

CHALLENGE TO DR. COLVIN R. DE SILVA

"Resign and re-contest on Indian Issue"

(By Our Political Correspondent)



Mr. J. R. Jayawardene

DR. COLVIN R. DE SILVA made a wild and extravagant claim after his election as M.P. for Wellawatte-Galkissa.

He said that he had been elected by the people because they accepted the "International" standpoint that no country should restrict the entry of the nationals of another.

Dr. de Silva made no attempt to place his pro-Indian policy before the electors. In fact he kept it quiet. He was shrewd enough to realize that the people would never have returned him if he made the speech he made after his election.

I challenge him to resign his seat and re-contest the Wellawatte-Galkissa seat on this one issue. I am sure there will

be many patriotic people in this country who will subscribe to defray his election expenses if only to prove to him (and to others of his way of thinking) that the people of Ceylon will never give such a mandate as he says they gave him.

Dr. de Silva's speech proves one charge we have always levelled at the B.L.P.I. and the L.S.S.P., that they will sell this country to India for the purpose of gaining political power for themselves.

I would like to remind my readers of the bold statements made by Dr. de Silva in his interview to the Madras "Hindu" on 25th November, 1945, and published in this paper on 16th May, 1947.

"The B.L.P. of Ceylon stands for complete freedom of entry into Ceylon of Indian workers and for their right to exercise the franchise in Ceylon."

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

"In fact the Trotskyites of India and Ceylon have built up one United Party of Indians and Ceylonese workers, viz., the Bolshevik-Leninist Party and its Ceylon unit, the Sama Samajist Party."

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

Dr. de Silva never repeated these statements to his electors. He is guilty of a breach of faith with his constituents.

Such is the nature of the tragedy that faces those who follow and support the cautions of the B.L.P.I. and the L.S.S.P.

FIRST FREE LANKA BUDGET

Mr. J. R. Jayawardene will make the first Free Lanka Budget Speech during the Second Session of Parliament.



Dr. L. A. Rajapakse photographed in his study after his appointment as a Minister without Portfolio in Mr. Senanayake's Cabinet. The Doctor is 47 years old and has been in active practice for over 20 years. He was the first Hon. Secretary to the Propaganda Committee of the U.N.P.

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THE PEOPLE GREET THEIR LEADER

I HAVE rarely experienced a more elevating spectacle than the spontaneous reception given to the Prime Minister on his return home from Kandy after accepting the seal of office from His Excellency the Governor. I only saw a portion of the crowds because I travelled down with the Prime Minister's party from Veyangoda but what I saw was sufficient to indicate the fervour with which he was welcomed.

Every 100 yards of the way was punctuated by little booths with his picture (cut out from the U.N.P. Propaganda Poster) and the residents of the villages waited patiently until his arrival, stopped his car and garlanded him. He had to

oblige at every booth because the people had waited for hours from 3 in the afternoon. From Victoria Bridge onwards the crush was even greater. There the people had waited from 5 p.m. braving a thunder-storm which broke about 6 o'clock. It was dark and past 8 p.m. when Mr. Senanayake arrived. The people ran behind his car from booth to booth in an ecstasy of admiration and love. I found it impossible to drive behind the Premier's car without incurring the frantic admirers and had to cut across Prince of Wales Avenue and make a bee-line for Woodlands, the Prime Minister's residence.

The whole of Borella was there on both sides of the road and even children stood patiently to see him walk down in procession.

And this is the man of whom it was said by the Sama Samajists that the

people had no use for him and were crying for his blood! I shudder to think of what might have happened if any of these worthies had attempted to even whisper the "Bangawewa" cry which they so boldly shouted whenever they were adequately protected by their retinue of thugs.

Those who accompanied the Prime Minister from Kandy were amazed at the passion with which the people shouted for him to speak. "Just a few words" was the cry at every spot. And our Prime Minister was ever obliging. He thanked everyone for the generosity and show of goodwill and exhorted them to forget the heat and bitterness of the recent elections, to remember that although we may have political differences with our opponents there is one thing that must remain above sectional interest, viz., the future prosperity and happiness of the people of Ceylon.

MAHA AMARASINGHA.

Sir Oliver's New Task

By

Vernon Phelps

RURAL Development. That is the signpost on the road to the prosperity of our motherland. Here lies the future greatness of our nation.

The Prime Minister's choice of his Cabinet colleagues has been judicious. But his choice of the Home Minister, Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, who will also be in charge of Rural Development, I venture to predict, will earn for Mr. D. S. Senanayake the gratitude of millions yet unborn.

Sir Oliver has many laurels to his credit. But when he has finished his task of rural development, I believe, that this achievement would surpass his many notable triumphs of the past.

Sir Oliver is the country's one-man "Rescue Squad." He was so described in the dark days of 1942 when the enemy was at the gates and the people faced the grim prospect of being bombed to eternity. He is now called upon to repair the breach of more than a century's neglect of rural Ceylon.

The same indomitable Sir Oliver of 1942, suave, sincere and always so certain of success, now faces, as Home Minister, a task which at first sight appears, almost as an appendage to his new Ministerial assignment, but which will really be a most formidable challenge to his administrative genius.

Take away rural Ceylon and what have we left? The husks of our townships. Our peasantry has been and will always be our greatest pride.

Simplicity has always been the peasant's most prized possession. It has given him contentment amidst the dire hardships caused by the most appalling poverty. I have seen these simple folk smile and even burst into song to strengthen them in their endurance of hardships under which tough townsmen would have wilted.

That is why it is imperative that rural Ceylon which has been least vociferous in its demands, even for such elementary amenities as decent homes, should be granted top priority in the Government's post-war reconstruction measures.



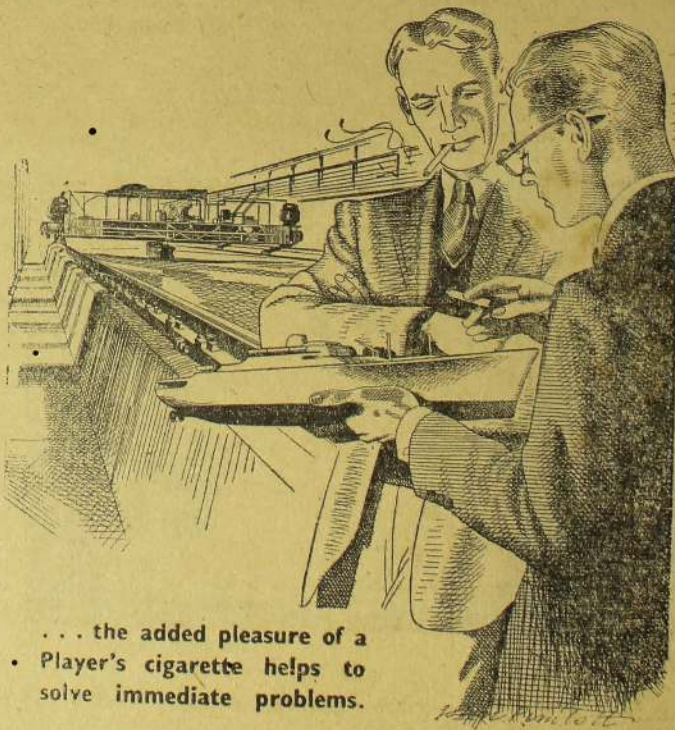
Sir Oliver Goonetilleke

Reclaiming rural Ceylon from the grip of its many ills—a sorry confession of the neglect of more than a century of foreign rule in Ceylon—will be no easy task. It is a task which needs vision, drive and a careful avoidance of destroying the things that the people cherish, in the effort to better their living conditions. It is a task which involves taking prosperity into the rural hamlets and yet making certain that you leave unspoiled the beauty of the simplicity of rural life.

Rural development is not something you can reduce to a blueprint which can be nailed up with tacks on a Ministry wall. You have to understand your village, and approximate your development plans with his idea of happiness. That is the essence of rural development and Sir Oliver knows it. That is why, I feel, he will not regard the files in his Ministry on "Rural Development" as a second "Book of Revelations" on the subject.

Sir Oliver, I know, dislikes superlatives. He will not claim to create a peasant's paradise. But he certainly will smash the Marxists' dream of a peasants' revolution.

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SO the excitement of the elections is over, the Prime Minister has been given a hero's ovation and the Cabinet has been set in motion.

At the time of writing, the Opposition has not found its leader. But Dr. N. M. Perera may be safely tipped as the likely leader.

Poet's Lament

"FOR God's sake, save me from this," said Sri Dilip Kumar Ray, the famous Indian poet, mystic and composer (who is on a visit here) when I met him. He wanted to be saved from the annoyance of having to report himself at the Quarantine Office daily.

"Colombo is a lovely place," he said, "but this system is the only prospect that doesn't please. After all I am a healthy person. Why should I be subject to all this? Can't I be kept under the surveillance of a private doctor? Must I be made to travel daily like this?"

The poet is much beloved and respected in India. Recently distinguished artists gathered to pay honour to him on his fiftieth birthday and presented him with a purse for Rs. 29,000. He is one of the few Indians who made Western intellectuals like Romain Rolland, Bertrand Russell, Havelock Ellis and President Masaryk deeply interested in India.

Sri Dilip Kumar Ray hopes to meet our best artists, musicians and dancers.

The Editor Regrets.....

ASPIRING writers, both at the bottom of the ladder as well as higher up, are familiar with the stereotyped rejection slips from editors of magazines and editors: "The Editor thanks you for the enclosed contribution but regrets he cannot accept it for publication."

This naive rejection is not so encouraging, but if you write to a paper in China, the Editor will be exceedingly polite to you in the traditional Chinese manner—but, of course, your article may be rejected. However you have his polite language to console you.

Here is a typical Chinese rejection slip:

"Illustrious Brother of the sun and moon:

"Behold thy servant prostrate before thee! I kowtow to thee and beg of thy graciousness that thou mayest grant that I may speak. Thine honoured manuscript, I have perused.

"By the bones of mine ancestors! Never have I encountered such wit, such pathos, such lofty thought. With fear and trembling I return the writing.

"Were I to publish the treasure thou has sent me, the President would order that it be made a standard of excellence and that none be published except such that equalled it. Knowing literature as I do, and that it would be impossible in ten thousand years to equal what thou hast done, I send thy writing back by guarded servants.

"Ten thousand times I crave thy pardon. Behold my head is at thy feet and I am but dust. Thy servants' servant, WANG CHIN, Editor.

Ceylon And South India

A CHINESE visitor to South India reports to me that he is amazed at the allusions to Lanka's history found in the beautiful temples there. He has seen the three temples which marked Rama's mission to Lanka to retrieve Sita.

They are (a) the Vishnu Temple at Tiruppalani which is supposed to have been built over the place where Rama rested on his way to Lanka and where the monarch of the ocean submitted to him and allowed the erection of Adam's Bridge. (b) The Rameswaram Temple, the foundation stone of which was laid by Rama. (c) The other is Vellurini Theertham, near Thangachiamadam, where Rama stopped to drink fresh water.

But there is one more. The story of Elara and the Cow (where he killed his son to justify the killing of the calf by

his son's rudeness) is perpetuated in the Siva Temple at Tiruvallur Junction.

The South Indian version is that Siva finally restored the prince and the calf to life.

Old Wives' Tale?

DOES cotton floss cause blindness? I know Ceylon mothers warn their children against handling the floss of the Kapok pod. But botanists who usually know what they are talking about say the belief is just nonsense—an old wives' tale.

I still remember an incident two decades ago which served to pooh-pooh this idea. A big agricultural show had been arranged at the Henaratgoda Botanical Gardens. A young official, intending to air his knowledge, warned a Mudaliyar against the malignant effect of the floss when it came in contact with the eyes.

But the Mudaliyar, a man of wide knowledge and experience, replied dramatically: he broke open a cotton pod and smeared the floss all over his face, and shouted, "Am I blind? Am I blind?" He wasn't, though the floss clogged his eyes.

The official made a neat exit.

The Press

A READER wants to know why I left out the name of the journalist I complimented recently. My apologies. I was thinking of W. L. Fernando of the "Times." The "Boss" of the Reporting Staff there now is Felix Gunewardene who has been for years the chief source of the local news-gathering. He writes the Broadcasting Notes, but one misses his Military Correspondent's column. He would have made a splendid War Correspondent, but somehow the "Times" did not give Felix his opportunity. Otherwise like Duke Wright, that amiable and popular traveller of the "Observer," he would have sent his paper's circulation way up where any Editor would like it to be.

I gather that an eminent King's Counsel, who has sat on very important Commissions and has represented Ceylon abroad has been obtained on a high fee to advise the Editorial Staff of the "Daily News." He has a broad view on national and international affairs apart from his knowledge of the law. Ceylon is taking journalism seriously.

Communal War Cries

ANYONE who has followed the trend of political developments in this country would by now have realised that the U.N.P. made a bold attempt to implement its declared policy of equality for all communities in this Island by nominating members of minority communities to contest seats on the Party ticket.

At no stage did the U.N.P. raise communal issues. If the racial cry was exploited by any responsible political parties it was by the Ceylon Tamil Congress and the Ceylon Indian Congress. The Tamil Congress deceived the people of the Jaffna Peninsula in the most shameful manner imaginable. It made no secret of its communal policy. Its very name was an index to its political bankruptcy. It won by whipping up the people of Jaffna into a frenzy of communal hatred against the Sinhalese. It used primitive slogans and primitive war cries.

Camphor was burnt in houses in Trincomalee and ignorant voters were taught simple prayers: "God save us from the knives of the Sinhalese. They are trying to drive us from our homes in Lanka. God save us and help Ponnambalamji."

How do you like that for high principled political education of the masses? Armchair critics, please note.

Tail-Piece

THEY met in the centre of the room, and despite the brilliant lights and the crowd of people gazing at them, they kissed with a loud smack. What forwardness!

Came a burly man with a stick and hit them on the head with a stick. Did they faint or cry? No, for after all, they were—billiard balls!

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INDIAN INVASION

SOME sections of the Indian Press have commented on the Leftist victories in the plantation areas of the country, and said it was an indication that an increasing number of people in Ceylon have no use for any racially narrow or exclusive policy directed against Indians or any other minorities in the Island and would prefer great issues to be decided on social and economic rather than on communal lines.

Our Indian contemporary has taken an attitude which has nothing to recommend it except the fact that it is campaigning for a solution which is of interest to the Indians alone. We admit that the Leftists scored their chief successes owing to the mass of Indian bloc votes which went in their favour. Every Indian who had a vote cast it for a Leftist Party if there was no Indian Congress candidate facing the polls. Dr. N. M. Perera would certainly have lost Ruwanwella but for the nearly five thousand voters who marched in procession to return the leader of the "Indo-Samaj" as the Indian voters began to call the Sama Samajist Party.

The communal echo one hears from the Indian Press is nothing so disturbing as the war cry of Dr. Colvin R. de Silva that he was returned to fight the battle for allowing free and unrestricted immigration into Ceylon of Indians from abroad. Dr. de Silva, as we have pointed out elsewhere, did not make so bold a show of his avowed pro-Indian policy in his electorate. The danger is that men with these principles have duped the people and got into Parliament by promising the most fantastic things. They secure their election and then declare their own personal policies and the policies of the Sama Samajist Parties as the mandate of the people!

They can have this assurance from the U.N.P.: We shall fight this Indian issue to the last ditch; we shall restrict Indian immigration, even ban it altogether, without perpetrating an injustice on those Indians who are already with us in this country and have an honest desire to make this Island their home. If the Marxists in Parliament dare oppose this move we shall give them and ourselves an opportunity of asking the people for a definite mandate on this issue.

THE PRINCIPLE OF FREE EDUCATION WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED FRESH OUTLOOK: JUSTICE FOR ALL

By Maha Amerasingha

THE defeat of Dr. Kannangara is one of those mishaps that happens to a nation from time to time. He became the central figure of all the heated discussions on educational policy that rent this country in twain during the last few months.

He was claimed by many as the "Father of the Free Education Scheme." This precocious child—free education—had the singular advantage of having several parents! There were others, besides Dr. Kannangara, in the Executive Committee of Education, who claimed to have fathered the idea. There is no doubt, however, that Dr. Kannangara accepted the idea, fought for it and carried the battle even beyond the necessary limits, fighting enemies who sometimes did not exist! We must make allowance for the excesses of zeal and the crusading spirit that entered into the hearts and minds of the controversialists on both sides.

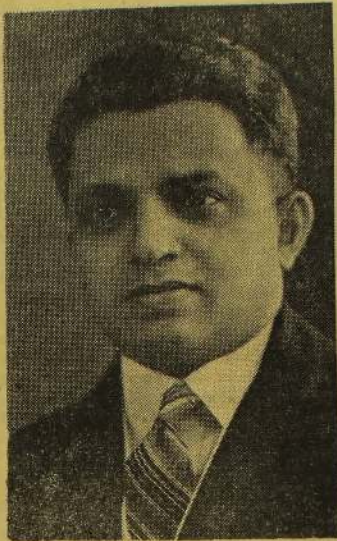
IN the appointment of a Minister for Education in the U.N.P. Cabinet, Mr. Senanayake was of the opinion that it was wisest to approach the subject of education from a detached and non-partisan point of view. The subject of education is not one on which acid comments should be made, for the structure of the educational machinery and the content of education should be above criticism.

He, therefore, went outside the former members of the Executive Committee on Education because, in his view the country may have felt that there would be the continuance of the same methods of implementing the recommendations of the Special Committee as approved by the State Council. There is a principle that is sacred. Every section of the people must not only be given the assurance that there will be no discrimination in methods or policy, but that assurance must have the sanction of administrative action. If the charge is made, even falsely, that there is some secret pact to smash the denominational system and thereby drive all but the Buddhist religion from this land, that charge must be fully and squarely met.

The only practical way to meet that charge is to place in charge of Education a Minister who has not figured prominently in the controversy which preceded the elections. A fresh mind, unhampered by the drag-net of partisan politics, must occupy the Ministerial chair.

These are the considerations that weighed with the Prime Minister. His was no easy task. It had to be appreciated that a fresh mind was not the only requirement. It was equally necessary that ability must be recognised. The subject of education cannot be treated in summary fashion. Education is perhaps the most precious of the gifts of man. It helps to tame the savage qualities with which the human being is born, and in exactly what direction the taming and fashioning is to be directed is of considerable moment to the nation.

THE appointment of Mr. E. A. Nugawela may have come as a surprise. Mr. Nugawela is a patient and amiable person who will be ready to give every worthwhile opinion a hearing. He is not given to violent speech but maintains a dignity of approach to the functions of a People's Representative. And he is sufficiently strong to make decisions and see that the decisions, if they have the sanction of his colleagues in the Cabinet and the House of Representatives, are expeditiously carried out.



Mr. E. A. Nugawela

The United National Party is determined to see that no child in this country is denied a decent education merely because that child is born in circumstances that hamper his growth. It believes that the State must look after the education needs of ALL the people irrespective of their social class or economic handicaps. Absolute equality of educational opportunity must be guaranteed for all. The U.N.P. has this principle before it, and on no account will it depart from adherence to it. There can be two ways, however, of putting these beliefs into administrative and legislative action; one is to threaten to vanquish and crush all those who disagree with the Party on this; the other is to explain our position, respect the honest differences of opinion that others may have, and then arrive at a solution and a method which will ensure absolute equity and justice.



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great Prime Ministers of
Lanka.

Editor.

AFTER an interval of nearly one hundred and forty years we have a Sinhalese Prime Minister—chosen by the people and accepted by them as their national hero and leader.

Don Stephen Senanayake may add lustre to the galaxy of Sinhalese Premiers who include the great Alakeswara and the shrewd diplomat, Pilima Talauwe.

It is a pity the early chronicles do not have accounts of the King's Chief Ministers.

The Mahavamsa, for instance, is so full of the glory of the Sinhalese kings that it makes little reference to the Premiers.

However, in later Sinhalese history we hear Premiers being spoken of as important. Men like Alakeswara and Pilima Talauwe enjoyed wide powers, and in the modern sense "made news."

ALAKESWARA. Premier to King Vikrama Bahu, adorned with majesty, faith and other virtues, founded the glorious city of Kotte or Jayawardhanapura. He was not only remembered as an administrator who beat the Tamil invaders and absolved the Sinhalese nation from paying heavy taxes to their conquerors.

Poets praised his administration. One Sinhalese poet mentions that during Alakeswara's premiership, peace reigned in the country.

In Jayawardhanapura itself swans glided contentedly in lakes, fair women "with breasts like the crescent moon" and hair "glistening like the shimmer

of sunlit waters" singing and dancing to the glorious reign of Alakeswara.

IN many ways the diplomatic superior to Frederic North. Thus was Pilima Talauwe described by an admirer. Pilima Talauwe's diplomatic skill outwitted Governor North at almost every turn.

Though "the real power was with the Minister" (Pilime Talauwe) Governor North tried to deal with the king directly and also alienate His Majesty's relations towards the Minister by revealing rather nefariously the subject of the secret talks he had had with him.

But Pilima Talauwe bided his time, and his "up the sleeve" diplomacy trapped Governor North. On March 12, MacDowall set out from Colombo with 1,100 men to Kandy. If North hoped to treat with the King, or on the other hand, bludgeon him into acceptance by the presence of a formidable force as which escorted him, he was disappointed.

For the King, suspicious of so large a force, refused to allow the General to enter Kandy except with a few men, then negotiations fell through and the British proposals were turned down.

The slick hand and master brain of Pilime Talauwe were behind the scenes. He was, as someone described, the "shadow" brains behind the King's decisions.

North was furious. "If the power of that Minister be not absolute," he said, "it must in a short time be perfectly destroyed, and I will certainly not interfere to preserve any part of it."

THIS was one of many instances where Pilime Talauwe won the battle of wits with a foreign Governor who was out to wipe out the last stronghold of Sinhalese rule—Kandy. To break the British strength, Pilime Talauwe manoeuvred North into a silly expedition—the "Massacre of 1803" when Major Davie was captured by the Kandyans.

Major Davie wrote bitterly: "Pilime Talauwe was the person that did everything at Kandy... but it was not established beyond doubt that the real power was with him."

He wore down the British with more expeditions. The Hanguranketa goose-chase was a farce, as were other expeditions through "steep, rocky mountain passes, rocky and intersected by deep ravines."

THE best epitaph for Pilime Talauwe was the unconscious tribute to his tact and diplomacy paid by Gover-

nor North, his own adversary. In desperation, he wrote, while he waited at Talaimannar to cross over to India:

"I am convinced that the King and his Minister (Pilime Talauwe) regarded me with malignant hatred. My effigy dressed in a uniform of blue and gold, which they constantly picked with pins and fired at with pop guns, was the constant object of their magic spells."

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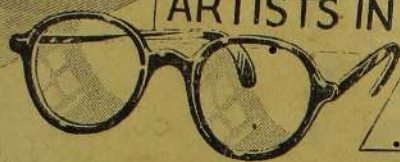
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SPORTS

Commentary

COVER-POINT

A WEEK which began on a very dull note so far as sport was concerned ended with such a flourish that I could hardly keep pace with it.

Of the racing, rugger and schools athletics that went into the pot, quite the tastiest morsel was athletics as provided in the two group meets in Colombo and Mt. Lavinia. These Meets serve as a preparation for the Schools Championships next week and, if only the weather keeps fine, there should be a profusion of records. By far the outstanding performance at either of the Group Meets was the grand jumping of young **Dharmaratnam** of St. Thomas' College. Still a junior on the right side of 16, he cleared 5 feet 5½ inches, which was half an inch better than the height cleared by **Speldewinde**, also of St. Thomas', in the Senior Jump. **Dharmaratnam**, I understand, is one of the boys who have been coached in the last fortnight by **P. Little**, the athletics coach, who has the highest hopes of the youngster.

The British Public Schools High Jump record is 5 ft. 10½ ins., and **Dharmaratnam's** performance compares very favourably with it, particularly as he is still under 16. I gather that **Little** is very pleased with the standard reached at the two Group Meets and is confident that the very good material at hand could be turned to proper account. Special Olympic training classes will be started this week to which those who finished first, second or third in the recent championships and those prominent athletes who had, for unavoidable reasons, to give the little Meet a miss have been invited.

It has also been decided to invite the winners in the forthcoming Public Schools Championships to attend these classes which will be held twice a week. The policy of "catching them young" is also extended to outstation schools and from this month the athletics coach will devote two hours every Saturday afternoon at Panadura and Kalutara to train the boys from the schools in these areas.

The expedition with which the Ceylon Amateur Athletic Association has set about its task of preparing for the Olympic Games next year is highly commendable.

AFTER two blank Saturdays, racing has commenced again on the Havelock Racecourse and will continue, without a break, till the end of October. Last Saturday's racing was, like the curate's egg, good and bad in patches. Easily the best achievement of the afternoon was **Gold Flake's** brilliant victory over 7 furlongs under the prohibitive handicap of 147 lbs. on going which was definitely on the soft side, though not quite as heavy as expected. The grey was in the top flight of Arabs even in Bombay and has enhanced his great reputation since coming to Ceylon.

Though reduced to a three-cornered contest, the principal race of the afternoon, the Veyangoda Plate, provided a rousing finish in which the top-weight **Oliver** rattled his way up in the straight to beat the recently promoted **Luzon**, whose fractiousness at the barrier and the consequent loss of three or four lengths lost her the race and, with it, her unbeaten certificate. The Channer Stakes winner, **St. Just**, was not looking at his best and ran up to his looks.

There was a good deal of merit in the way in which **Jutland** and **Mansur Abdullah** won their respective races to earn promotion. **Jutland**, though making his debut and running out of his best distance, spreadeagled his field, as did **Mansur Abdullah** who should continue winning even in the higher company.

The rest of the card was rather drab and the winners turned up in unexpected places. **Prince Wijeya**, **Law Court** and **Aeneas** entered the winning enclosure for the first time but they are all very moderate.

I was told by Trainer **Selvaratnam** that he has not yet heard from the Controller of Imports in Delhi as to whether he will be allowed to take over a string of horses to Calcutta for racing this season. Pending the receipt of the reply, **Selvaratnam** has tentatively booked his stable accommodation and if permission is granted, he hopes to take with him about a dozen horses including **Kunj Lata**, **Cosy Corner**, **Floracian**, **Jai Lanka** and some of Sir **Oliver Goonetilleke's** new horses, such as **Baldowie** and **The Eagle**.

Incidentally, I learn that **Kunj Lata** has been classified in Class III, while **Cosy Corner** is in Class II. Apparently the Calcutta Handicapper sets very little store by the results of Ceylon racing—but he may have to revise his opinion if **Kunj Lata** is allowed to run in Calcutta!

I have just received the programme of races arranged by the Galle Gymkhana Club for their Christmas Meet. On each of the five days there are two cup events and the trophies have been so well shared out that every class of thoroughbred or Arab has two cups each. The Governor's Bowl is on the last day of the Meet, January 3rd. In all, the Club is offering just under two lakhs in stakes alone while the trophies will cost Rs. 5,000. It is always a pleasure to go racing in Boosa and I, for one, am looking forward to renewing by acquaintance with the picturesque, palm-fringed Southern course.

THE first post-war rugger international was played last Friday on the Police ground and victory was claimed, against the run of play, by England who beat Scotland by 11 points to 3. The game was, in the main, scrappy with rather wild hacking and passing. The forwards were constantly in the picture while the England back division did everything expected of it.

A QUARTER of the English League soccer season has now been completed and Arsenal and Queen's Park Rangers are the only unbeaten teams. It will be a great achievement indeed if the soccer championship comes to London, just as the County Cricket championship did when Middlesex broke the Northern stranglehold this year.

PATER'S "RENAISSANCE"

GEORGE MOORE, who was so fastidious in acquiring an unserrated and almost level style, at the end of his life abandoned the wide reading of books. He said that his craft as a writer was more with writing than with reading. He had eliminated all the books that distracted him from his main purpose. But twelve select books always remained on his table, and they were enough for all he needed to stimulate his mind and give the necessary impetus to fine writing.

The Bible which he treated as purely literary narrative was there, and it was a perennial treasure house from which he could draw without stint. There was Edmund Gosse's "Father and Son," a story told of the relations of a strange father, immersed in drawing, natural history and the religion of the Plymouth Brethren, and a sensitively intellectual son, and composed in a manner which gives it the assurance of becoming a classic of its kind. Washington Irving's "Conquest of Granada," a magnificent and absorbing chronicle of the wars between the Spaniards and the Moors figured in the list.

Among the rest was one book notable for its magnificent and recherche quality—Walter Pater's "The Renaissance"—which Oscar Wilde declared to be one of the books that greatly influenced him though he also pretended that the style was too pictorial and static for complete appreciation as it did not sufficiently conform to his ideal of prose that it should move forward like a piece of music, richly orchestrated as a good piece of music should be.

Of course, there was an essential difference between the style of Wilde and Pater. Pater was a scholar steeped in the classical tradition to whom art was a serious matter. He could not regard art in the strangely fantastic manner that Wilde did, delighting in his paradoxes with the sparkling levity of the man about town, out to surprise it, as every man of genius, Wilde himself thought, should do to a mere crowd of philistines.

Pater had a more serious purpose. He thought that one should create in life moments of gem-like intensity, and that a grave, formal and reverent approach to beauty in all its manifestations and all its forms would bring about that mood of mind in which alone there could be sudden and supreme revelations of the quintessential meanings of art, whether of the writer, the painter or the poet.

"Imaginary Conversations" is both the exposition and the culmination of this belief. In a series of selective essays dealing with the great Renaissance figures, Pater shows a world of vanished beauty in which men really lived, according to his own ideals of what life should really be, if it is to attain that perfection of culture and insight for which man has striven throughout his history.

His characters did not love beauty as an abstraction. They loved it in forms that were concrete realities. His theory of aesthetics did not permit of his choosing figures with a vague but unfulfilled yearning after dim shadows or merely fantastic interpretations. He did not have much faith in those universal formulas which lesser minds make a substitute for the manifest form and shapes of things.

Pater subscribed to the formula that in aesthetics it was necessary "to see the object as it really is"; and then to state as clearly and distinctly as possible the impressions it made upon his own cultivated and discriminating mind. It is by looking within studying one's reactions, probing and analysing, but not however in the spirit of cold scientific inquiry, that the true nature of beauty can be ultimately apprehended.

Every object in nature, every book or picture or character reveals the special virtue by which it makes its appeal to us, creating in us a sense of deep and lasting pleasure. The only critic he values is the one who has the feeling and the receptivity to appreciate beautiful objects.

The critic becomes in this manner the

spectator of all time, experiences all emotions, is stirred by all manifestations of the beautiful, sharing in all the great moments of history and all triumphs of mind by that sympathy of insight and understanding which knits together men of culture throughout even the most distant periods of time.

In the studies of "The Renaissance," Pater found the men who were most after his own heart, cultured, refined, curious of all knowledge, and stirred to the depths by all ideas, sensations and the desire for spectacular and lasting achievement.

And one must admit that the men who appear in these pages are men who lent a meaning, purpose and glory to their age, scholars, painters, poets, sculptors, lovers of culture and the passionate desire of living, creating a sense of fullness besides which our modern craving for life appears thin, distracted and querulous so far as they are reflected in our men of literature who have not been able to see life sanely because they cannot see it whole.

Here are only full-blooded figures to whom mere living was a gift of the gods for which they could never be too grateful. No poet of the days of the Renaissance could ever complain that life was in any sense a waste land or that men were hollow men. There were no T. S. Elliots in those eager, robust, far-off days. The age might have incompletely achieved its aspirations, but the men were real, with no taint of the modern malaise which is discontent with life.

In Pater's essay on the great Greek scholar and linguist, who entered the Florence in which Lorenzo the Magnificent held the ancient learning in high honour, and to which the newcomer brought a Latin translation of Plato, this sense of completeness is manifested.

Pater quotes a biographer of Pico who describes the conformity of the outward beauty and inner grace of his character and notes that the translation of the words had been made into English by another great classical scholar, Sir Thomas More, and adds that even his form and appearance "seems an image of that inward harmony and completeness, of which he is so perfect an example." He is an example of the true humanist for, says Pater "the essence of the humanist is that belief of which he never seems to have doubted, that nothing which has ever interested living men and women can wholly lose its vitality—no language they have spoken nor oracle beside which they have hushed their voices, no dream which has once been entertained by actual human minds, nothing about which they have ever been passionate, or expended time and zeal."

Again that note of completeness is repeated when Pater says: "But his genius is in harmony with itself; and just as in the products of his art we find resources of sweetness within their exceeding strength, so in his own story also, bitter as the ordinary sense of it may be, there are select pages shut in among the rest—pages one might easily turn over too lightly, but which yet sweeten the whole volume."

And at the end occurs this significant sentence: "The old masters indeed are simpler; their characteristics are written larger, and are easier to read, than the analogues of them in all the mixed, confused productions of the modern mind."

But one of the high peaks of the book is the essay on "Leonardo da Vinci" in which Pater finds a subject which draws out all his rare powers of interpretation, in respect of a character of such complexity that only his skilled criticism can educate its elements of beauty, fascination and even terror in the dark, haunted depths of a mind which took kindly to knowledge on even the confines which separate the permissible from what is not, being regarded by some as almost a magician and alchemist and by others, from the evidence of his copious note books, as having anticipated modern science, but always remaining the man of supremely many sided genius in whom "curiosity and the desire of beauty" were the two consuming interests of life.

Altogether the studies in this book are the work of a sensitive classical scholar, a detached and serene observer of life and a great writer of refined, controlled and harmonious prose.

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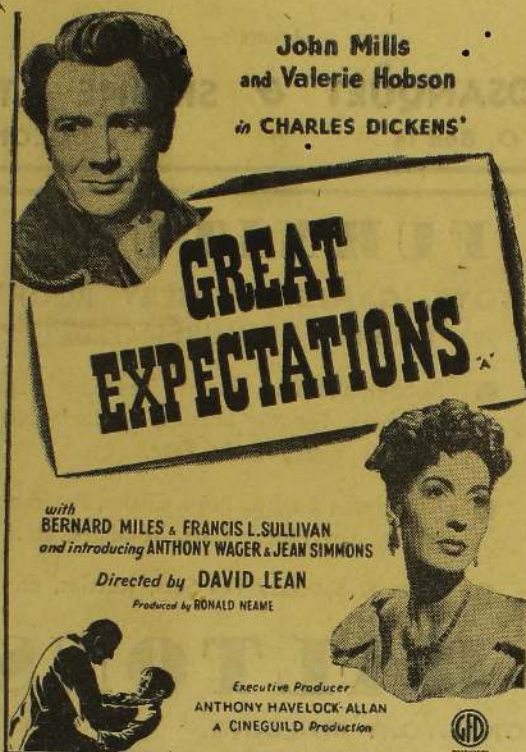
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