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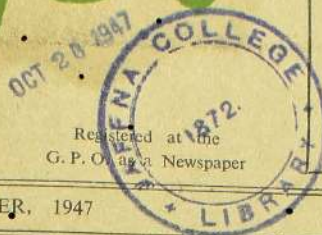
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Mr. Molamure's Election As Speaker A HAPPY AUGURY

U. N. P. Begins Well



MR. FRANCIS MOLAMURE

THE election of Mr. Francis Molamure as Speaker by a majority of 17 votes was a happy augury for the new Parliament. There was no doubt that anti-U.N.P. M.P.s tried their utmost to get just enough men together to beat Mr. Molamure in order to score a point against the Party.

The U.N.P. nominee for the Deputy Speakership, Mr. R. A. de Mel, was

equally successful and by the time the election of the Deputy Chairman of Committees came round the Opposition had retired from the field, and Mr. Maartensz was elected without a contest.

This is certainly to be regarded as a good beginning and as there are certain advances being made by a few individual left-wing M.P.s as well as by one of the left-wing parties, we can look forward to a stable and progressive government.

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FOOD MINISTER MEETS HOUSEWIVES'

BARRAGE SQUARELY

By
Vernon Phelps

I WENT to see the Minister of Food and Co-operatives, Mr. A. Ratnaike, with a mandate from the housewives. My mandate was a three-word directive: "Put him on the mat."

Faithful to my brief I told the Food Minister without phlegm or frills what the housewives felt about the prevailing conditions on the food front. I told him that some of them were threatening to send him by post their weekly ration of rice and sugar with the accompanying message: "We're paying good money for this."

I told him that the provocation for this attitude was understandable. The housewives were not complaining that they were getting brown sugar. They are now resigned to that. But what they do kick against is that the brown sugar is liberally mixed with "bits of coal" and other sediment. The same complaint was applicable to the rice issued on the ration.

The Minister listened to me patiently. His sympathy and concern for the housewife was not mere formal ministerial politeness. His eyes moistened when I told him that the housewives had limited family incomes and that they looked to him for a square deal.

After a few minutes of grave consideration he spoke quietly but in unmistakable earnestness. He assured me that the improvement of the plight of the housewife so far as reducing the

cost of living and of ensuring wholesome goods for their money was concerned, was a responsibility that he accepted.

But in meeting that challenge squarely he pointed out that no good could come out of one side blaming the other. Putting his finger gently but unerringly on the crux of the problem, he warned:

"All sides should now concentrate on the numerous problems and practical tasks that will have to be tackled in a spirit of mutual accommodation if life is not going to be made still more difficult for the people of this country. We have to work as we have never worked before. The problems that face us are becoming more and more acute. The most urgent and serious problem is the problem of food."

"We import now nearly Rs 350,000,000 worth of foodstuffs from other countries. They come from distant places like Brazil, Egypt, Burma and Australia. In the meantime the world is surely and certainly heading for the worst famine that it has ever seen. Although the war was over more than two years ago the peoples of the world have not yet settled down to peaceful living. Men instead of perfecting the art of living are discovering new struggles. Every country is full of strife and stress, discontentment and unhappiness. It is the law of the jungle that prevails. Hence this acute shortage of food and the ever increasing rise in the cost of living."

Having traced the cause, he went on to outline the remedy: "Can't we learn a lesson from what is happening in other countries? Should we slavishly imitate them and look at our troubles from the point of view of class or communal struggles. Our common efforts

should be to solve the problems and also achieve social justice in all its aspects."

Adverting to the coming food crisis in the country, he said: "This acute shortage of food is heading to a crisis even in this country. We cannot go on like this buying our food in other countries for many more months. What then is the solution? It is not a Party issue but a grave national crisis. All sections of the country must unite in one vast endeavour to grow all the food that we can for this country. Political leaders, professional men and public servants, men of means must all join in whatsoever way they can to win the battle for food."

"When we think of the resources at our disposal, the immense tracts of cultivable land that lie idle, the rivers that go to waste, the thousands who have no employment and live in idleness, we have no excuse for perpetuating the present state of affairs. Through the efforts of the former Minister of Agriculture and Lands during the last fifteen years, large tracts of land have been provided with irrigation facilities. Most of the spade work had been done by the State Council. The new Minister of Agriculture and Lands, Mr. Dudley Senanayake, is a young man with vision and of great ability. It is the duty of the citizens of this country to rally round him."

"Every inch of cultivable land must be cultivated, wherever it is. The Gov-

ernment for its part will do everything possible to avert a crisis. What the Government needs is the fullest co-operation of every citizen in this country."

Arising out of this forthright utterance that carried with it an intense sincerity and conviction that victory could and must be won on the food front, I probed the Minister for clarification of his statement: "We cannot go on like this buying our food in other countries for many months."

Had he drastic measures in mind to mobilize maximum internal output?

Did he envisage better prices to the cultivators as an incentive to maximum production?

The Minister paused for a moment and then said: "That is a matter for the Cabinet to decide, but my views on this matter are well known."

It only remains for me to add that if one turns back the pages of Hansard and reads the speeches of the former Member for Dumbura in the State Council, there he will find revealed the ardent advocacy of the present Minister of Food for better conditions for the peasantry.

The passion with which the former Member for Dumbura pleaded the peasant's cause, may now be the means of enabling the Minister of Food to avert the coming food crisis.

"Sour Grapes" Attitude on Opposition Leadership

BOTH the President of the Bolshevik Leninist Party (Dr. Colvin R. de Silva), and the Parliamentary Leader of Ceylon Communist Party (Mr. Pieter Keuneman), have suddenly realised that there is no point in having a Leader of the Opposition! This is, to put it mildly, a "sour grapes" attitude. The secret is not to be found in any deep philosophy of Marxism. One does not have to puzzle out the dialectics of this business to realise that the reason for the attitude of these two exponents of Marxism is that neither of them can hope to get themselves, and more particularly, their groups, recognised as Leaders of the Opposition.

WITH ten Members in Parliament, the L.S.S.P. is the largest anti-U.N.P. Party in the House, and as such Dr. N. M. Perera counts the largest group support and is the obvious choice of Marxist groups.

The difficulty is that the B.L.P.I. and C.P. members dread his being Leader of the Opposition because that would mean a recognition of the L.S.S.P. as the most powerful Marxist Party in the country. Such a recognition does not suit the C.P. and the B.L.P.I. who are bidding for the leadership of the working classes! Once the L.S.S.P. secures recognition as the Leader of the mass movements in Ceylon, the C.P. and the B.L.P.I. will be restricted to the occasional publication of learned treatises with a circulation limited to their own Central Committees.

One is reminded of the hitherto unpublished statement credited to Dr. Perera and Mr. Philip Gunewardene on the eve of their leaving the B.L.P.I. over the Bannerji verdict. Dr. Perera is reported to have said: "We are the Party—Philip and I, for we have the mass contact and mass support."

THIS statement was dismissed as a vainglorious boast, but the General Elections have proved that there was substance in the claim. The B.L.P.I. has only itself to blame for its loss of mass support and its relegation to the role of parlour Bolsheviks. Its romantic day-dreaming of a world revolution and the consequent tie-up with Indian dictatorship of its policy and the Unlimited Immigration Policy for which it stands will lead it out of local politics, unless it courageously abandons these disastrous lines of policy.

THE C.P. attitude was certainly more realistic and sensible when it argued for co-operation with the U.N.P. Since then it has suffered a change of heart caused no doubt by the fear of Marxists from other parties being in a majority in the House.

BOTH the minority Marxist parties in Parliament have therefore issued statements on the subject, one from the Headquarters in Bagatelle Road and the other from way down Matara. The C.P. summoned a meeting of its Central Committee to work out this tremendous problem! It is a big problem—to the C.P. and the B.L.P.I. But surely the democratic method is to accept the verdict of the people.



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This Is Russia—I

By William C. Bullitt

EX-AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO MOSCOW UNMASKS SOVIET DICTATORSHIP

"THE Soviet Union, as everybody who has the courage to face the fact knows," said President Roosevelt on February 10, 1940, "is run by a dictatorship as absolute as any other dictatorship in the world." A little over a year later, when Hitler had overrun Europe and then attacked the Soviet Union, U.S. national interests demanded that aid be given to the Russians in their fight against German aggression. That aid was forthcoming, but through this collaboration with the Soviets, President Roosevelt hoped to secure a "modus vivendi" with them which would assure a stable

"It is President Roosevelt's 'great design' for a peaceable, law-abiding world to enroll the Soviet Union as a sincere and willing collaborator in post-war settlements." Thus wrote Forrest Davis in "The Saturday Evening Post" on the basis of a two-hour interview with the President after the Tehran Conference. "In the interest of his objective, Mr. Roosevelt has avoided the slightest cause of offence to the Kremlin. The core of his policy has been the reassurance of Stalin."

Roosevelt hoped to accomplish his "grand design" by (1) giving Stalin without limit everything he asked for the prosecution of the war, and to ask for nothing in return; (2) persuading Stalin to adhere to statements of general aims, like the Atlantic Charter; and (3) meeting Stalin face to face and persuading him into an acceptance of Christian ways and democratic principles.

Critics of this policy asked at the time, "Suppose that Stalin, in spite of all concessions, should prove unappeasable, determined to pursue his own policy regardless of the West?" The answer, said Forrest Davis, was that "Mr. Roosevelt, gambling for stakes as enormous as any statesman ever played for, has been betting that the Soviet Union needs peace and is willing to pay for it by collaborating with the West."

President Roosevelt lost his gamble, though he died before the actions of the Soviet Government in Poland, Hungary, Austria, Rumania, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Germany, Iran, Manchuria and Korea had made this evident. Stalin had remained unconverted. The events of 1945 proved beyond shadow of a doubt that the Atlantic Charter and the Yalta Declaration had been to Stalin merely excellent ready-made suits of sheep's clothing which he could wear until he no longer needed a camouflage.

Why is Stalin unappeasable?

The peoples of the Soviet Union live in an enormously rich, sparsely inhabited, undeveloped area, so extensive that it includes one-sixth of the land of the entire earth. They long for a higher standard of living, some individual freedom and peace. Now that Germany and Japan have been disarmed, no great power desires anything but friendship with the Soviet Union. These circumstances would lead any democratic government in the world to think of nothing but peace. Why then does the Soviet Government's appetite for expansion remain insatiable?

The answer to this question is to be found in the sources of the mighty river of Soviet imperialism. Some lie deep in Russian history, others in Communist doctrine. The Soviet Union is unique among great powers. It is not only a State but also the headquarters of an international faith. To understand it as a State is important. To understand the Communist creed is vital, since this creed dictates Soviet foreign policy. Let us begin by tracing the growth of Czarist Russia.

"The River of Soviet Imperialism lies deep in Russian History"

RUSSIA'S HERITAGE OF SUSPICION

THE Russians entered history as inhabitants of the prairies of the Ukraine and the forest belt of the Novgorod-Moscow area. Their land was all flat, unprotected by any natural frontier; an ill-defined, defenceless area in the vast plain that extends from Mongolia to Bordeaux.

Over this long and fertile Asiatic-European plain, from the dawn of recorded history, tribe after tribe of savage nomads migrated westward, moving easily through the low passes of the Ural Mountains. The Russians themselves probably reached the lands where they settled by the same route. Against the savage hordes which followed them they had little protection. They had other hostile neighbours on the north, south and west. They were often conquered. Their history is a tragic story of war, starvation, torture, rape, murder and slavery. In the hard school of experience they learned to regard a foreigner as a man who tries to kill you and take your land.

The Russians have been driven by the horror of their history to become the most suspicious of all great nations. Of necessity they had to practice the art of deceit as well as the art of war. To deal with foreigners with an outward show of good fellowship while preserving a wary secretiveness has become second nature to them.

The Russians are among the toughest of all the major races of Europe. They had to be in order to survive. And they came through their terrible sufferings with their primitive energies unimpaired. They are strong physically, intellectually and emotionally, and the Russian woman is even more durable than the Russian man. She has always worked harder than her husband and produced children besides. She still does. The Russians have, often been outfought. They have never been outbred.

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700 YEARS OF RULE BY DESPOT

THROUGH all their history, except in moments of approaching anarchy, the Russians have been ruled by dictators. They have never known what it is to live in ordered freedom. To an Englishman or an American, Russia under the rule of the last of the Czar, Nicholas II, was a land of unendurable tyranny; but under his autocracy the Russians enjoyed greater liberty than they had ever known before.

The despotic form of the Russian State was consolidated through the conquest of the Russians in 1240 by Batu, grandson of Genghis Khan, founder of the great Mongol Empire. For 200 years the Russians lived under the rule of the Mongols. Such Russian princes as were left alive were forced to recognize their complete submission to the Khan of the "Golden Horde." As the historian Vernadsky writes:

"Mongolian influence found expression in many aspects of the Russian governmental and social structure. The Mongolian State was built upon the principle of unquestioning submission of the individual to the clan and through the clan to the whole State. This principle was in time impressed thoroughly upon the Russian people. It led to compulsory universal service which was exacted from all classes of society. Taken altogether, these ideas amount to a peculiar form of State socialism."

"The Mongolians also introduced a new view regarding the power of the prince. The power of the Khan was one of merciless strength. It was autocratic; submission to it was unqualified. This view of the authority of the prince was transferred to their successors when the rule of the Khans was ended."

From the time of the Mongols until today, the Russians have been inured to living in a totalitarian State under the tyranny of an absolute dictator.

The Mongol conquest of Russia affected the Russian Church no less than the Russian State. Christianity had reached Russia at a late date. In 897 Vladimir, heathen Grand Duke of Kiev, sent envoys to study the religions of neighbouring nations. On the basis of their reports he chose the Greek Orthodox Church and had himself baptized in 988. Vladimir then converted his heathen subjects to Christianity, and thus gave the Russian people the greatest source of consolation that they have had throughout their tragic history.

The Russians became one of the most deeply religious of all Christian peoples and their rulers speedily learned to use their religious emotions for political purposes. When the Turks captured Constantinople in 1453 and destroyed the Eastern Roman Empire, the Grand Duke of Moscow, Ivan III, began to propagate the idea that he had become the successor of Constantine, the only legitimate protector of the Orthodox Church, and that Moscow had become "the third Rome." To lend colour to this claim, he finally married the niece of the last Byzantine emperor.

Thus originated the mystical Russian belief that from Moscow must come the light and power to lead all men to righteousness. It is easy for any people to believe that it is superior to other peoples and that it has a mission to



STALIN

bring light to those who live in darkness. And the deeply religious Russians became imbued with the idea that they were the instrument that God had chosen to save the world. Since the capture of Constantinople by the Turks,

(Continued on page 5)



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MR. BANDARANAIKE
(Vide Editorial Comment)

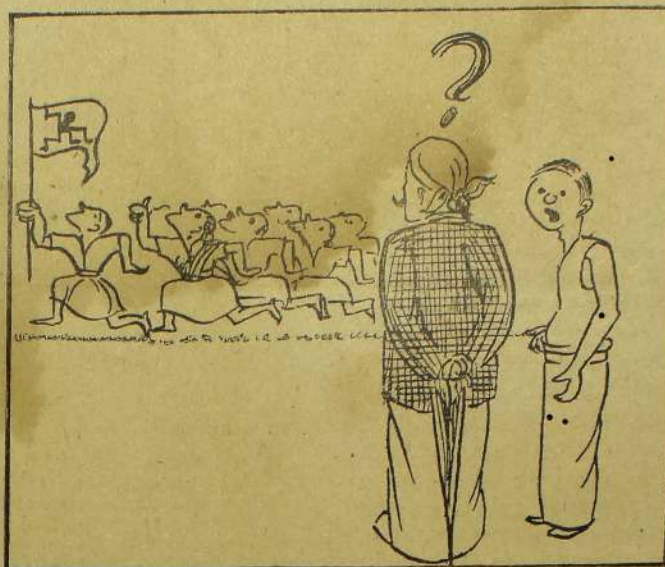
to pay as much as Rs. 50 or Rs. 75 for a house whose assessment rate is fixed on a rental of half that amount. The dear-ness allowance is probably swallowed up in this way.

The Colombo Municipality has adopted the line of least resistance and periodically raises the assessment rates in order to replenish its coffers. Take the case of those in the clerical grades who have received increments of salary under the revised schemes. If they now draw Rs. 10 more as their basic salary than they did before, they have to face the repercussions of the Municipality's decision to increase the rates in the City. In the end, it is not the landlord who pays more because increases are automatically passed on to the tenants. In this way the final burden of increased rates is cast upon those in the lower income scales.

It is an accepted tenet of good modern government that the State should take upon itself the entire capital cost of providing homes for the people. Modern political theory does not encourage the idea that private capital should profit from so essential an utility as housing.

Difficult as are the circumstances in which the U.N.P. has formed a Government, we do not think it considers housing as a subject that might be put aside for "better times." The idea of thrusting difficult tasks into the background with the phrase "until better times," would hardly meet the demands of the day. The subject of housing falls within the purview of the Ministry of Health and Local Government, and it is a good augury that the Hon. Mr. BANDARANAIKE has made known his views on housing in the preparation of the Post-War Development proposals of the Board of Ministers.

The Donoughmore Constitution, with its insistence on divided responsibility, restricted in its scope the activities of the Ministry of Local Government, particularly over the



THE NEW PARTY : "That's the way in which the Swadinaites propose to march."

issue of financing proposed schemes. That difficulty is now over. The country will welcome the inauguration, within a reasonable number of months, of some section at least of a major Housing Scheme. With Mr. BANDARANAIKE's gifts as a Planner we shall be able to justify the hope of the nation. And we are sure Mr. BANDARANAIKE will rise to the occasion.

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PEOPLE'S HOMES

The inauguration of Government Housing Schemes is one of the high priority tasks before the Parliament. The people eagerly anticipate such a step by the newly elected Government, and a beginning may be made with Housing Schemes for clerical servants and the middle classes in general, with provision for similar schemes for rural towns. We already have the example of workers' homes now being completed at Ratmalana, Maligawatte and Kolonnawa.

The Collins Committee on "Indebtedness in the Public Service" made a specific recommendation, in Sessional Paper 1 of January, 1943, that when things became normal again, "an examination of the housing of Government officers and possibly a new housing scheme should be considered." In relation to the subject of the indebtedness of public officers the committee found that in the case of many officers residing in towns, too large a share of their salaries were paid out in the form of house rent. An instance was quoted of an officer on a salary of Rs. 120 a month who had to pay as much as Rs. 40 as house rent.

"There is a certain amount of extravagance here. Officers should not be encouraged to live in houses whose rents are beyond their means," commented the report. This comment is out of date today because the rapacity of landlords is too well-known to need lengthy description. The same officer may now be compelled

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WHEN CEYLON WAS "WORTH HER SALT"

By Mohammed

THIS story has a salty tang, but has no sailor's yarn spun around it. It is the true story of our salt, which was once the centre of attention of foreign nations. Salt was so important a commodity that they went all out to capture the trade in order to maintain a stranglehold on the people of Lanka. Its importance has diminished much but the trade can still be revived and still be made a force to be reckoned with. Perhaps we may put the boot on the other leg if we get the "stranglehold" (using the gentlest sense of the word).

In the early days of British rule Governor North realised the worth of salt. It was "the most effectual means of keeping the Sinhalese in a state of dependence."

When the well-known "Areca nut Incident" in July, 1802 (when two bands of Moormen engaged in purchasing areca-nuts had been deprived of their stock), caused a rift between the Kandyan Kingdom and the British, Governor North sent a secret note to Hobart intimating his decision, in case of delay by the Sinhalese "in making amends for the injured dignity of the British Government," to cut off the supply of salt which was "essential for the existence of the King's subjects."

He finally did place an embargo on salt to frighten the King, but according to a dispatch from A. Johnston to Arbuthnot (28 December, 1802), "it was soon discovered, that it was impossible to prevent smuggling through the five entrances to the King's territory."

EARLIER, the Dutch too realised the potentialities of the salt trade. However they did not concentrate so much on it as Governor North, for they were more interested in cinnamon.



Jan Schreuder in his "Memoirs" (1752-62) reveals: "Salt from the lewayas is only for the use of the Chalias, who after duly performing their cinnamon service are allowed yearly to fetch it for their own use in dhoneyys, and to bring it to their villages....."

The salt from the "lewayas," (marshy lagoons), which Schreuder mentions is naturally formed, pure and safe in use, and in beautiful shades of pink and lilac. It is distinguished from manufactured salt which is secured by leading the salt water into brine-pits and allowing it to evaporate. The quality of manu-

factured salt is affected and influenced by the temperature of the warming pans and other contrivances.

The Dutch liked salt and salty things so much that they even used it with tea! The Dutch author, Haaffner, in his "Reize te Voet door het Eiland Ceilon" describes a wedding party at Chilaw where tea was being drunk:

"The women took with the tea a sort of dried fish or salted and well-peppered deer's flesh. As a rule the women of the Mesitzes and Portuguese, in Ceylon and on the coast, prefer to use salted things to sugar or other sweets with their tea."

THE Sinhalese, as well as other Ceylonese, use salt as the main ingredient in their curries and in rice, besides their "lunu sambol" (onion sambol), "verelu achcharu" and other pickles. They were known to use salt water as an excellent gargle and for cleansing wounds many centuries ago.

During the war with the British, Sri Wickrama Raja Sinha is known to have conserved the salt of the kingdom and ensured the fair distribution of the commodity and introduced price control. Anyone selling above the controlled price was heavily punished.

This Is Russia

(Continued from page 3)

this messianic ideal has never been absent from the Russian mind. The Czars used it to further their wars not only against the Moslems but also against Christian nations, and even the anti-religious Communists use it to promote the aggressions of their State.

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THE SECRET POLICE—A CZARIST TRADITION

THUS, at the close of two centuries of Mongol domination, emerged two Russian habits of thought that are still vital forces in the Soviet Union:

1. The idea that it is natural to live live under a dictatorship in a totalitarian State.
2. The idea that Moscow is destined to rule and save the world.

Ivan IV, "the Terrible," Czar from 1547 to 1584, introduced into Russian life another idea embodied in a peculiar institution which has continued to exist until the present day; the secret political police. Ivan called this police organization the Oprichina and its members Oprichniki. Their duty was to ferret out unfaithfulness to him and to punish it with the most savage cruelty. Their emblem was a dog's head and a broom, symbolizing their mission to sniff out disloyalty and to sweep away all enemies of the Czar.

Ivan the Terrible was a sadist of great physical strength and energy. (He killed his son with his own hands). He was not popular with the Russian nobles, called "boyars," and decided to "liquidate" them. This task he turned over to the Oprichniki, with full power

to murder and boyars they pleased, rape their wives and seize their estates. The Oprichniki found the task congenial, and when there were not enough boyars left to keep them busy, turned their attention to other victims. On one occasion they systematically slaughtered most of the inhabitants of Novgorod. In the Red Square in Moscow, Ivan the Terrible had hundreds who displeased him boiled and roasted alive for the edification of his subjects. When that happened, Shakespeare was alive, Queen Elizabeth was on the throne of England and the Magna Charta had been in force for 350 years. Such is the time-lag that separates the Russians from the ways of Western civilization.

Ivan's institution of the Oprichina has never since disappeared from the apparatus by which Russia has been governed. Its name was changed—under the last Czar it was called the Okhrana—but its fundamental nature remained unchanged. The Soviet Government raised the power of this secret political police to heights worthy of a super Ivan the Terrible.

Under Lenin and Stalin it was called first the Cheka, then the OGPU and then the NKVD. It developed spying to a fine art, slaughtered men, women and children by the million and made fear the dominant motive in Russian life. (Hitler's Gestapo, organized in imitation of the Soviet OGPU, was also a lineal descendant of the Oprichina). Ivan the Terrible for centuries was regarded as the embodiment of evil by Russians of all classes; but after Stalin began his great "purge" of 1936-38, his obedient historians began to whitewash Ivan, and the Russian young are now taught that Ivan was a noble leader of the Russian people.

(To be continued)

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DEFENCE OF THE CLASSICS

THE study of the classics is declining, and it is not by any means either inappropriate or belated to ask ourselves what we miss in allowing this pre-eminently important branch of study, which has formed the mind and character of countless generations and many civilizations, to fall into unmerited desuetude. Not many are in a position to say that they have read the classics in the original. The many who have had the advantage of a classical education can only claim to have gone through a certain number of textbooks, but even if this has been done their essential gain is that they have been for even one period of their lives given an opportunity of judging what really is the high perfection of the greatest works which have come from the mind of man. And having had a glimpse of such perfection, there is forever established a standard by which all literature can be judged. This is the main function of the classics. They set before the mind the need for the relentless elimination of the non-essentials, just as the sculptor can release the figure in marble only when he has by unerring instinct chipped and pared away everything that might be legitimately regarded as an accretion which, if allowed to remain, can have only one effect and that is to mar and maim by adding even one superfluous line or one unnecessary and meretricious additament. The classics are realised beauty in their ultimate form. Nothing can be imposed upon or taken away without making them cease to be classics. The Roman and the Greek mind were disciplined. Art with them was a ceaseless search for perfection, and in cutting the classics out of our experience, we are impoverishing our experience to the extent of depriving ourselves of an ideal of achieved beauty which has been the glory and inspiration of twenty or thirty centuries.

THE term is of course not necessarily confined to mean the ancient classics. There are classics of a later age than Greece and Rome which are entitled to the proud privilege of

this distinction. But when he speak of the classics, the mind goes back in a special manner to the ages of Greece and Rome, especially as all other classics have been shaped or formed in accordance with the method and style of their more ancient models. The classics have taught the world, and the debt owed the great writers of antiquity is immeasurable and irredeemable. Dr. Mackail years ago delivered a presidential address before the Classical Association of Great Britain which appears to contain the reflections of a lifetime couched in a language of emotion and deep feeling which gives it a peculiar animation. It is an address which deserves to be rescued from oblivion. I do not know whether it has been reproduced in any volume of his writings, but all I can say is that it richly deserves to be put into circulation. Dr. Mackail was no dry as dust scholar but a representative type of the sensitive and discriminating school which any age or civilization might be proud to own, and if in this article I quote largely, it is only because it would savour of a lack of appreciation on my part to interpose too much between the reader and a mind of such exactness, classical learning and wonderful and succinct expressiveness.

"On what grounds then is it justifiable," Dr. Mackail asks his audience, "to accept the title in a specific or limited sense as meaning the masterpieces of Greek and Latin literature? Three may be named, all valid. First, the Greek and Latin languages as developed by national and individual genius are not only unsurpassed, but in important respects, unequalled as vehicles of human expression, alike in the power and delicacy of their mechanism. Secondly, expression has been given in them, once for all, to what is primary and essential, whether in the record and interpretation of history, in the field of thought or speculation, in lessons for the conduct of life, or in the creative achievements of poetry. Thirdly, all that has come after them in Western Europe or even in the European worlds beyond the seas has been built on their foundations, moulded by their influence, saturated by their form and substance. By losing touch with them, we cut ourselves off from the sources of our civilization, the anchorage of our spirits, the sap of our life. It might even be said

that if by some strange misfortune, we had to make our choice between the Latin and Greek classics and the Classics of languages other than Latin and Greek, it would be with the former that we should find ourselves best armed and equipped for dealing with life as well as introduced to the highest pleasures of the intellect and imagination. The Greek genius for asking the right question, the Roman faculty of finding the practical answer, apply to all the problems, whether analytic or constructive,

with which we have to deal." This is indeed staking a large claim for the classics but history has proved that it is true. One has only to think of the flowering of the Renaissance intellect, its keen sense of the joy and beauty of life, interfused no doubt with a marked element of the desire for freedom on the model of the classical epochs, to realise what has always been the quickening effect of the touch of the classics upon a nation passionately devoted to its study.

Ink on My Fingers

By L. M.

A SUGGESTION was made recently that in order to prevent impersonation at elections, voters before they are allowed to vote should dip one finger in a type of ink which could not be washed off or removed for a period of 24 hours. If, therefore, on any particular day, anyone who had already voted attempted to personate some other voter, he could always be shown up as a fraud if his fingers were examined, as one of the fingers would bear the stain of the special ink. The suggestion has its advantages as well as its disadvantages, which the writer tries to dramatize in the following scene.

SCENE: A cadjan polling booth just outside the Colombo Municipal limits. At the entrance sits a polling clerk, probably some temporary Government Servant, trying to look intelligent but failing miserably as on his face is stamped the ineffaceable demeanour of a nitwit. At a large table in the middle of the booth, sits the Presiding Officer. He is well dressed. To accentuate the air of importance which his clothes give him, a thick gold watch chain lazily snakes along the front portion of a fifty-inch belly, one end of the chain ending in an inner pocket and the other round a coat button.

Enter Wolbert Ferreira, a typical middle class voter.

Polling Clerk: Give me your finger.

Wolbert: Why do you want my finger?

Polling Clerk: Surely mister you read the papers. I want your finger to prevent you from voting again.

Wolbert: Suppose for the sake of argument I gave you my finger. Mind you, I say this only for the sake of argument. At the moment I'm not disposed to give my finger to you or to anyone else. Suppose I gave you this finger. How would it prevent me from voting again?

Polling Clerk: I do not want your finger to cut it off. I only want to dip it in this ink.

Wolbert: What ink? Why should I allow you to dip my finger in ink. I can very well do so myself if such a foolish notion entered my head. I didn't come here to dip my finger in ink. I came here to vote. Give me my ballot paper.

Polling Clerk: I'll give you your ballot paper but first give me your finger. I'll dip it in the ink and you can then mark your paper.

Wolbert: Don't be insulting, man. I'm perfectly literate and can sign my name on the paper. Why should you daub my finger with ink so that I may leave a finger impression.

Polling Clerk: No, no, no. You do NOT sign the ballot paper. You do not even put on it your thumb or finger impression. All you do is to mark in pencil a cross on the paper. Come now give me your finger.

Wolbert: Oh, no, no. Nothing of the kind. I'm giving my finger to no one.

Polling Clerk (exasperated): Peon, take this voter to the Presiding Officer.

Wolbert escorted by a Peon walks across to the Presiding Officer who has already started to purr in anticipation of the pleasure of showing off to yet another member of the public.

Wolbert (addressing Presiding Officer): Your clerk wants my finger. Can you tell me why?

Presiding Officer: Ha, ha. By "want" he means let him hold your finger

so that he can dip it into the bottle of ink by his side. This ink remains indelible for 24 hours. Once your finger is dipped in the ink the stain stays on for 24 hours. Therefore, if you were to visit another polling booth later in the day and try to impersonate another voter, the moment the stain on your finger is noticed, it will be evident that you have already voted. You will then have to take the consequences. Police action and probably a jail sentence.

Wolbert: But suppose I wore gloves and said that I had some nasty skin disease. They could not then see the stained finger.

Presiding Officer: We have a remedy for such cases. The glove itself with the fingers encased in it is dipped into a beaker containing a mild blue solution of certain chemicals of vegetable origin. If any of the special ink is on the fingers inside the glove, the solution immediately turns red. Simple, eh?

Wolbert: Yes, yes, quite simple but why dip my finger in the ink. What will my wife say when I go home and find I can't wash the ink off? What will my children say? If you must use ink, why not have apparatus whereby a delicately tinted inked beauty spot is imprinted on the right cheek of every voter. The voter then cannot use gloves to hide the ink. He will in addition have the dubious pleasure of wearing for 24 hours a dubious Government mark of loveliness. Why not rubber stamp my face with a miniature skull and crossbones done in pink and heliotrope. Your brilliant polling clerks and the whole world will then know that I have voted.

Presiding Officer: I have no time for frivolity. You either dip your finger in the ink or go without your vote.

Wolbert: O.K., O.K. Don't lose your temper. But suppose the ink does not wash off after 24 hours. Will I have to go to the Kacheheri and get the election staff to wash it off. And suppose even they can't get it off. Must I go through life with this mark of Cain?

Presiding Officer: I guarantee that the ink will wash off. Away with you now. Get your card from the polling clerk and cast your vote.

Wolbert slouches across to the polling clerk.

Polling Clerk: Give me your finger.

Wolbert: Have a heart, brother. Must we go over all this again?

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SPORTS

Commentary

COVER-POINT

ONCE again a week, which started ever so quietly, warmed up towards the end to provide excellent sport. Pride of place must be given to the Schools Athletics Championship Meet at which such a high standard was reached that one came away from the Colombo Oval with the feeling that the future of athletics in Ceylon is safe in the keeping of these youngsters. It is, perhaps, invidious to label as outstanding any one performance where there were so many achievements of note but many good judges agreed with me that *primus inter pares* was the running of young J. H. DE SARAM of Royal College, who set up a new record for the 220 Yards and also won the 100 Yards in excellent timing. It was also thanks to this youngster that Royal won the Jefferson Cup for the Senior Relay. De Saram, a son of the present President of the Ceylon Amateur Athletics Association, has athletics in his blood and, with the help of the expert coaching of G. B. LITTLE is almost certain to make history on the local tracks.

Other noteworthy feats were the dual victories of young BATAPOLA from Ampitiya, who won the Half Mile and the Mile with a good bit in hand, and the brilliant Pole Vaulting by MATHYSZ of Wesley.

Royal College swept the board so far as the trophies were concerned, winning both the Tarbat and Jefferson Cups, as St. Joseph's did last year, but it was a case of "your guess being as good as mine" till the final Mile Relay clinched the issue.

There was quite a lot of unnecessary pother over the non-acceptance of entries from schools in the Northern Province but, personally, I cannot see any justification for it. The date for the closing of entries had been notified to all the school authorities and, if owing to some internal differences, the entries were submitted too late, the blame surely cannot attach to the C.A.A.A. executive for refusing to entertain them. Punctuality is never a virtue of the Ceylonese and any pandering to dilatoriness will only make matters worse.

THE opening day of the C.T.C. October Meet, which was in aid of local charities, gave punters the better of the exchanges. It was only in one race that a good thing came unstuck and, consequently, the dividends were small.

Taking the card in the order of presentation, RAGEEB AL KHAIR ran well up to his previous form and made mincemeat of his rivals, giving Apprentice Jockey WIJESINGHE an armchair ride.

In the next race, however, FOLEY had to ride his hardest to get HAMMERFEST'S nose in front at the all-important end. Thirty yards from home the race lay between CLARENDON and AENEAS, but an opening on the rails gave Foley his chance and he shot his mount through to catch the leaders on the post.

Then followed the only upset of the afternoon when the top-weight AL SHANFARA made his way back to the intermediate class by winning at the first time of asking in Class III. His victory emphasised that there is a big gap between the classes.

This difference was further revealed in the Mosul Plate in which the con-

sistent MISS IRENE was not unduly extended to give 21 lbs. and a beating to the recently promoted JUTLAND.

The principal race of the afternoon saw ST. JUST scrape home with a neck to spare but I had a feeling that LUZON might have reversed the placings had he been ridden out with the hand without coming so much under the ship.

The next three races were all SAWYER, who thus completed the course treble and followed in the wake of riders like BEN ROSEN and TOMMY BURN, who had done so in pre-war years.

On JAI LANKA, Sawyer wisely waited on the early leader PEACE TALK and GAY WALLAGE he jumped to the head and was never headed. The only horse who might have paced him was RAJKUMARI but this mare took it into her head to indulge in rodeo tactics at the barrier and finally bolted into the paddock.

In the last race, RANJIT also led from Flag-fall and had something in hand when holding off a late challenge by MAHBUB KHALID.

Apart from Len Sawyer's four winners, the feature of the day was the success of the SELVARATNAM stable which sent out 6 of the 8 winners. Incidentally, the stable was not represented in the other two races. I believe Trainer COOMBER is the only other trainer to have saddled as many winners on a single afternoon.

ON the English turf, the flat racing season has entered its closing stages, and this week the first leg of the Autumn Double, the Cesarewitch, is due to be run. Riding arrangements have now been finalised and a great race is on the cards. The ante-post call-overs have brought about frequent changes in the betting, with the market call fluctuating between Firemaster and Ramponneau (who finished third and fourth in the Ebor Handicap last month) while Sea Lover, winner of the Duke of York Handicap at Kempton a week ago, has just ousted them both. Firemaster is classically bred by Blue Peter and as a 3-year-old, is at the age, which has furnished over 40 of the 100 odd winners of this race. Monsieur L'Amiral, who won the race last year, has been set 9'8 and, if he repeats, he will set up a new weight record and he will also be the first to win in successive years. After his Ascot victory, Monsieur L'Amiral was beaten in the Doncaster Cup by Trimbush but should be well up at the finish on Wednesday, particularly as he has a good "waiting" jockey in Charlie Smirke to ride him. Others who have finished in the money recently are Civil Affairs and Troube, who will bear watching.

(Note by Editor: Owing to the exigencies of printing these notes were written before the race).

THE King George Stakes at Ascot was run last Saturday and gave France yet another victory when the St. Leger runner-up Arbar, credited M. Marcel Boussac with his second victory in this new race. Arbar had over 3 lengths in hand of the filly Bombasa at the finish but it is a pity that he did not have to meet his St. Leber vanquisher, Sayaji Rao. Had he reversed his Doncaster placing, he might have settled the vexed question

of who is the better stayer of the two. Now we shall have to wait till the Gold Cup next year for the answer.

masterly genius of Mushtaq Ali and Modi. One of the newcomers to the side is Ramvir Singhi, who I understand, is a nephew of Duleepsinghi, and is being hailed as a giant in the making.

AN emasculated Indian cricket team has arrived in Australia. If Merchant's inability to lead the side put out of court what little chances India had of succeeding where England had failed, the last-minute defection of Mushtaq Ali, Modi and Fazul Mohamed has dealt the tourists a crippling blow. On paper at all events they do not seem to have one chance in a million of holding their own against any of the bigger stages in the Commonwealth, let alone being a match for Australia in the Tests. There is no doubt that Amarnath will be a tower of strength to his side but they will lack the stiffening which only Merchant could have given them and the

THE rugby season in Ceylon actually ended week before last but it was not till early last week that I met a friend who went up to Darrawella to see the match between the President's XV and the Rest, which appropriately enough was the best of the whole season. The President's XV scored a well-merited victory by 14 pts. to 8 and over their success to excellent team work in the back division. There was little to choose between the forwards of each side and the tackling was sound.

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