worked himself up to the position of Chairman of the Planters' Association in 1856—only ten years later. In 1858 he was nominated by the Governor, Sir Henry Ward, as

form very responsible duties in a future Cabinet should have abandoned the cause of constructive politics for temporary glory and mass worship in Jaffna. He will admit that with the sweeping majority that the U.N.P. shall have in the forthcoming elections his game of power politics will be played out. There is no hope for the Tamil Congress. It is too late for him to retreat to the safety of Point Pedro. If he imagines that he can make a temporary coalition with the Leftists in the new Parliament he is a greater fool than even his more bitter opponents consider him to be; there will be no more than two or three Marxists in the new Parliament. The defeat of N. M. Perera at Ruwanwella is certain. This will be the most decisive event as far as the people of the Jaffna electorate are concerned.

Mr. Ponnambalam's recent alliance with the Marxist groups in Colombo was calculated to help him dictate terms to the Party in power in the next Parliament. He will now be faced with the hopeless task of forming a Cabinet "outside" the House of Representatives. He will have the consolation that both Dr. Perera and himself will be able to provide company for each other, for both will lose the seats for which they appear as candidates! If his past is an indication of his future we confidently expect him to drop his new-found friends as lightly as he dropped several of his colleagues who were founder-members of the Tamil Congress.

The voters of Jaffna are far too level-headed to let either Mr. Ponnambalam or anyone else sacrifice the future of so progressive a part of this country on the altar of impassioned and pointless racial prejudice.

Planting Representative in the Legislative Council.

It was in the Legislative Council that Wall showed himself a doughty patriot. He was one of the leading lights in the "First Fight For Reforms" (referred to in a special article in this journal last month), when Government was sensationally defeated when it tried to oppose an unofficial motion (moved by Wall):



George Wall

GEORGE WALL joined the Ceylonese again in forming the Ceylon League which was the first body to agitate for reforms.

He refused to re-enter the Legislative Council (though repeatedly pressed to do so) after the historic resignation. But he was useful to the country in many important ways. Though retired from public life, he was always at the head of any agitation for the welfare of

By

M. M. T.

his adopted land.

In 1892 he relieved the paddy cultivators (who had to bear ravages by wild beasts and the weather) by persuading the Government to repeal the Paddy Tax.

In 1893 he was partly responsible for the establishment of the Technical College, where students were trained for the mechanical branches of the Public Service. For six years he carried on a fight for Ceylonese reforms and social welfare in the columns of the "Ceylon Independent," of which he was editor.

His two publications "Natural History of Thought" and "Good and Evil" were ranked among the best in the world, showing up the author as the one of the leading thinkers of the age. But these two books are completely out of print now.

In 1894, Wall mourned his death at the age of 74.

* * *

BUT at the time of the death of Wall, another European "patriot" had begun life in Ceylon. In 1885 he had come to Ceylon as a 21-year-old Civil Servant, Mr. H. R. Freeman. After the usual round of appointments—on the Bench, in Government Offices and as Government Agent—Mr. Freeman finally settled down in Anuradhapura.

(Continued on opposite page)

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A NOTABLE absentee in the list of candidates for Parliament was that old campaigner, Mr. E. W. Perera, "the Watch-dog of the Council" once, who is now in retirement in Kotte. One of Ceylon's Elder Statesmen, he was in the vanguard of every fight for the people's rights.

When Buddhists were being shot or imprisoned without trial after the 1915 communal riots, a public meeting was held under the chairmanship of (Sir) James Peiris to take steps to inform the Secretary of State for the Colonies of the injustices inflicted on the people and to demand a commission of inquiry, but the Governor refused to forward to the Secretary the Governor refused to forward to the Secretary of State the resolution of the meeting (sent to him with the telegraphic charges).

It was then that Mr. E. W. Perera, a Christian, went with the late Sir Baron Jayatilaka to England and successfully pressed for a commission of enquiry.

In the Legislative and State Councils he led the fight for reforms. It will be remembered that he was the first to condemn the system of executive committees in the constitution. He was laughed down then. But events have proved him right. May this old war-horse spend his retirement in peace!

Midsummer Madness

THE kidnapping scare which originated in Kandy and spread rapidly to Colombo looks like one of those strange upheavals created by the state of the weather—it may be midsummer madness.

The presence of a certain member of an Indian tribe in Colombo, who specialises in ear-cleaning, has given impetus to the scare that these "sannyasis" were luring away children. One pointed question is: "Have you seen these modern Pied Pipers of Hamelin in the act?"

Two Englishmen Ceylon Always Shall Honour

(Continued from opposite page)

He took the villagers of the N.C.P. cultivators to heart. They loved him in return.

They called him "White Father." They let their naked children play with him and chuckle at his mimicry and antics. He was the English "hamuduruwo" doffing his stiff, white official suits and settling down with them in their hamlets.

He represented the N.C.P. Province in the Legislative Council in 1924. In 1931 the villagers returned him to the State Council by a thumping majority—he gained 8,311 votes to his opponent's 888. By 1936 he was the uncrowned "King of the Wanni," so that when the next State Council elections came round, none dared challenge his popularity there.

He was the chosen champion of the chena cultivators of the Wanni and fought for their rights against Government prosecution.

Finally when the Government in 1941, pressed by the exigencies of war, appealed for speedier food production and suggested the burning of chena lands for more agricultural space, Mr. Freeman caustically remarked that that was exactly what the Wanni cultivators had done all the time—and were prosecuted for it.

No greater tribute is paid to his services than by the author, John Still who dedicates his famous book, "Jungle Tide," to "H. R. Freeman, Knight-errant and champion of the Jungle Peoples' rights."

ON January 23, 1945, passed away Herbert Rayner Freeman. It was a shock to the grateful villagers. "White Father" is dead, they wailed. They came in mammoth numbers to his grave—crematorium, in fact. Long after the cremation was over they were seen contemplating mournfully outside the closed cremato-

The answer is invariably "No, but others have seen."

Strange tales hang round these "sannyasis." They are supposed to have lured the children for one of three purposes: to make a religious sacrifice of them, to employ them as accomplices and domestic servants, and to adopt them.

Rumours say that one "sannyasi" was arrested at Borella, another at Maradana and still another at Fort, and they were lodged in Police lock-ups. Descriptions of them vary from lean, haggard men to jet-black, bearded ogres!

Of course there is the "Leftist" view, which is characteristically nonsensical: "Wrong men are being arrested by the police to cover up their inefficiency in failing to locate the 'sannyasis'." And that has started the ball rolling again.

Class Complex

CANDIDATES canvassing in their electorates are meeting with unexpected queries from their potential voters. A recent incident in a Maradana home is interesting. The candidate concerned is a "Red" candidate, hereinafter called "Comrade," the householder is a rich mudalali, hereinafter called voter.

Voter: "In the last series of strikes you made the Indian depressed class workers shout out 'Senanayake Banga Wewa'."

Comrade: "Yes."

Voter: "Did you realise that a man who in India would have been obliged to know-how to his immediate superiors (even ordinary men like us), was encouraged by you to cry down our Leader. Was this patriotism—?"

Comrade: (Silent).

Voter: "If he could cry down our leader, cannot he turn round against an ordinary man like you and not only cry but stamp you down?"

Comrade: "Oh, no. I wouldn't allow that. I'll crush him...."

Voter: "I know your mind now, man. Please go off, and be d—d with your policies."



Mr. R. H. Bassett

rium door. The wreaths of wild flowers they brought were placed on the grave of Sylvia, his infant daughter, who died in 1897.

On his death a local journal paid him this tribute:

"In the distinguished list of Westerners who have striven to imbibe something of the Eastern way of life and adapt themselves to the country of their adoption, Mr. Freeman will have a high place. His sincerity, naivete and utter simplicity were universally admired even though his views were frequently those of a diehard reactionary."

It looks as if Ceylon shall be blessed by these kind old English souls. With the death of a Wall a Freeman came up. With the death of Freeman we have a Bassett—maybe!

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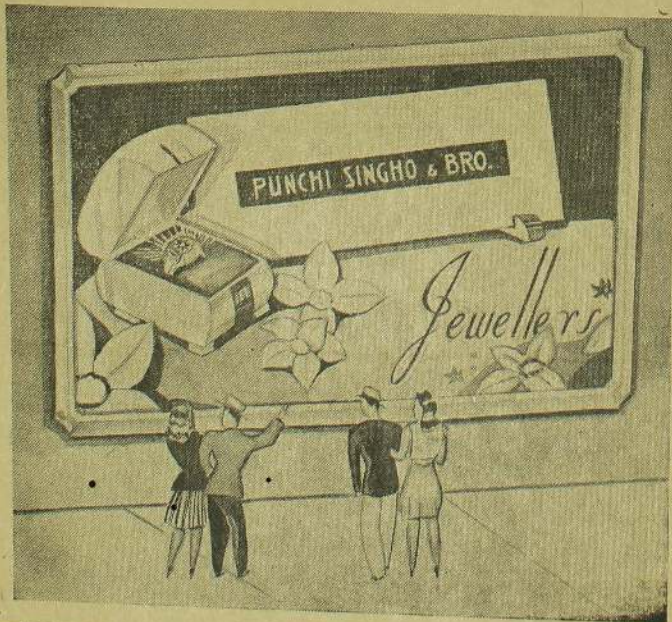
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SPORTS Commentary

COVER-POINT

THOUGH the malignant caprice of the weather god contrived to make history by inducing the first postponement ever of Cup day, racing still furnishes the main theme of this review. After all, racing is the hub round which all the August Week attractions revolve and the sport provided on the opening day of the Meet was in itself sufficient to hit the headlines.

If the runaway victories which ruled failed to pay tribute to the skill of the Handicapper, they served to emphasise the quality of the horses now racing in Ceylon. I cannot, off-hand, recall an easier victory in a Roberts' Cup than that which SCARLET achieved when making her debut on the Ceylon turf. The nearest to it was ROYALTY'S staggering upset 11 years ago, when he cracked such a pace from flag-fall that this rivals never really caught sight of him. In the case of Scarlet, however, Jockey RAFFAELE, riding with all the confidence in the world, kept her in the bunch till 2 furlongs from home and, once he gave her head, it was only a question of how many lengths she would have to spare at the finish.

If Scarlet is a pony of outstanding ability—incidentally, she is still a "baby" of five years—KUNJ LATA is a champion who bears comparison with the best thoroughbreds who have ever come out to Ceylon. Once in the straight she had the Lawyers' Cup so much at her mercy that only a fall could have prevented her winning it. The promotion she so richly deserved brought her into the Governor's Cup, but there was some doubt whether her owner would risk her in a 11-furlong race just two days after her Lawyers' Cup victory. The postponement of the Governor's Cup by a week now makes her a certain starter—and, in my opinion, a certain winner. And after that, a little bird whispers, she may have a crack at the Calcutta classics.

Apart from the two Cup events, the opening of the August Meet was notable for the emergence of a really fine sprinter in CLAIR DE LUNE, who got a flier from the barrier and was never headed in the Bachelors' Purse.

The continuance of that rain which made inevitable the postponement of Cup Day also led to the third day of the Meet, which was scheduled for last Tuesday, being postponed for Monday next. The Channer Stakes is the chief prize on the card which includes one cup event in the Madras Cup for Class I Arabs. Following as it does hard on the heels of Cup Day, fields may not be quite as large as one would wish.

BEFORE leaving the subject of racing, I feel I must once again invite the attention of the Turf Club authorities to the totally inadequate provision made for paying out dividends, whether it be on the Tote or in the Doubles and Trebles. The inside of the main Pay Out block, which is now utilised for the sale of Treble tickets,

should be made available for Tote Pay Outs, while temporary cages can be put on the Paddock side of the Grand Stand for the sale of Treble tickets. After all the Totalisator is the principal medium of betting, and punters should not be exposed to so much discomfort in collecting their winnings. As matters stand, only an unlimited purse will enable a punter to go through an afternoon's betting without being compelled to join an interminable queue and run the risk of not seeing the next race being run. The men behind the Pay Out windows should also be instructed to expedite payment and not dawdle over them, as they have done up to now.

BOXING fans had their full quota of thrills last week when the A.B.A. championships were held at the Town Hall. A really high standard of boxing was reached and F. C. de Niese, in winning the F. C. Jayawardene Cup, gave as polished an exhibition of the fistic art in the light weight as one could wish for. I did expect ALBERT PERERA to give short shrift to his opponent EDWIN but he had to go all out to claim the verdict. I hope Perera is not stalling. The Olympic Games of 1948 is not so far off now and, as the likely pivot of the Ceylon team, Perera, with all his experience of English Boxing, should be careful not to overdo things.

THE only foreign sports news to which reference must be made in this summary is the County Cricket season which is now on its last lap.

As it was in the beginning of the season, EDRICH and COMPTON continue to dominate the scene. In the London Derby between Middlesex and Surrey at the Oval these two batsmen flogged the Surrey attack to such good purpose that an initial partnership of over 200 between ROBERTSON and BROWN was taken to over 500 in a single day, Edrich and Compton being unbeaten with centuries. I have unfortunately lost count of the centuries scored so far this season by each of them but I am sure the number must be well in the double figures. Edrich's aggregate is now 2,776 with an average of just over 111, while Compton's total is 2,418 with an average of over 84.

The South Africans continue to have things very much their own way against the Counties but when it comes to the Tests they seem to be outplayed. The last Test at the Oval is due this week and it will be interesting to see what changes will be made in the English team now that the rubber has been safely won by England.

RUGGER memories of pre-war days were recalled on Monday when Low-country met Up-country on the Police ground. Apart from the fact that the match was played after a lapse of eight years it was an historic occasion in that both teams included Ceylonese players who had made the grade. Now that the ice has been broken I hope that August Week Tests of the future, whether they be at Rugger, Cricket or Soccer, will be played between teams fully representative of the district, irrespective of community. As for Monday's match I was disappointed in that those three-quarter movements which are the cream of Rugger were few and far between. It was in the main a forwards' battle with Colombo having more of the ball and thoroughly deserving their victory.

The Cricket test on the C.C.C. ground was nearly washed out by rain and what little that went into its making was drab in that the two teams were hardly first class in quality. The C.C.C. were not extended to claim victory. The Governor's A.D.C., Capt. L. P. Aubrey Fletcher, and S. G. Campbell were seen to advantage for the winners.

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INDIAN NOVELISTS OF TODAY

I WOULD like to write about a new novel written in English by an Indian Mr. R. K. Narayan, and to mention three other Indian novelists, Mr. Mulk Raj Anand, Mr. Ahmed Ali and Mr. Raja Rao, whose work as a group has been considered by some critics to have made a unique contribution to contemporary English letters.

Let me state right away that the finest novels written in English on India have been the work of foreigners. Which is possibly why these Indian novelists are not as well known as they deserve to be. As somebody remarked the best is always the enemy of the good. When we discuss the English novel on India we think immediately of Mr. E. M. Forster's "Passage to India," "Indigo" by Miss Christine Weston, "Burmese Days" by Mr. George Orwell, three books which critical praise has already sanctified with the halo of near classics. We even think of lesser constellations like Mr. Edward Momson's "An Indian Day" and the fiction of Lionel Fielden and Pan Cooper.

Against a foreign invasion as diverse and richly gifted as this our four Indian novelists have... not surprisingly suffered some neglect. Their public has been more curious than wholeheartedly enthusiastic; they critics more eager to catch some unique flavour and tone in their writing which as orientals they are expected to introduce, than to assess their achievement.

Even Mr. Forster, an exquisite stylist himself and a sound critic of literary values, once remarked that these Indian



Mulk Raj Anand

novelists write uncommonly well. But one seriously doubts whether they have mastered the art of English prose. With the possible exception of Mr. Narayan in his recent novel, their style has lacked distinction. Even at their best they write competently and not excitingly well.

Virtuosity is the distinguishing mark of the great prose artist and there are no solo performances among them. It is, I believe, some such flaw in their equipment that has prevented them from writing a book as powerful as Mr. Orwell's, as dazzling in its atmosphere and characterisation as Miss Weston's, as completely rich and subtly satisfy-

ing a work of art as Mr. Forster's.

If they lack the virtues and graces of their better known Western competitors, their books still have some very solid qualities to recommend them. If they are not creative artists of the first order they are admirable interpreters of their country and their people. There were places the gifted foreigners could never explore and people whose language and customs and religion made understanding difficult. Rightly enough they confined themselves to the English educated minorities, the cultured intelligent few, the doctors and lawyers, the professors, cantankerous foreign officials, and native magistrates; they observed life in mess rooms and club house and residency; they recorded the conversational dalliances over tea-cups in shaded lawns and served by obsequious liveried servants, at garden parties, on golf courses, during picnics and historical tours.

Even the Indians in their books played polo and educated themselves in English public schools. They have written best of the great racial clash, of India in a state of transition. On the other hand these Indian novelists open to us a completely different portrait gallery: the coolie, the untouchable, the farmer, the village school teacher, hawkers, small time merchants and estate labourers. The more charming decoy of the big Indian cities has been replaced by the stinking alleys, lavatories and gutters. The imagination of the poet has been banished by the cold observant eye of the reporter writing out of first hand knowledge.

Of these four Indian novelists Mr. Mulk Raj Anand is the best known, one is inclined to attribute his popularity to his prolific output rather than to any

considerable literary gifts. He is more frankly propagandist than the others, and his novels are deeply felt tracts, bare listed indictments of British misrule in India. "Untouchables," his most widely read novel, strikes me as being an eloquent plea for the introduction of the drainage system. In spite of a certain dullness he is important for his pioneering work as a novelist writing in English. "Twilight in Delhi" by Mr. Ahmed Ali and "Kathapura" by Mr. Raja Rao are two rather unusual novels by writers who are unfortunate enough to be gifted with a poet's vision without that verbal magic so necessary for its expression. Their books are occasionally moving sporadically beautiful but in their attempt to introduce a richly brocaded jewelled quality into their work they succeeded in dressing up the English language in oriental fancy pants. Their more undisciplined lyric flights were embarrassing and one remembers many a purple passage with its usual trinity of victims, the inflamed imagination, the far-fetched simile.... and the tortured image.

Of these four writers Mr. Narayan alone is the most completely satisfying novelist. He is neither a propagandist nor a writer of excruciating tracts. He hasn't enough anger for that. Indeed for a contemporary Indian writer he is strangely innocent of public spiritedness and is probably looked upon by many of his contemporaries as being unpardonably unpolitical. Nor does he wish to be a rhapsodist, realising probably that when the oriental warbler hits the high notes in a foreign tongue he may sound like the victim of an acute attack of laryngitis, consequently when he writes within his limitations he is the purest artist.

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