

UNITED NATIONAL PARTY WILL FIGHT WITH RENEWED VIGOUR

The Country's Future is in the Balance
Hard Won Freedom Must be Used for the
People's Benefit.

THE United National Party will continue to fight with renewed vigour to save the ideals which have helped to preserve the instincts of freedom and independence which sustained the nation through centuries of foreign domination.

The defeat of some of the U.N.P. candidates showed an alarming fall in the standards of public judgment. That the record of some L.S.S.P. candidates was anything but estimable was plain to everyone. That they had done nothing in their lives to be of constructive service to their countrymen was well known. That many U.N.P. candidates had figured prominently in every measure adopted for the betterment of the standards of living and literacy in this country was also well known. And yet some of these L.S.S.P. candidates won.

The Sama Samajist Party has displayed an utter recklessness in the general choice of its candidates. They make no secret of the fact that in the search for candidates they adopted anyone who was willing to accept the Party ticket. There was no dearth of opportunist "pandas," and without the slightest inquiry into the past records of such men they were put forward.

The retort to this charge, of course, is twofold. Firstly, "integrity," "honesty" and "morality" are regarded as bourgeois terms used in a capitalistic sense, because the "criminal" is not to be blamed for his crime, but society and the social structure must bear responsibility for moral delinquency.

With this sweeping acceptance of an unreal and irresponsible standard of selection several candidates were let loose upon the electorates.

It must be stated, however, that this charge does not apply to all the candidates of the L.S.S.P., and that the Communist Party maintained a higher standard of selection.

HOW did these men win? This is a question that will be asked by many. It is a legitimate question. They won by utter distortion of the truth, by bare-faced lying, and by exploiting local rivalries and jealousies in the various rural constituencies where hard-boiled campaigners worked underground against our candidates.

Here are some of the distortions and lies.

- (1) Mr. Senanayake robbed paddy from the cultivators and sent it abroad, packed in tea chests.
- (2) Mr. Senanayake passed legislation to enable planters to shoot cattle if the villagers allowed such cattle to stray on to estates.

- (3) The Sama Samajists won Free Education for the people!
- (4) The Sama Samajists abolished the Headmen system.
- (5) The Sama Samajists obtained the Free Mid-day Meal and Free Milk Feeding Centres.
- (6) The Senanayake Government refused to give land to the villagers.

These statements were not made by the mere rank and file of the Party. They were made in print by the leaflet writers of the L.S.S.P. One of these leaflets containing points 3, 4 and 5 carried the signature of Dr. N. M. Perera. It was issued in the Dehiwita electorate and elsewhere.

THEN there was the Lie-Director, Mr. W. Dahanayake. It is amazing but true that this man went about several electorates relating the story that eggs were imported from Australia to benefit Mr. Senanayake and Col. Kotelawala, and that each of these men ate twelve eggs each morning—like "cabaragoyas"! Another of his stories was that a ship arrived in Ceylon carrying a cargo which was alleged to be rice, but when the hatches were opened it contained horses! These lies are not even clever; not that clever lying is to be tolerated in our public life, but because a clever lie might at least provide amusement.

By these methods several electorates in which L.S.S.P. candidates were returned were confused and misdirected.

As Mr. Bandaranaike said in several of his speeches, the Sama Samajists indulged in these lies as well as in reckless promises because they were not responsible men seeking to form a Government and run the affairs of this country on constructive lines. They were not burdened with the duties that go with responsibility. They were, as Mr. Philip Gunewardene admitted, seeking election to oppose and to use the Parliament as a platform from which they could get free press publicity. That was their game.

IN the result, however, the country's future is in the balance. We shall have a band of reckless men who will make speeches to attract gallery crowds.

They did nothing to achieve self-government for this country. They did nothing to achieve national unity. They did nothing to increase production in Ceylon. They did nothing to produce a plan for Ceylon.

It is therefore left entirely to the U.N.P. to save the country from destruction. It is left to the U.N.P. to use our hard won freedom for the benefit of the people. We have been weakened by the lying of the Sama Samajists, the local jealousies of anti-national traitors in certain electorates, the lack of public-spiritedness of some others,

and the general lethargy of thousands of educated people throughout the land.

We shall bear in mind, however, that 75 per cent. of the electors of this land have placed their confidence in us. We are the custodians of the people's trust and confidence, not arbitrarily claimed by us but given to us at the Polls. We shall work, therefore, to protect their interests, to develop the resources of the land, to provide maximum equality of opportunity, and to generally provide every amenity that the resources of the land permit.



Mr. D. S. SENANAYAKE
(Premier Elect)



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THUGGERY AT BALANGODA

OPANAIKE ROUGHS HOLD UP TOWN TO RANSOM

(BY OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT)

MR. MOLAMURE and Mr. E. W. Mathew won the Balangoda election in the teeth of thuggery and intimidation. Their victory was a triumph not only for themselves and the U.N.P., but also for the people of Balangoda constituency.

When I went to Pelmadulla I found it a hive of Reds. I was warned against stepping in to Opanaike and Balangoda.

Parish Pump Patriots

By Vernon Phelps

THE elections are almost over, and the country can well claim to have displayed the symptoms of a robust democracy even at so early a stage of its political growth. Impartial political observers are unanimous on this verdict to the marked discomfiture of internal enemies in this country who sought to make out that it was unfit for the responsibilities of freedom.

Convincing evidence of the high degree of political sagacity of the electors was their decisive answer to the parish pump "patriots" who received short shrift in the constituencies in which they had the temerity to put in an appearance.

Removed and remote from the progressive political tempo of the country, a not inconsiderable number of these "patriots," who sought to perpetuate the narrow sectionalism of appealing to electorates to return the "man of the place" as such, were given a salutary and it is hoped a curative answer, in being decisively defeated at the polls.

These "patriots" who had the brass to ask the electors to stick their noses in the parish pump only served the purpose of providing the diversion at the elections. To the huge amusement of the electors they emerged as the blots on the political landscape. Their politics was as illogical as it was out-dated.

He had not joined a political Party, said one of these "patriots" because he could not agree with more than 50 per cent. of the Party policy or programme of even the best of the existing political parties. This political Mohamed, who did not deign to mention the Party that had won his esteem to this enviable percentage and who apparently believed in standing aloof until the mountain came to him was, nevertheless, prepared to admit that the Parliament could not operate successfully except on an healthy Party basis!

It was this same kind of logic that prompted this type of candidate to touch a new low in electioneering tactics hitherto displayed in this country. After brazenly emptying the family cupboard of all its skeletons, teen-age relatives, ten times removed, were requisitioned to sing unmelodious slokas about the virtues, not of the candidate, mark you, but of his symbol, even if it happened to be a cartwheel!

Electors were prepared, after this kind of demonstration, to vote that such candidates should be awarded the George Cross for sheer brass. But they quietly decided that Parliament was the last place where such candidates should be permitted their primitive politics.

It had to be primitive, for these "patriots" were very conditional in their pledges to the electors. All their promises carried the preface: "If you elect me I shall do this or that" (the this and the that being invariably some reference to some parochial advantage). But both the promise and its condition failed to impress, for the electors looked for men with wider vision. They looked for men who sought to make the electorate

In Opanaike there was nothing but red. Thugs from Ratnapura and Avissawella and even from Colombo had been sent there to intimidate householders and boutique-keepers. No one was allowed to put up a flag or paste a photograph on behalf of Mr. Molamure or Mr. Mathew. At Opanaike, the M.P. for Wariyapola, Mr. Ivan P. Dassanaiké, was waylaid by Red thugs. He stepped out of his car and a thug whipped out a knife. Mr. Dassanaiké stood his ground and others intervened and dragged the drunken rough away. Only Red meetings were allowed in Opanaike.

When Col. J. L. Kotelawala toured Balangoda he was told that it was im-

possible to hold a meeting in Balangoda town owing to the Red "chandiys." He went to Balangoda all the same and held a meeting in the square. All Balangoda heard the speeches, which were defiant and provocative.

Earlier, Mr. Senanayake similarly braved the so-called "Pelmadulla Parasites" and addressed one of the biggest meetings to be held in the area.

Reports from Balangoda were depressing up to polling day and even after. The bus routes provided the grape-vine for information. The Thug-Samaj Party appeared to have considered Balangoda in their pocket.

A further advantage was the group of influential relatives of Mr. Molamure who worked hard for the Indian Congress candidate.

The result proved that Thuggery has a boomerang effect. The village voter bowed his head to the flashing clasp-knife of the Avissawella thugs, but in the recesses of the polling booth they did their duty by their conscience.



Mr. MOLAMURE



Mr. MATHEW

Election Cameos—6

THE closing stages of the elections are producing a spate of sidelights, which are not without their humour. Opposing candidates are going for each other hammer and tongs and the hard-hitting is hugely enjoyed by the electors.

One candidate is alleged to have claimed priority over his opponent on the ground that he was his former pupil. The pupil retorted that that should be distinction enough for his tutor!

In another constituency a woman speaker called upon the women voters to return a bachelor-candidate as he complied with the demands that women had a right to expect their representative in Parliament. The men at the meeting blushed at the brass of the candidate, who translated the speech into Sinhalese without so much as batting an eyelid!

A third candidate flooded his constituency with leaflets which assured the electors that he would work for them all the time and not merely in his spare time. His opponent described this assurance as typical of his rival's "lovely little cartwheel which had neither beginning nor end!"

But the season's highlight was the thrust of the candidate who rose to dizzy heights with the fine distinction that he had not the same admiration for his opponent's tactics as he had for his opponent himself. The snag, he confided, was his utter inability to detect how it was that he opponent (who had begun the campaign as an Independent) had now blossomed into an Independent Socialist?

And so it goes on. Wooing the voters is teaching many a candidate many useful lessons which he apparently had failed to learn upon his mother's knee. What finer evidence do we need that we are fit for freedom?

benefit consequentially to the progress of the country as a whole. That is why they pigeon-holed the "patriots."

A country that did this at its first Parliamentary Election is not only fit for freedom but also the envy of countries that can claim to be more politically mature.

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ELECTION stories are pouring into my desk regularly. They mostly complain of thugery and crookedness.

In one constituency clerks were requested to tie up the ballot papers in bundles of 100 each so that the counting would be facilitated. The result was found to be a victory for Mr. A. over Mr. B by a hundred odd votes.

But accidentally a bundle loosened and a ballot paper dropped out—with a thumb-mark, not a cross, on it! And the clerks had passed it as correct. Immediately a recount was ordered with stricter supervision.

It was found, in those bundles of 100 each, only 95 were valid, or 96, or 98. In each bundle a few invalid votes had been passed by the clerks.

The ultimate majority after all this checking-up was only a fifth of the original majority!

Returned His Petrol Coupons?

WHO was the hero who returned 98 out of 100 petrol coupons to the Controller and remarked that his voters could travel in his rival's car. As the street arab would say: "Kowda chandiya?" ("Who is this chandiya or prize-fighter?"). This appears to be one of those fairy tales attached to "Red" heroes by the "Reds" themselves.

I have heard some of these fanatics speak, and I have known the trend of their tall stories, so don't try to knock me down with this petrol story!

Can you beat the following I have heard?

- (a) A political bhikkhu once snubbed Mr. Kotelawala when he went for a favour. Hence his outburst against them.
- (b) Mr. D. S. Senanayake promised Dr. N. M. Perera a Cabinet post, if Mr. Senanayake becomes Prime Minister, but Dr. N. M. Perera scornfully rejected it.
- (c) Mr. W. Dahanayake has promised his voters that he will see that Mr. Henry Amarasinghe's estates are given to landless villagers, as at Knavesmire and Kundasale

Veddah Dances

WHEN I saw Vakani, Chellapan and Pandurangi of Tara Chaudhuri's dance troupe do the Bhili dance, I wondered why we have still not staged or evolved the Veddah dance on our local stage.

The Bhili dance is a dance of joy by N. Indian huntsmen after a successful chase. With eerie background effects and vigorous body movements by the dancers, this dance is a thrill to watch.

When Ram Gopal came here too he staged this Bhili dance. It was, in fact, imitated by some of our local dance sponsors. But why do the N. Indian dance, when our own wild men's dance could be interpreted with touching effect on the stage?

The Veddah was a regular feature in the local "Kolan Nefuma" (masque dances) in our villages. Even in rural plays the Veddah was featured. Will some one of our dance sponsors bill the Veddah dance in his next show? What is needed is the local touch

Leftist Lament

A LEFTIST paper has published a gonggrel called "Sir Oliver's Lament" in its latest issue. Seen with "Red" glasses it reads alright.

But if I would read it, I think the poem would be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth if it was read this way. (Apologies to the author for parodying his poem):

SIR N.M.'s LAMENT

Oh that I were in Russia
To dream my ambitions there
And dine and wine in gay hotels
With Reds and Redlings fair

It's pleasant in old Russia
Far from the raucous cry
Of Lanka's working classes
Far from floods, I lie

Time was, when I could dream it
And as, those days are gone
A bit of little Russia
I'd make of fair Ceylon!

Flood Victims

HAVE the flood victims been forgotten? After the flutter made by the "Reds" about relieving them of their distress, nothing more than news of the Governor's Flood Relief Fund is heard today. And what are the "Reds" doing? As champions of the poor, as they call themselves, they should have been the first to help the distressed.

But it was left to the "capitalists" to contribute to the Fund and to send relief to the refugees, while "Red" spokesmen bawled out venom at elections and election meetings.

Did you hear the saga of "The Mysterious Bread Baskets?" A car loaded with baskets of bread was seen touring the distressed areas. A police car followed "just to see." They touched at each village, spoke to a few villagers and made off. At the end of three hours the car was back in town with the bread still intact!

Can you solve the mystery. I'll give you three clues: (1) the bread could be seen from both the side and back screens

of the car; (2) the car toured only a certain electorate; (3) in the car was a candidate.

Your opinion is as good as mine.

"C.F.G."

ON the subject of the Press, Chief Reporter "C.F.G." (Perera) of the "Daily News" is Ceylon's No. 1 newshound. If there is a story going, he can get it. He is discreet, energetic and 100 per cent. dependable. Ministers and Heads of Departments know and confide in him. What he does not know about a news-story is not worth writing about.

Bertram Abeynaike is the new star on the horizon.

In Main Street, there is an up-and-coming newsman of the "Times." He is young and always eager to get to the bottom of a newsbreak. He and I stepped into journalism within twelve days of each other. Maybe I am specially pleased by his success, but I know he has thus far proved an asset to his paper.

Tail-Piece

CANDIDATE at an election meeting: "If the richer candidates offer you money take it by all means. You won't get a chance like this for another five years!"

Footnote: That is the type of candidate we expect to send into Parliament.

THEY WILL WIN



Mr. GEORGE R. de SILVA
(Colombo North)



Mr. J. R. JAYAWARDENE
(Kelaniya)

FISH MARKET 'KINGS'

WITH the approach of the elections in Colombo, the fish-market "Kings" are coming more and more into the picture. They are being sought after as the final trump-card in the three battles of Colombo. Like the village headman or school-teacher, the fish-market "King" is a force to be reckoned with and his influence is recognised.

It is a peculiarity of Colombo elections—Municipal or State, now Parliamentary—that these "Kings" play a notable part in them. When rating the chances of the candidates which "King" is on which candidate's side is a crucial question.

The fish-market "King" has influence only within his area—a square mile or so. But in them are the thugs, who could intimidate, the crooks, who could impersonate and viragos who do both. The fish "King" rules them all and his word is practically law.

To court them the candidate must necessarily pour palm oil. But there have been many instances where the fish-market "kings" have voluntarily given their services. The cause of the candidates should convince them.

But they are also fickle. In many cases they have been won over on the eve of the election.

Howbeit they pride themselves on the fact that they are the masters of the candidate's fates. "If they want me, let them come to me" is their regular boast.

BUT it is in these elections that their prestige is tested. Their future careers depend on these elections.

In one Municipal election, I know, a fish-market "King," who wielded much power, threw his weight on the side of a moderate candidate. Victory was considered certain.

What with his thugs threatening the neighbouring areas with knife assaults if they did not vote for Mr. X, and with his women intimidating every female voter, and the hiring car drivers under his influence, sabotaging the cars of the rival candidate, Mr. X should have been victorious.

But the voters expressed their displeasure in the ballot box. Mr. X. was a poor third, while the rival candidate was well away in the list and an outsider romped in second leaving Mr. X. disconsolate and disillusioned. Ever since then the influence and power of this fish-market "King" has waned.

THESE elections also mean, their death. For the affrays that follow or precede the election are usually started by these "Kings." While the "Kings" usually get away, leaving their disciples to rough it out, there is usually the possibility of an aspirant to the kingship, taking this opportunity to dig a knife into the "King's" body in the confusion of the affray.

By Caliph

Or it may be that the fish "King" (or mudalali) of another fish market area wants to pay off an old score with him; or perhaps, jealous of the "King's" popularity, he wants to finish him off.

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PERSONS AND PRINCIPLES

THE defeat of Dr. Kannangara at Matugama is a defeat of a principle. He stood for free and universal education. He was perhaps unrelenting in his attitude to the denominational schools but it must be said in fairness to him that he was honestly of the opinion that denominational schools and State schools could not exist side by side without one injuring the other. He was a man of strong views and his choice of language was unfortunately the cause of many hostile attitudes in various parts of the country. It must be said to his credit that he worked wholeheartedly to give as many of the children of the country as possible an opportunity of at least primary education. Whether he succeeded in keeping his organisation abreast of the rapid changes in educational policy is a point which can be debated with considerable force on either side. It could not be denied that Dr. Kannangara was responsible for the preparation and passage through the State Council of the most progressive piece of legislation for which the now defunct State Council could take credit. A whole generation was benefited by the boldness and vigour with which he pursued his object.

And yet he lost to Mr. Wilmot Perera. It is true that the winner was the founder of Sri Palee, an institution which was an educational experiment. Mr. Perera lived and worked in Horana, which is in the adjoining electorate. He was a figure of importance in the district, and was expected to take to politics earlier than he did. The point is that however estimable a man Mr. Wilmot Perera may have been, the electorate had a principle to uphold or reject. We do not think that the voters of Matugama rejected the principle for which Dr. Kannangara stood. It is more likely that personal issues weighed heavily in this election as well as the tide of the Indian Vote which falls in a cascade one way or another.

In very many other electorates also personal issues weighed heavily. We have to make allowances for the fact that this is the first time that Party issues have been raised. We cannot build up traditions overnight. Instead of recriminations and futile post-mortem examinations into the reasons leading to the defeat of our candidates in various constituencies we must continue to propagate the view that political opinion should be developed along party lines. The principles that a party holds and the programme that a Party desires to implement should be the guid-

Leaders of Lanka

By Maha Amerasingha

SIR OLIVER GOONETILLEKE

The Greatest Ceylonese brain produced in the British period of our history.

THE appointment of the then Mr. O. E. Goonetilleke to the post of Civil Defence Commissioner was one of the momentous events of the war. That appointment set in train a series of changes that went to make a silent revolution in this country. Sir Oliver, as he later became, influenced every change that affected the life of our people. He was himself the creator of innovations. He swept away the dead habits of a reactionary administration. He slashed at the red-tape that the Treasury had wound round every tiny wheel of the state machinery.

The Financial Regulations ("F.R.") as it is still affectionately called by the local version of the Brass Hats appeared to be designed with the single purpose of preventing any practical achievement. The subject of Civil Defence was in charge of an Engineer in the Public Works Department. I remember calling on this worthy as a representative of the Press to make some routine inquiries about the shading of street lamps. The Superintendent of Police, Colombo, had arranged for a "test shade" at MacCallum Road. When I succeeded in gaining entrance into his room he telephoned a series of "higher officials" because he was not quite sure whether the Press should be allowed to publish the news that the Superintendent of Police would personally inspect the specially shaded street lamp!

The war had just commenced. The Germans were not yet in Paris. The Japanese were neutral. And yet, Ceylon's Civil Defence Chief was not quite sure whether street lamp shading was a fit subject for a Press communique!

It was not surprising, therefore, that General Inskip should have declared on taking over the Military Affairs of this Island, that Ceylon would not last more than six minutes against enemy attack!

Many of us are now very wise after the event. Few of us have the imagination to visualise the state of tension in the country at that time. The country throbbled with the excitement of fear. The magnitude of the tasks appalled everyone who understood the demands of war. It was clear that maximum efficiency and a super hand were urgently needed.

AT that time there were no claimants for the job. It was a moment when reputations were being destroyed by the hard test of the emergency. Even so "safe" a panjandrum as the Chief Secretary of the day fell from grace and one of his deputies was thrown on his ear by the bull-dozer C.-in-C. Sir Geoffrey Layton.

Nothing was ready. We had no shelters. We had no mobile units of any kind. We had no House Fire Parties. We did not even have a paper organisation.

The Ministers cast about for a man who could produce order out of this chaos. There was no one who could fill the bill except Oliver Goonetilleke.

The job of Civil Defence Commissioner was the biggest task that was ever assigned to a single person in the administrative history of this country, and no one has ever filled a post with so much acceptance as Sir Oliver did.

He had to be given complete authority and full discretionary powers. He set about his task with characteristic vigour and foresight. The Oliver touch was akin to magic. It was the touch of supreme confidence in himself and in the men he picked. He picked some thistles as well as many flowers from his garden of talent. The flowers have faded from public memory but the thistles are as hardy as they come and persist in damaging the reputation of our greatest administrator.

ing factors, Party politics is the only answer to communalism. We shall otherwise have a situation in this country somewhat similar to that in India today when one community is killing members of another on a colossal scale.



Sir OLIVER GOONETILLEKE

IN the comfort of cushioned chairs and in an atmosphere of security we can now point to the things that should not have been done. It is a particular vice of the nebulous group we call the "public" that it is ever ready to forget or gloss over the things that were done and done well.

Sir Oliver built shelters at every street junction. He built Wardens' Posts, one for each street. He organised an Air Raid Service which was as near perfect as it could be.

On the eve of the First Air Raid on Colombo he was ready with 500,000 sandwiches cut and packaged to be sent to wardens and others who might need them. Every possible step had been taken hours before the raid to meet the contingencies that might arise. Transport might break down—a skeleton transport service was ready; water supplies

might be cut off—wells were dug and water carriers were loaded; electric lighting might be cut off—hurricane lamps and kerosene stocks were arranged; food supplies might be imperilled—mobile canteens carrying cooked meals were lined up at various points.

None of these things happened. If they did and the services were not maintained the cry would have gone up to high heaven that the Civil Defence Commissioner had failed to provide for these eventualities.

In addition to this there were ever increasing demands on his resource and initiative. Every job that needed super-handling and speed was thrust upon him. He did not adopt the attitude of some mediocrities who actually had a fairly cut and dried plan sent to them by the Ministry of Food or Supplies in London but pretended to have evolved gigantic schemes on their own initiative!

Sir Oliver became Ceylon's Master Baker—for he supplied bread when bakers tried to exploit the people; he became a Wholesaler in Firewood when firewood prices began to soar. He supplied coconuts, beef, fish and vegetables. There was no aspect of our national life that did not feel the sure touch of his hand. He turned his attention to the local Food drive and launched the National Food Campaign. It is true that some ridiculous slogans were issued in English but the Sinhalese and Tamil appeals were competently handled. One in every ten of our people grew something in his or her garden.

He had the vision to see the needs of a growing generation and thus came the Milk Feeding Centres. Fifty thousand children between the ages of two and five were fed with milk throughout the war years. He thereby nursed and nourished tomorrow's men and women.

(Continued on page 7)

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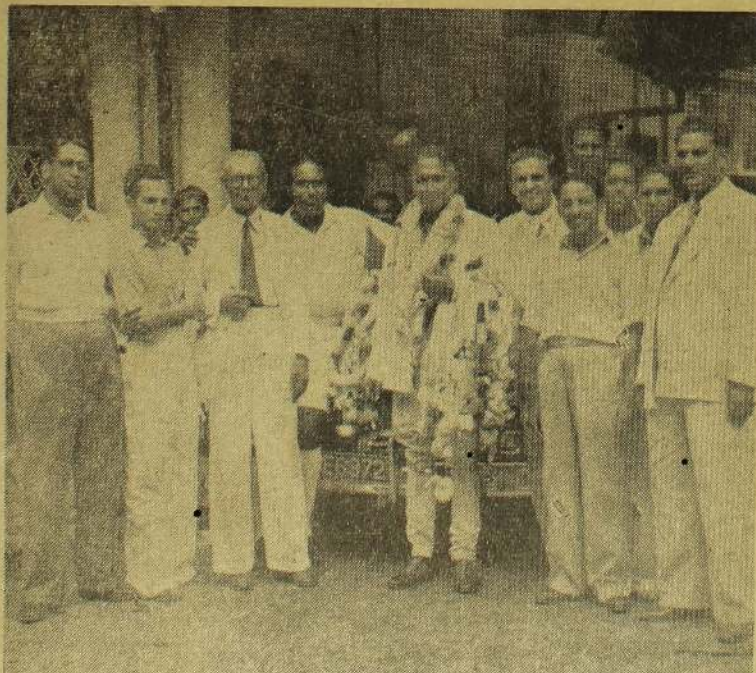


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Opponent Loses His Deposit

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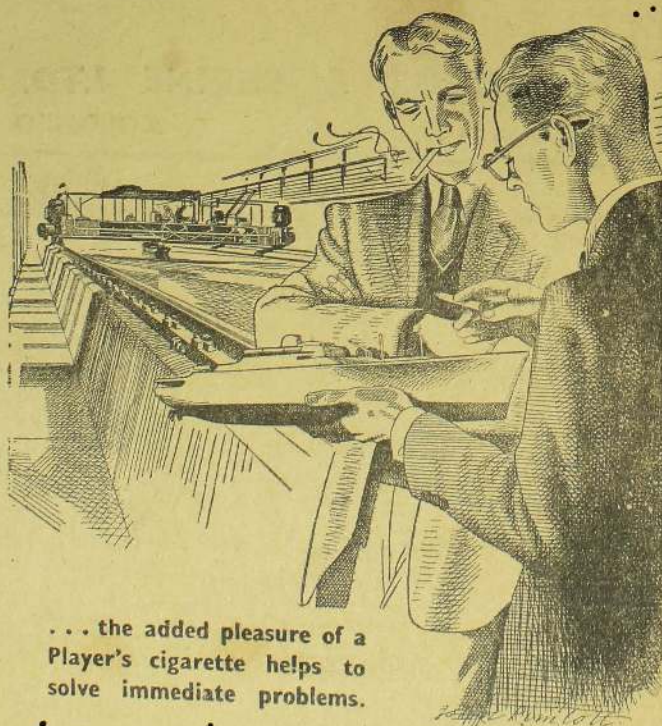
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SPORTS

Commentary

COVER-POINT

DIVIDED loyalty made me ponder awhile before I decided on the lead story of this week's sports review.

A natural predilection for racing almost convinced me that the St. Leger would provide the best starting point but, being fortunate enough to see most of the sport that went into the making of Ceylon Amateur Athletics Championship Meet, I decided overnight that the biped should take precedence over the quadruped.

With the Olympic Games in the offing next year and Ceylon's participation in it assured, the Jubilee Meet of the Ceylon A.A.A. had more than average interest attaching to it. Unfortunately, the state of the track was not conducive to the setting up of records but the results revealed that there is not the slightest doubt that the standard of athletics is definitely on the up grade. As our Athletics coach, G. B. LITTLE, said after the Meet, Ceylon is going to make every effort to win international fame and I feel sure that with his expert help and that of PROFESSOR COLUMBINE, who is himself of White City standard, our Ceylon lads will do creditably well in their debut at an Olympiad.

The outstanding athlete of the Meet was, in the opinion of the Judges, S. NAVARATNAM who was awarded the Wilton Bartlett Cup for the second time. Navaratnam was slowly away in the 100 Yards final but came with a rare burst at the finish to get to within one-tenth of a second of the Ceylon record. The Judges, however, must have been set a poser before they arrived at their decision for both JACOTINE, who won both the Hurdles, and RATNAYAKE, who could hardly have blown out a candle after winning over 3 Miles, staked claims for consideration. Their timings were admittedly poor but their performances were full of merit. Young JAYAWARDENE also showed to advantage in winning the High Jump but could do with some hints from the coach.

The women's events were dominated by SHIRLEY THOMAS who broke the 100 Yards record in the Heats and also took the 220 Yards with a good bit in hand as well as the Long Jump. Miss Thomas, who had her athletics training in Sydney, is really a shade too good for the best we have. Another woman athlete, who deserves mention, is SYLVIA VANDERZEIL, who came to within about an inch of the Ceylon record in the High Jump.

The absence of stand-out athletes like R. E. KITTO and H. M. P. PERERA was unfortunate but several more meets will be held between now and next April when the Ceylon team will be chosen and last week's absentees will have a chance of making good.

Last week's championships also had its lighter side and that was when a competitor in the 3 Miles—a Postal athlete barely 4 feet 6 inches in his socks—refused to give up, though he was trailing the field by two whole laps, and finished each lap with a burst which drew ironical cheers from the crowd.

I AM afraid cricket fans are in for a big disappointment. The match between Ceylon and India which was due to be played next week, is definitely off. The Indian cricketers are travelling by air from Calcutta and will not touch at Colombo. I understand that they may give us a game on their way back but everything is so nebulous that it is wisest to wait and see.

In redeeming my pledge to comment on the Test Trial played last week on the Oval, I feel constrained to refer to some behind-the-scenes moves designed to suggest that SARGO JAYAWICKREME, Ceylon's star batsman, is now past the stage of Test cricket. Jayawickreme



S. S. JAYAWICKREME

himself exposed the absurdity of the charge by scoring as polished a 150 as ever came off his bat, but still the whisper persisted that he was too slow between the wickets and was content with twos when three runs were possible. Ye Gods and little fishes!—if a batsman can knock the cover off a ball and score a century and a half, we can surely forgive him the loss of an occasional odd run or two. The self-same critics looked down their nose at the fact that Jayawickreme is essentially a back-foot player. And yet it was off that back foot that Jayawickreme collected nearly 20 runs in one over in that same match. And what of Wally Hammond? Comment is superfluous.

Rain unfortunately spoilt the match just when it was beginning to get interesting. The overnight rain had made the pitch rather uncomfortable and F. C. DE SARAM'S side had to fight hard for their runs. MAKIN SALIH got among the runs but I have certainly seen him batting better. RYLE DE SOYSA is steadily forcing his way back to big cricket while F. C. de Saram was his own imperturbable self when making his way to a century.

THIS brings me to the St. Leger, the last of the English racing classics run on the Town Moor at Doncaster. Those of you who listened in to the commentary on the race which was relayed, must have been thrilled by the rousing finish which EDGAR BRITT rode on the Gaekwar of Baroda's SAYAJI RAO to prevent yet another classic going across the channel. Your DANTE, as Sayaji Rao is called, has, at last, justified his record price and, as his owner intends keeping him in training another year, the gold cup at Ascot in 1948 may not be quite the easy thing it has been for Frenchmen in the last two years. It is stated that ARBAR, who had never run as a two-year-old, lost owing to "greenness" and that closer acquaintance with the great game will see him in better form next season. However, the fact that Sayaji Rao completely reversed the Derby placings and had over three lengths in hand of both MIGOLI and PEARL DIVER suggests that the policy of not hustling the Nearco colt is paying a rich, though belated dividend.

THE English League soccer season is slowly settling down with ARSENAL still unbeaten though not with a 100 per cent. record. The North London team dropped a point last week and share with W. BROMWICH ALBION, QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS and BOURNEMOUTH the distinction of not losing a single match so far. At the other end of the scale are LEYTON ORIENT, HARTLEPOOLS and OLDHAM, who have still to register their first victory.

CHANGING TIMES

OUR generation will never be able to realise the momentous nature of events that are taking place around us. We are so intimately connected with the daily happenings in various parts of the world that we feel accustomed even to matters of serious importance. We cannot see each event in its historical background nor can we have a perspective view of changing times. The historians yet to come will record the fact that 1947 was one of the most important years of the 20th century.

This year has not been noteworthy for any considerable action in the sense of that word when used in times of war. Yet there has been more active thinking in the minds of the makers of real history, in the minds of the true architects of human civilization, in the minds of writers, artists and leaders of various intellectual movements in different parts of the world. They have begun to realise that the ordinary politician or even the statesman cannot be allowed to plunge the world into succeeding baths of blood once in every generation. They have begun to realise that the aristocracy of the intellect must be established if human beings are to be given an opportunity of using the gifts of hand and brain that have enabled the human family to conquer so much of the natural forces of the world.

THERE is nothing in the Buddhist way of thinking which conflicts with this idea of ruling the world according to the judgment of the intellect, as opposed to the present practice of ruling the world according to the judgment of particular political groups and vested powers. Buddhism does not recognise that mankind has to accept life as he finds it on the earth. Buddhism is not a fatalist doctrine of resignation to some known or unknown series of inevitable events. The Buddha's teaching is positive and declares that men and women can by their own will and effort change the complexion of their lives; and by the extension of that same reasoning to a wider context of nations, races, and, in the final event, of the entire human race. We can conclude that by our efforts we shall be able to make conditions of living in this world far different to those that we

By
A. de A.

found upon it when we were called to the tasks of life.

THERE is the classic utterance of Voltaire, one of the greatest writers of all time, who said: "Thrones and kingdoms totter on the tip of a writer's pen." I do not ask for destructive or violent revolution, but I do ask that the writer will take his place where he belongs. We have written for generations at the behest of those in power. We have written to order. Very often we have had to write for our bread. But most of us have been guilty of crimes more terrible than those of the Nazi persecutors. The Nazis took away a few hundred human lives. But we who have not been fully conscious of our duties have been guilty of the wholesale murder of priceless forces for good in the world. We have killed ideas by the thousands, and thereby denied them to the growing generations of the human race not only of contemporary times but of prosperity as well. We must atone now and turn with one solid front against every force that seeks to stifle human liberty and freedom of expression. We must fight only as we can fight for we are most powerful when we have been robbed of every particle of clothing, of every cent of our money and of every scrap of our food. We are most powerful at the time when our enemies imagine that we have been destroyed.

SIR OLIVER GOONETILLEKE

(Continued from page 4)

WHEN the tumult of the Jap Raid had died down he turned his attention to national political affairs. His grasp of the fundamentals, his amiable manner, his readiness to meet opposition squarely, his ability to counter futile objections and his inimitable manner won him support wherever he went. His was the master brain that won us the new Constitution. He was the supreme master of negotiation, the final arbiter of decision. When sectional jealousies and rivalries sink into oblivion we shall see his work in true perspective. Sir Oliver is, perhaps, the greatest Ceylonese brain produced in the British period of our History.

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It would be impossible to give here even a superficial idea of Joseph Arthur Rank. What is generally known of him in Ceylon hardly conveys the true picture and we would earnestly advise every film-goer in Ceylon to read about him in two fairly authoritative articles the one appearing in the *Time* magazine of May 19th 1947 and the other in the American "*Reader's Digest*" of July 1947. (British Edition August 1947).

Suffice it to say that Rank is the name responsible for the recent British film renaissance, of which you in Ceylon have had more than one example. "*Brief Encounter*" and "*A Matter of Life and Death*" are still fresh in your memory. The former has won many American and Continental awards. The latter was the first film to be screened by Royal Command.

Last Week you had in Colombo another good British film "*Green for Danger*". It is a brilliant work by that intelligent Launder-Gilliat team who gave you "*I See a Dark Stranger*".

These are but two of the many bright brains which normally are attracted by Hollywood's superior allure but which now have preferred staying in British films because of Rank's assurance of their financial security and their creative immunity. Such are the brains that have given you the aforesaid British masterpieces. Such are the brains that went into the making of British films that have already set up records elsewhere — like "*Odd Man Out*" and "*Great Expectations*" — and are coming to Ceylon soon. Such are the brains that will go into the making of future British films. So that when you feel grateful for this recent upsurge of technical excellence and creative film art from other than the quarters you were used to, remember, Rank's the name responsible.

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