

AGRICULTURE MINISTER SPEAKS Dry-zone "Graveyard" Myth Exploded

By Vernon Phelps

FOOD for the people. That this is the first and most impelling objective of the Government is now more than evident. The three-pronged drive under the Ministries of Rural Reconstruction, Food, and Agriculture and Lands, is gathering momentum as the days go by.

As I listened to Sir Oliver Goonetilleke's address to the Lanka Mahila Samiti (one of the most forthright of his many speeches to which I have listened) I felt a glow of satisfaction that my forecast of Sir Oliver's vision in handling the formidable task of Ceylon's rural development (to which I referred in this journal on October 3rd under the title of "Sir Oliver's New Task") was more than justified.

The impression that I gathered in my talk with the Minister of Food and Co-operatives, Mr. A. Ratnayake (which I recorded in this journal on October 15 under the title of "Food Minister Meets Housewives Barrage Squarely") revealed the same resolution of another Ministry of the Government to join hands in what the Food Minister himself described as "The battle for food."

NO less resolute or enthusiastic was the youngest Minister of the Cabinet, Mr. Dudley Senanayake, Minister for Agriculture and Lands, in his assurance to me that the battle for food would relentlessly waged on all fronts.

Announcing that he had a Two-Year Plan ready for execution, Mr. Senanayake told me that he pinned his hopes on the Dry Zone. When I reminded him that there were some who hesitated to go to the Dry Zone and asked him whether he, therefore, contemplated a scheme in the Wet Zone for such people, the Minister was visibly pained at the persistence of unfounded prejudices against the vast opportunities that existed in the Dry Zone for large-scale cultivation. He reminded me that it was the Dry Zone that was always in the past the granary of this country. He reminded me that large-scale planned agriculture was most suitable to the Dry Zone with its perennial sources of water made possible by arduous and successful major irrigation works.

THE story of the accomplishment of the major irrigation works in the Dry Zone is a chapter of solid achievement aimed at the purpose of making this rich and vast expanse of land usable for large-scale cultivation. It was a stupendous task which was now nearing completion. It only now remained to clear the jungle and settle the peasants on the land in increasing numbers. Further, every facility to make the peasant settlements attractive and worthwhile had also been provided. Every settler received a house with three acres of garden and five acres of cultivable land. In addition to this he was allotted ten acres of land in the co-operative scheme of cultivation carried out by the Government under modern methods. The spraying of D.D.T. and other medical services to ensure the preservation of the health of the colonists had also been adequately provided. Where then, asked the Minister, was the reason for the reluctance to go to the Dry Zone.

The old fear that the Dry Zone was the graveyard of colonists who dared to venture, was now a memory of the past. It was a memory linked with a former Government which was not of the people, which thought it fit to neglect the Dry Zone and ruthlessly exploit the hilly areas of the Wet Zone to its advantage. We had now to make good the ravages caused by this exploitation of the Wet Zone which had resulted in wasteful soil erosion and the utter neglect of the unused sections of the Zone where malaria and other ills were rampant. This was the outcome of the unplanned exploitation of the Wet Zone.

ADVERTING to the urgent need for Ceylon to increase her food production pace, Mr. Senanayake pointed out that our average yield was only 15 bushels per acre as against an yield of 40 bushels per acre in Burma. Manuring was an important factor and the falling off of supplies of manures, chiefly bonemeal, from Indian sources, made it imperative for substitute manures to be found speedily.

Linking this question with the related question of a higher price for the cultivator for paddy, the Minister slashed out at the "popular fallacy" propagated in certain quarters that food at any price should be the Government's aim.

He pointed out that the price paid to the cultivator was debitable to the cost of production as it was paid as a subsidy. Other factors, too, such as the cost of manuring, was calculable in the cost of production. The collective payments under the different heads of pro-

duction was not something that could be permitted to be unduly elastic. After all it was the taxpayer that paid for production and he had a legitimate right to expect the Government to keep the cost of production within economic limits. Besides indiscriminate increasing of the price to the cultivator might induce him to slacken rather than increase his output.

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It was not denied that food was urgently needed, but that could not be made a justification for the Government making an uneconomic bargain with the cultivator. A reasonable profit-margin to the cultivator was something that the Government would never grudge to grant. But to succumb to the folly of pandering to the profit motive alone, was obviously bad government.

The remedy, the Minister concluded with vigorous emphasis, was not for the Government to pander to the greed for unreasonable profits, but for the Government to draw on the patriotism of the people.

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THE LESSON OF SINGAPORE

How Marxist Opportunism Sells
National Rights of a People

By
Maha Amerasingha

THE strike of thousands of Chinese workers in Singapore shows what could happen when policies such as those followed by men like Dr. Colvin R. de Silva are put into practice. The Singapore strike has been called to bring pressure on the British Government in order to arrest the progress of Malaya towards self-government. The Chinese workers led by Marxist political leaders have taken up a position similar to that of Indian estate workers here who organised a Hartal. The Chinese immigrants poured into the country during the period of British domination and they now demand political and citizenship rights on an equal footing with the people of Malaya. Wherever there are large bloc votes Marxist politicians rush in to grab them whether such action is in the interests of the local population or not. That is why the Sama Samajists and the Communists in Ceylon make love to the Indian worker with such ardour and passion.

Today in Malaya the Britisher rules, the Indian conducts business, the Ceylonese from Jaffna gets the middle-class job, and the Chinese monopolises manual labour. The Malayan is also there, on sufferance, as it were and

as a poor agricultural labourer working for the benefit of absentee landlords.

The recent history of the Malayan Peninsula is a story of the exploitation of its wealth by the British capitalist and Indian traders. Both these sections of employers brought in cheap Chinese labour and reduced the Malaysians to the level of paupers in their own country. Some parts of Malaya were governed by so-called Sultans whose only accomplishment was the achievement of press notoriety by the process of divorcing several wives!

The lesson for us is that the cry of justice to the Chinese raised by the Marxists in Malaya is similar to the cry of justice to Indian immigrant labour that has been raised in Ceylon. In both countries it is purely a vote-catching device and entirely ignores the rights of the nationals in preference to the rights of the alien population.

★ ● ★

THE Government of Ceylon has adopted a different policy which is calculated to ensure justice to both Ceylonese and Indians. Our position is that we are willing to give full rights of citizenship to those who genuinely desire to make Ceylon their home. We cannot take anyone's word on the face of it without the guarantee that there would be no attempt to

arrest our national efforts by bringing in a flood of aliens who will in the end have a greater voice in the affairs of this country than the people of the country themselves.

We cannot and will not allow citizenship rights to those who wish to have two countries to which they owe allegiance. An Indian cannot pretend to be a citizen of Ceylon during his residence in the Island and have the right to return to South India and proclaim himself a citizen of Hindustan.

Legislation must be introduced at a very early date to prevent the entry of a floating population which will not only undercut the local worker and complicate the employment problem but also send away from this Island a great portion of its national wealth.

The country will then realise the cynical opportunism which is the characteristic of Marxist policy in Ceylon. We are sure that whatever their public utterances may be no Marxist in Parliament will dare oppose any measure to restrict Indian immigration.

POLITICAL PHASES

By S. Sivasubramaniam

MAY I have the courtesy of your columns to refer to certain phases of the political situation in Ceylon, in view of the recent formation of the Cabinet and the impending inauguration of the Parliament. It would be well by the country if we take stock of things now and endeavour to examine whether certain matters require clarification, revision and adjustment in order to give the maximum benefit to the people of Ceylon. It is needless for me to add that politics is not a static science but is dynamic in its essentials. Having this principle and view in mind, I wish to submit certain matters for consideration by the public.

(1) The continuance, at least for the time being, of uncommunal organizations in Ceylon like the Sinhala Maha Sabha, All-Ceylon Tamil Congress, Ceylon Indian Congress, Ceylon Muslim League, and Dutch Burgher Union is rendered necessary at this stage of the political evolution of our country, by reason of the existence of several communities in the Island and their respective peculiar interests. As an ex-Governor of Ceylon observed, the basis of Society in Ceylon from time immemorial has been communal (communal in the best sense of the word). In building up political institutions, we cannot ignore the past or break away from it in a hurry, without damaging the very cause we have set our hearts to achieve—the political unification and Independence of Ceylon. Rome, Imperial Rome, was not built in a day.

(2) Contemporaneous with uncommunal organizations, inter-communal organizations can exist or be formed, inter alia, to bring about unity between the various communities, to induce the formation of political parties, and to hasten the attainment of Independence for Ceylon.

(3) Members of uncommunal organizations could well associate themselves with and become members of inter-communal organizations at the same time, in order to facilitate and hasten the achievement of the object referred to in the preceding paragraph. In India in the recent past the best period of political and communal amity obtained in the country when the Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Parsees and Hindus were all members of an intercommunal organization—the Indian National Congress. Even during that period the Muslim League existed as a separate body and most of its members were also members of the Indian National Congress. The unhappy period started when uncommunal organizations like the All-India Muslim League and inter-communal organizations like the Indian National Congress adopted contrary and opposing policies and became antagonistic to each other.

(4) Uncommunal organizations in Ceylon, would under the circumstances, do well to refrain from running candidates for Parliamentary or Municipal elections.

(5) If any uncommunal organization has in the past not refrained from putting forward candidates on its ticket, it could now do the next best thing by avoiding the maintenance of Parliamentary uncommunal parties. In this connection it is significant and useful to note that a prominent member of the Muslim League Party in the United Provinces Legislature has recommended that the League which is in a minority in that Legislature as well as in all the Legislatures in the Union of India should divest itself of Parliamentary work and allow its members to join intercommunal organizations and parties according to their political conviction.

(6) Individual members elected to Parliament through the medium and on the ticket of uncommunal parties like the All-Ceylon Tamil Congress could be given the freedom by their organizations (a) to support the Government or (b) to join the Opposition, or (c) to act as Independents, according to the political conscience of each member. If this freedom is granted, communalism in politics would be gradually removed. Moreover this procedure could facilitate the formation of parties on political lines, a step which we are all agreed upon as being necessary and desirable.

(7) It would be in accordance with political principles and in fact would be destructive of the growth of political parties and of a healthy political tradition, if the representatives returned to Parliament through uncommunal organizations are called upon to throw in their lot with the Government Party (U.N.P.) en bloc or with the Parliamentary Opposition en bloc. Such a step would be definitely communal and would only accentuate communal divisions and communal ideas among all sections of the population.

The golden mean in the circumstances would be not to insist on the complete disappearance of uncommunal organizations, but to ask such organizations to avoid the formation of uncommunal Parliamentary parties. So far as the Tamils are concerned, the placing of a taboo on all uncommunal Parliamentary parties would be in accordance with views and opinions consistently expressed on behalf of the Tamil community before and after the introduction of the Donoughmore Constitution.

On the other hand, the functioning of uncommunal Parliamentary parties would be a flagrant violation of the position taken up by the Tamil community in the past. The nature of the Soulbury Constitution, the action of the Sinhalese, Muslim, and Burgher communities in forming or supporting intercommunal organizations, current political requirements and the present situation in Ceylon and world conditions all favour the adherence of the Tamil people in Ceylon to the views and opinions already expressed by them against uncommunal Parliamentary parties.

The political advancement of Ceylon could be promoted in a substantial manner through the methods referred to above which take cognizance of the present unavoidable circumstances and conditions obtaining in the country during this period of transition.

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SIR OLIVER GOONETILLEKE

(will softly toughly)



MR. ALUVIHARE

(will tongly soften)

THE Inspector General of Police paid a worthy tribute to the Police Force recently, for their excellent work during the elections. In all its 82 years of existence it has maintained a high reputation, which is being carried on by smart, debonair Richard Aluvihare.

The Force was re-organised and made into a regular unit by Ordinance No. 16 of 1865. Provision was made for an officer of Class I of the Ceylon Civil Service to be placed at the head under the designation of Inspector General.

In Governor Horton's time (1831-37) the "bobby" was clad in blue serge, slacks and tunic. He had a large bun of hair on his head. Among his duties to see that the Sabbath was kept holy, examine weights and measures, prevent small boys flying kites in the streets, and regulate the speed of bullock bannies and gharries.

The duties of the policemen have increased. Though in the Dowbiggin era they attained a "military character" with much spit and polish, they have quietened down into sobriety. In the Aluvihare regime they are a smart lot. Above all, they are the friends and protectors of the people—as good policemen should be.

The new Minister in charge, Sir Oliver, is well known for his tact. He will softly toughen the police. The new I.G. is also tactful but no nonsense with him. He will toughly soften.

Something To Crow About

HOW came the crow to Ceylon? According to an old story it was the Dutch who introduced the bird as a propagator of cinnamon, the seeds of which it rejects uninjured—for along with the fruit it swallows the kernel.

Tennent informs us: "It may add to account for the familiarity and audacity which they exhibit in their intercourse with men, that the Dutch during their sovereignty in Ceylon, enforced severe penalties against any one killing a crow (under the belief that they were instrumental in extending the growth of cinnamon)."...

The crow has outlived many campaigns against it. Due to its soiling the Colombo Fort area (passers-by included), the "shoot to kill" order was once given. But that failed. Then the branches of the shade trees were lopped off, and the nests destroyed. But the crow still remains supreme as any visitor to the Fort at twilight or at early dawn will testify.

While we cannot advocate a special protection law for it, we must admit that the crow, as a scavenger, has done yeoman service in removing offal, rubbish and other filth from our streets and gardens.

Arab Lane

THE recent story of a horse bolting off through Avondale Road and finally being caught and bridled at the Dean's Road end, makes me wonder whether the horse was not following its ancestors.

For, originally, Avondale Road was Arab Lane, where horses were tethered. Syces lived in this quarter. Having driven the city folk back from their drives, or offices, to their homes, the syces led their horses into the stables at Arab Lane.

Some years ago at a building site in that road, workmen dug up skeletons of horses—Arabs, sturdy and strong. Many old-timers there still remember the horsey association with Avondale Road. Arab Passage, still existent under the same name, is a relic of those romantic days.

Queen's House Story

QUEEN'S House, where our new Cabinet Ministers were presented to the Governor, has a romantic history about. I have just heard of a not well-known story about the Queen's House site being offered to Government to pay off the deficit of a Government official.

The Government official concerned was the Hon. George Melville Leslie, Paymaster-General. In 1803 a deficit of nearly £10,000 was found in his accounts. Did he misappropriate the money himself or was he the victim of another's dishonesty. That was never clearly established. But he was reduced in office.

He had still to account for the money. When a trial was imminent, Mr. Christian van Angelbeek, as executor of the estate of the late Dutch Governor van Angelbeek—the site on which Queen's House now stands—came to his rescue by offering to hand over these premises to Government at its own valuation of 35,000 rix dollars in part payment of the deficit. This was accepted.

The Hon. George Melville Leslie, by the way, married the niece of the late Governor van Angelbeek—"Mrs. Leslie was only fifteen when she undertook the duties of huysvrouw and 16 when she had to face those of motherhood."

Barrow-Boys

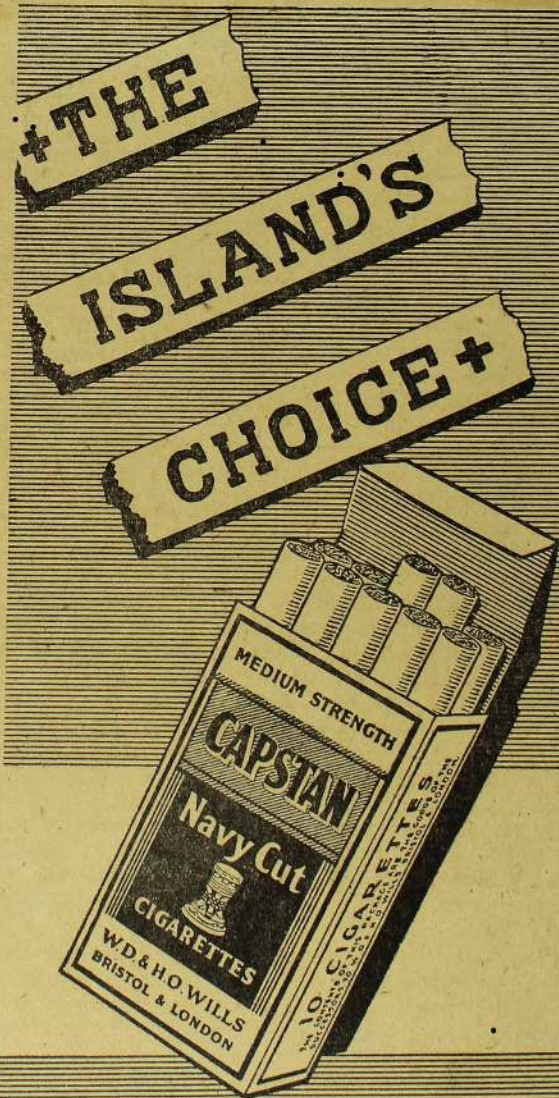
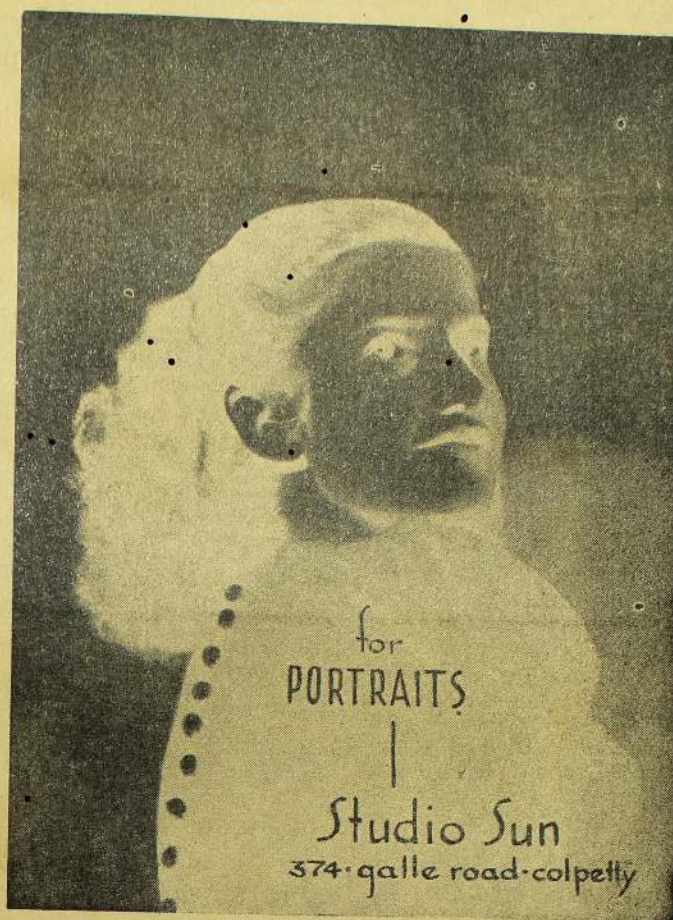
OUR barrow-boy population has increased tremendously. I find the idea is catching on and there are more barrow-boys than ever. More goods mean more service and more barrow-boys. In pre-war years only wooden sandals and brooms were sold in barrows.

With the war coming on, vegetables went short. Housewives were reluctant to barter at the market-place where prices were uncompromising. But the barrow-boys took their chance. They brought their vegetables right up to the housewives' doors—and they sold it comparatively cheap. The idea caught on.

After the end of the war, military parachute cloth, gadgets, bags, first-aid outfits, batteries, boxes of matches and other items were taken on by the barrow-boys. There is no denying they earn immensely—but they deserve it for their enterprise.

The only spoiler is a rainy day. A barrow-boy told me that rain means "no business, and no getting about." But the boys who sell grapes, in lovely clusters, and apples, have roofs over their barrows to preserve their fruits. They sell, in rain or sunshine.

(Continued on page 5)



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Friday, October 31, 1947

RIGHTS OF PUBLIC SERVANTS

We are glad that the position taken by us in our editorial of 10th October has been vindicated by the decision of the Cabinet to give to public servants the right to form associations in order to safeguard their interests as well as to promote their welfare. We maintain, and we welcome the Cabinet's decision to support our contention, that "the freedom of association is an inalienable right" and that "the right will be considered to all public servants to form Unions of their own." It is probably correct to say that there were two causes of the difficulty and bitterness created by the strike of the General Clerical Service and the subsequent withdrawal of the recognition of accredited unions. One of these was undoubtedly the political opportunism of the Left-wing parties led by Dr. N. M. PERERA and Mr. PIETER KEUNEMAN. To them anybody's grievance was like Manna from Heaven, feeding as they always do on the trials and tribulations of the Island. They incited sections of the Clerical Service which welcomed the assistance of anyone who was considered valuable to their cause. On the other hand there were certain men in the upper rungs of the Civil Service on whom the Government of the day depended for advice and guidance on matters of policy. It was the misfortune of this country that these men had long ago lost touch with humanity. They had fossilised. They had ceased to be able either to think of the issues at stake or to feel for those who were not as privileged as themselves. It was well known that one of them did not even know by sight the staff working immediately under him. To such men as these fell the task of drafting the directives on the subject of Trade Union Rights. The result was that the Board of Ministers became isolated and lost the sympathy of thousands of patriotic young men in this Island. The U.N.P. paid a heavy price for this advice, namely the loss of nearly a dozen seats at the last General Election. The Advisers lost nothing. Ironically enough they gained. It is fervently to be hoped that the future policy of the Cabinet will not be vitiated by their presence so close to the "throne."

We are glad that Mr. Day's comments on the policy with regard to Trade Unions has been approved in general. We maintain, however, that the grant of rights must also be conditioned by the necessity that Public Servants should bear their due proportion of

IN his article in this journal "Some Famous Prime Ministers," Caliph mentioned that Governor North, in moments of bitterness expressed his queerness of mind. He accused King Sri Vikrama Raja Sinha and Pilima Talauwe of casting a "heeniya" spell on him, in his acknowledgment of defeat in diplomacy: "My effigy dressed in a uniform of blue and gold, which they constantly pricked with pins, and fired at with pop guns, was the constant object of their magic spells."

Governor North was eccentric, and it is strange that he held the responsible post of Governor of Ceylon at such a critical time.

There is much evidence of his eccentricity. We may be forgiven if we derive any entertainment in reading a narration of his life, for his life is nothing but a series of blunders and eccentric outbursts following each blunder.

Governor North was a head who could not pull on with his subordinate officials. There have been many battles royal and North had always won—not by his own skill but through his official position, and through his adversaries opining that it was more dignified to resign than to butt against an official wall and incur the displeasure of the High Command in Britain.

NORTH'S first clash occurred with his superior, and this was the only time, North was known to own defeat with good grace. It was over appointments to the Civil Service, which was exclusively in the power of the Secretary of State.

But North presumed that he had the power to make local appointments to the Civil Service, and he had made many such appointments before the matter came to the notice of the Secretary of State. North was severely censured and accused of improper inattention to the reserved right of His Majesty's Government in the appointment of Civil Servants," North submitted tamely.

But the first sparring was with Hugh Cleghorn, Ceylon's first Colonial Secretary, noted for his famous Cleghorn minutes—models of clearness in administration reports.

Cleghorn's policy was to make as few changes as possible in the Dutch system of administration. Cleghorn's idea was that the populace had got used to the Dutch administration for over hundred years, and if changes were to be made it should be by gradual steps. His policy won favour with all, including the Dutch officials, whom he had reinstated.

North grew jealous of Cleghorn's popularity. He accused (on the barest suspicions) that Cleghorn was conspiring

responsibility for the welfare and good Government of this country. The public will not tolerate a position where a few hundred Government Servants can hold the Government to ransom. There should be a clear understanding that this country is not governed for the exclusive purpose of maintaining its officials who can look forward to pensions and other amenities after relinquishing their offices at the age of 55. The few thousand public officers represent only a small section of the people. The people have a right therefore to demand of the public servants that they should conduct their affairs with dignity and understanding.

THIS GOVERNOR HAD A 'KINK' SOMEWHERE

By
Mohammed

with the Madras officials against him. Cleghorn did not care a rap. He did not bother to defend himself nor to explain matters to the Governor.

"I am much riled by that madman Cleghorn," exclaimed North in characteristic bitterness. Envy grew rife, and Cleghorn, in despair, threw up his job. When Cleghorn sailed away from the Island in January, 1800, North jumped for joy.

"Heaven be praised," he wrote, "the 'Preston' which Cleghorn has weighed anchor from this place."

THE most celebrated duel was between North and Dr. John Ewart, the Inspector-General of Hospitals in Ceylon. Dr. Ewart was sent to Ceylon in 1798 as Physician-General to His Majesty's Troops, and was also given a Commission as Inspector-General of Hospitals in Ceylon, armed with regulations for Ceylon hospitals.

But North exploded: "I will not allow changes in the military departments without the highest order."

Dr. Ewart, however, went on with his work, unperturbed. He completed his investigations and prepared his report. It was an excellent report, according to the officials of that day. He diagnosed: "The majority of serious illnesses among the troops have proceeded directly from

the unrestrained excess of arrack and toddy, which have been rendered more pernicious by the infusion of poisonous herbs."

He recommended healthier barracks for troops, a regular supply of Western medicine and the restriction of the sale of arrack among other things.

North was jealous again. Dr. Ewart snubbed him by sending the report direct to the Secretary of State in England. Perhaps he feared North would have tampered with it, if it was sent through him.

North wrote in a huff: "Why was this report sent direct to the Secretary of State in England and not through the Lieutenant-Governor, who is now the representative of supreme power in Ceylon?"

IN November, 1799, North had Surgeons Thomas Clarke of the 19th Regiment arrested for disobedience of orders. Clarke, after his arrest, was reported to be insane. North thought that Clarke should be sent back to Europe. But Dr. Ewart insisted Clarke should be tried by court-martial. A heated argument and fiery correspondence followed.

"That Prince of Idiots, Dr. Ewart," roared North, "storms against my proclamation which deprives him of his birthright, which he states is neither Trial by Jury nor Habeas Corpus but Court-Martial."

North won. The Court of Directors, who were anxious to retain North in the battle of wits with the Kandyan Kingdom, found against the subordinate official, Dr. Ewart. They pacified North:

(Continued on page 5)

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(Continued from page 3)

SENA-TRIX

NOW that we have a woman Senator in Mrs. Molamure and another in Miss Cissy Cooray, what shall we call them? What is the feminine of Senator?

At a local "House of Cecils" dinner party one of the diners suggested Sena-trix.

I asked Mrs. Molamure for her opinion. She prefers "Senator."

INSIDE stories of the Senatorial elections are seeping through. Some are tales of woe—of friends somersaulting and casting their votes for a rival, of proposers and seconders not giving first preferences to the candidates they sponsored, and so on. Of the latter class was a certain M.P. who merely through gratitude for a certain gentleman's financial help during his elections, proposed the gentleman's name, but gave his first preference to another!

The elected Senators include four ex-M.S.C.s (including one ex-Minister), a Mayor, an ex-Mayor (also an ex-M.S.C.) and an ex-Municipal Councillor.

There are nine Low-Country Sinhalese, two Kandyans (including M.S. Molamure, the only woman elected Senator), three Tamils and one Muslim (Mr. A. R. A. Razik). It was widely regretted that Mr. C. W. W. Kannan-gara failed to find a place. He was one of the most deserving candidates in the field.

An astrologer, who ventured to send me a forecast, says: "Mr. Kannan-gara's star is now at nadir. He may suffer further losses, but he will rise again to eminence within six years. The nation will do him great honour. I daresay, even a statue may be erected in his honour."

Nominated Senators

AS I write this column comes news of the Governor's nominees for the Senate. I am glad to find the name of one more woman—that tireless worker with indomitable courage—Miss Cissy Cooray. Her name has been a synonym for social service. Our women cannot grumble now, as they have two picked representatives in the Senate. Women's rights to work and pay will find champions—I hope.

Despite the strong rumour floating about that our Knights have refused to sit in the Senate because they did not like the general composition of the elected members of the Senate, I find two knights have accepted Senatorships, Sir Mohamed Macan Marka and Sir Oliver Goonetilleke.

The election of Mr. Razik and the nomination of Sir Mohamed to the Senate rules them out of the running for the post of envoys to Pakistan. Dame Rumour has still not given up the fight and is at it again. This time the name suggested is Mr. Badiuddin Mahmud, Principal of Zahira College (Gampola branch). He has met Quade-e-Azam Jinnah several times and was mainly responsible for inviting Mr. Jinnah to Ceylon last year, though the political crisis forced Mr. Jinnah to postpone his visit.

Minister's Promptness

THE prompt way in which the Minister of Commerce, Mr. C. Suntheralingam, acted recently on a matter of importance has earned praise and gratitude from the Muslim community especially and general admiration from others. It speaks much for Premier Senanayake's wise selection of the country's best men for the ministerial posts.

Mr. R. Bin Hassan, M.M.C., who led the Muslim deputation which consisted of Messrs. Seyed Hamid, S. L. Mohamed and Dr. M. S. Ghonsul Ameer, tells me that he was highly impressed by the sympathetic manner in which Mr. Suntheralingam considered their suggestion and promptly issued a communique executing the change desired.

The question was the date of validation of the three Senior and two Junior textile coupons which was fixed for last Monday. As the Haji Festival was on Saturday, two days earlier to the fixed date, the Muslim deputation asked the

date of validation be advanced to Thursday. This was promptly granted.

Mr. Suntheralingam has ever been noted for his drive and efficiency in his University career particularly. I am glad he is utilising his gifts in the Cabinet too for the benefit of the country.

Street Lighting

I AM glad the Colombo Municipal Council has decided to light up all the streets of Colombo. It was a disgraceful state of affairs that two years after the war ended some streets in the premier city of the Island were still unlit. It was also a well-known fact that certain streets were avoided by respectable women after dusk.

The unlit areas of Railway Road, Ferry Street and Quarry Road are the most notorious avenues of thuggery. One of the novel and ingenious devices used by these thugs is as follows:

A loose woman is made to knock on an innocent passer-by (the street is unlit, mind you) and while the latter stands embarrassed, the woman filches his purse. If he struggles she screams and the thugs in hiding rush out—galant men to the rescue of an innocent woman whose modesty was being outraged!

That is the story. So the innocent passer-by is robbed, assaulted and sent off in disgrace.

This is only one instance. Many others are beyond description, the only saving grace being that life is not freely taken.

"In The Next Ten Days"

IN the next ten days," did the soothsayer warn a local sportsman. The tenth day was not the Ides of March, but like Caesar, our friend was warned that something terrible would happen to him that day.

The reason was that while out hunting in an outstation our friend had shot a peacock and shared a lovely peacock dish with his friends at lunch. But the soothsayer presumed that the bird belonged to a certain Hindu temple nearby. If it was, the culprit would die in the next ten days.

But this "divine retribution" never came to pass... So our friend is highly relieved, today being the eleventh day.

This reminds me of the story of Capt. F. W. Von Driberg, Commandant of Hambantota, whose death by fever on October 8, 1926, followed by the death of his wife, four hours later, on the same day, was attributed by the local population to his having shot a peacock in the preceding August during the period of the Kataragama festival and that of his wife to her having partaken of it.

Perhaps our friend was lucky the peacock he shot was not the sacred bird of the temple. Anyway he is scared of shooting peacocks now!

A New Lamp Is Lit

IT is with pleasure that we welcome the "Lankadipa", the new Sinhalese Evening Daily published by the "Times of Ceylon, Ltd." Such a newspaper is badly needed and will serve to provide an up-to-date news service to the largest section of newspaper readers in this country.

The first issue of the journal shows promise and it would take a great deal of effort to maintain the standard with which it has begun. There is no evidence thus far of violent political "side" to the paper. We expect however that apart from the political purpose, if any, of the journal, its primary function as a newspaper will be served fully if it continued to carry the same quality of news as it did in its first issue.

It did not, however, come up to the blurb with which it was announced since one did not see the illustration that were promised except for a few blocks which had already appeared in the "Times of Ceylon."

Mr. Julius de Lanerolle, the Editor, is a Sinhalese scholar of repute. He has an amiable and understanding nature combined with a studious temperament. Under his care this journal is bound to become of value to the nation. Ceylon journalism can claim to have achieved certain high standards owing to the existence of such papers as the "Daily News," "Observer," "Times of Ceylon," "Dinamina," "Siumina" and the new recruit "Lankadipa" promises to be as well run as her older contemporaries.

A. DE A.

OUR NATIONAL FLAG

By Maha Amarasingha

IT would be unwise to make a political issue out of such a thing as the national flag of the country. These are things over which it is quite easy to evoke passionate racial antagonisms. Anyone who desires to see co-operation goodwill and national unity will agree with our view that the flag should not become the subject of a bitter controversy.

It has been said by a few that the Lion Flag is entirely Sinhalese and Buddhist and that its imposition on the people would amount to domination by the majority community and would therefore lead to discontent and bitterness.

The reply to this has been that this flag once flew in Jaffna and that the Tamil community which once accepted it should not object to it now. We see no purpose in pursuing such arguments because we have to take a more detached view of the issues that are at stake, without being too detached! One danger in being too detached is that one may become too cynical and profess to be so intellectual that things like national flags may appear 'rags' over which "intellectuals" should not expend their mental energy. A writer of this class has expressed himself with suitable cynicism—"one heraldic lion rampant", says a Colombo advocate "is just as foolish and fanciful as any other heraldic lion rampant. Primitive persons who thus become rampant over the Totemistic signs on racial grounds would do well to remember that this lion is a direct armoured progeny of the Chinese Lion of the Han Dynasty about 200 B.C."

We thank this writer for his diligence in having looked up some dictionary or the other on heraldry for this mighty contribution to the subjection under discussion. We have to remind such people that the country is not being governed for the exclusive benefit of those who in the process of having achieved a super intellectual status at the expense, perhaps, of very "primitive" litigants have become too detached; but for those millions of the people of the country who unfortunately fell into the category of "primitives following totemistic symbols."

Leaving these dry intellectuals in their ivory tower we have to face the issue from the point of view that a flag of a nation should be something which has

- (1) Antiquity.
- (2) History of battle.
- (3) Beauty and design.

(4) Conformity with accepted standards of heraldry.

Judging by these standards the Lion Flag undoubtedly has antiquity—it has been used as the national flag of the Island of Lanka for over 2,000 years. It has colour and design and beauty. It conforms to the standards of heraldry. It has fluttered over hundreds of battle fields where the blood of the people of this country has been spilt in defence of our soil.

★ ● ★

It must also be remembered that there are eccentrics who want to impose a hybrid cheap imitation of the Indian flag. It is of course nothing new in the history of Ceylon to find citizens of this country selling their flag and their country's honour with it! The tradition is deeply rooted! A man's patriotism must be at a pretty low level before he can accept an Indian banner with a little lion substituted for the Indian Chakra, when there is already a flag in this country which has been used by the people for centuries. It is on the one hand a sign of the decadence created by the impact of Western education on our youth that there should be dozens of people ready to write to newspapers commenting on the excellence of the flag referred to above.

In passing it may be said that those who have received a smattering knowledge of the English tongue and in order to achieve that have completely lost touch with the heritage of Lanka are ever ready to assume self-styled authority on matters of such national importance. If a plebiscite were held on this subject there would be no doubt what the choice of the nation would be.

I would however earnestly appeal to the country to avoid any measure that would side-track the main issue. We have no doubt that all those who are competent to decide on the final acceptance of a flag for this country will consider the feelings of the people as well as the justice that is demanded of those in authority.

THIS GOVERNOR HAD A "KINK" SOMEWHERE

(Continued from page 4)

"We consider Dr. Ewart's conduct on the occasion as ill-grounded, intemperate and tending to derogate from the respect due to you are exercising the Government of the country."

But before Dr. Ewart's death, North reconciled with him. On March 16, 1800, he records: "Dr. Ewart died of a violent fever we were reconciled the day before his death."

NORTH often quarrelled with the wrong people. Ewart, Cleghorn and the other official with whom he had feuds were upright men. If he was friendly with anyone it was with the wrong type.

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Art & Letters

By Quintus Delilkhan

CARLYLE

IT is always pleasant to dip into Thomas Carlyle's writings which have the minatory qualities of the prophets who denounced in most powerful and biting words the evils of their day. Carlyle had to face a considerable amount of misunderstanding and ill-will. England had no use for prophets, and could not even afford the trouble and time to stone them. They frowned disapproval of this disturbing and eccentric portent among men and went their utilitarian way. Much would have been forgiven Carlyle if he had merely complained about his own wrongs.

Wilde said that egoism made good literature so that Carlyle might have gained acceptance if he had made the world his confidante in all matters affecting himself.

But this man who had so many words to say everything he needed to say about himself proved to be an intractable unsocial animal. He wanted to disturb the existing order of society. He cried aloud his agony over the condition of England. He held governments and individuals responsible for the agglomeration of suffering in factories and slums in England's green and pleasant land. He preached a gospel of work but work which ennobled and not work which degraded men into the level of brute beasts. And all this was done in a language and a tone which irritated the complacent middle classes. The middle classes had settled down to the peaceful enjoyment of their gains. They could not for a moment agree that it was their business to examine too closely, and at considerable risk to their security the bitter lot of those who created their wealth.

Carlyle wanted no blessings from any class of men. He wanted England changed. He cried imperiously and imperatively for change. Who was this Scotchman from a bleak village in the inhospitable North to come to them with the airs of a man who had been charged with a divine message to reform the existing order?

The Manchester School had laid down the safe lines upon which the national wealth could be made to grow from more to more, and here was a man not speaking so much of abstract principles of justice and fairplay among men but actually daring to examine the foundations which appeared so solid and lasting and asking that they should be shattered to create a more just and reasonable world. But truth was on the side of the scorned prophet. His calumniators and detractors are forgotten. We realise today that there was no mere prose poet throwing out fire and light in his magnificent denunciatory prose but a very real man, noble alike in endowment and purpose, stirred by a great moral passion for justice to all men, and prepared to face all adverse consequences if only his message to his age found its mark. And in speaking to his age he has spoken also to ours, and to all succeeding generations which will have to face problems similar to our own. Wherever there is hunger and want and cruelty in the relations between men, Carlyle will make an instant appeal. He spoke with an universal voice and his writings are the faithful echo of a soul which was steeped in pity and could not endure that man should show inhumanity to man.

It is to the great honour of men like St. Francis and other saints, and of secular crusades like Carlyle that they did not love humanity but men. The love of humanity is vague and tricky and misleading sentiment. It allows a man lost in vague visions to neglect the sufferings lying at his very door. The lovers of humanity were men like Rousseau who were incurable doctrinaires and sentimentalists loving themselves more than anything else in the world, and securing themselves as far as they could against any cold wind in their protected world, and generally intolerable for even their friends to get on with however hard they may have tried.

One critic in a homely phrase remarks that Carlyle felt the pain of the world

as a toothache of his own—and this trite illustration brings home to us more effectively than any ambitiously worded comparison can the ache he suffered at the wrongs endured by his fellowmen. This was the source of his power—that intense imaginative conception of what the other man was feeling. If only for this reason apart from his great prose style, Carlyle deserves to be read today. His pages seem to glow yet from the central heat of his personality. We sympathise with the sufferings of the workman and other types of humanity out in language which besides Carlyle, appear to be not the result of a burning indignation but of a mood of tired and tame protest. The world was to him a terrible reality, but his pity was equal to the terrible reality of the reality around him.

"The world," he said, and this explains his impatience which was ever on edge, "looked often quite spectral to me, as in Regent Street the others night (my nerves being all shattered) quite hideous, discordant, almost informal. I have been at Mrs. Austin's, heard Sydney Smith for the first time guffawing, other persons foraging, jargonizing. To me through these thin cobwebs Death and Eternity sat glaring. Coming homewards along Regent Street, through street walkers, through—Ach Gott! Unspeakable pity swallowed up unspeakable abhorrence of it and of myself. The moon and the serene nightly sky in Sloane Street consoled me a little!

No wonder people found him a little strange. The world for him was not a small place but a vast theatre in which man grabbed with his destiny against a background of immensities to reach out to light and peace at last. There was the motive which actuated men in their age-long struggle, the sense of something behind the veil with the towering heavens above and dark chasms of evil and terror under their feet. In the commonest man Carlyle saw a being in whose soul was enacted a mighty drama whilst he prabbled also with the meanest requirements of physical life. It was for this reason that Carlyle saw in all men something sacred. It is only on such a basis that one can either understand the world or understand men and give them their just dues. There is a glimpse of the true Carlyle in a letter of his to John Sterling:

"Men's very sorrows," he says, "and the tears of one's heart weeps when the eye is dry what is in that either. In an hour, will not death make it all still again? Nevertheless, the old book—Middlebie Burn, as we call it—still leaps into its 'candron' here, gushes clear as crystal through the chasms and dingles of its 'linn' singing me a song with slight variations of score these several thousand years—a song for me better than Pasta's! I look on the sapphire of St. Bees' Head and the Solway mirror from the gable window. I ride to the top of Blaereerv and see all around from Ettrick Pen to Helvellyn, from Tynedale and Northumberland to Cairnsmuir and Ayrshire. Voir c'est avoir. A brave old earth after all, in which as above said, I am content to acquiesce without quarrel and at lowest hold my peace. One night, late, I rode through the village where I was born. The old kirkyard tree, a huge old gnarled ash, was nestling itself softly against the great twilight in the north. A star or two looked out and the old graves were all there, and my father and sister; and God was above us all."

No one can deny after this that Carlyle was a rough old man with no tenderness or feeling for nature, and no sensitiveness for the little memories of life which are meat and drink of ordinary mortals.

And it must be said for Carlyle that the work he exhorted others to do he did himself, and most strenuously. He had a strong sense of citizenship, doing loyally all that was demanded of him for the common good. But what he had most significantly to offer were the words that seemed to roll out from his lips and from his pen with a sombre resonance and a magnitude of inspiration which brings him nearer to our day than he was even to his as now labour

SPORTS

Commentary

COVER-POINT

THE last day of the C.T.C. October meet was so full of incident that I have no hesitation in making it my lead story.

Memories of Mordennis were recalled when Kunj Lata won the Manning Cup with 10.3 on her back. Horses have won races in Ceylon before now with even bigger handicaps but none, with one possible exception, had so much in hand when doing so. The exception is Indian Juggler but in his case he was running well below his class being a country-bred opposed to Arabs.

Kunj Lata's margin of victory was the better part of two lengths but she was pulling double all the way and, had she been given her head as usual as the field turned for home, she would have won by 10 lengths. As it was Sawyer waited till the last furlong, and then came on a wet sail to pass the pacemaker Cosy Corner and win in a common canter.

Comparisons are always odious but, judged by results, I venture to submit, Kunj Lata is, perhaps, the best horse ever to race in Ceylon. The only pity of it is that owing to the present disturbed conditions in India she will not be sent to Calcutta and the opportunity will, consequently, be denied her of repeating on the Indian turf the triumphs that made Orange William the darling of racegoers wherever she ran. I understand that Kunj Lata will not run again this year but she may be seen out in the Governor's Plate at Nuwara Eliya next year before she gets ready for the plums of August.

No comment on the Manning Cup would be complete without reference to the gameness with which Luzon ran her race out to finish third. A mile is probably just a little beyond her compass nor is she of the same class as either Kunj Lata or Cosy Corner but she is, as a money spinner, only second to Kunj Lata.

If the incomparable Kunj Lata was merely emphasising her acknowledged superiority by the ease of her victory, a champion in the making was introduced to the Ceylon racing public when Young Fearless made a winning debut. Ridden with abundant confidence by Roger Eude, the gelding made his own pace over the long journey and the length, to which Royal Flash succeeded to running him, was flattering to the runner-up. Young Fearless was hand-picked by a friend of mine when he was in England, and must go very far. Incidentally, some tempting offers have already been made for him and he may change hands before he is next saddled.

THE next best performance during the afternoon was the fluent victory of Mansur Abdullah at the first time of asking in the intermediate class. He had bags of power in reserve and was eased long before the post was reached. Over a distance of ground the grey is, I think, the equal of any pony in the top class and I, for one, am looking forward to the day when he tackles such giants as Scarlet, Lord Nelson and Mannawi. Mansur Abdullah is now the only pony who has won 4 races so far, and his stakes exceed Rs. 10,000.

The rest of the programme calls for little comment. Sizzler, hitherto regarded as a one-pace horse, showed a remarkable turn of speed in the hands of Apprentice Jockey, B. Perera, raise his first winning flag in Ceylon at the expense of a fast finishing Lullaby. Lord Nelson was not hard put to it to concede over 2 stones to Jahaj Mahal but I did think that both Mannawi and Mr. Colman might have been set alight earlier.

Riding with tons of confidence, Riding Boy Fairweather got Sahara safely home in the opening race and the card was wound up by Jockey Rook helping Najih al Hawa to his first victory.

The favourite Manhattan ran so badly that he did not seem to be the same pony who had, at his last start, beaten such a promising youngster as Shandy.

Ever since racing was re-started in Ceylon the Selvaratnam stable has carried all over before it. So it was during the October meet as well, when this establishment sent out 10 of the 22 winners. Wallis saddled 5 winners and Medhi Hussein three. The leading owner was Mr. Gardiner, who won three races, as did Mr. Singham. Among the Jockeys Len Sawyer was an easy first with 8 winners against Eude's three.

THE Autumn Double will be completed this week when the Cambridgeshire is run at Newmarket over a distance of 9 furlongs. Millions of pounds will change hands as a result of this race, particularly as the winner of the Cesarewitch, Whiteway, is said to have been coupled with a number of horses in the second leg. The recent Victoria Club call-overs have resulted in big bets being struck but from last Friday the Club has put a blanket on divulging the size of the bets, for some unknown reason.

There are over 40 final acceptors for Wednesday's race but it is likely that there will be some defections before the tapes actually lift. Even so, the field will be big enough to make winner-finding a very difficult proposition.

Mindful that the Cesarewitch result bore out the axiom that class must tell, and remembering that three-year-olds have a fine record in the race, I suggest that the three, who fill the bill in both these respects, are Mighty Mahatta, Tite Street and Wild Child. The first two have all along been very strongly supported but I have a hunch, that the filly Wild Child, who was the medium of a big gamble mid-week, may prove the best of the trio. She ran a close third in the one thousand guineas and will have the services of a very good rider in E. Smith. The top-weight Vagabond is the chief French contender and will doubtless, make a strong bid to emulate the record-breaking performance of his compatriot Sayani, who carried top-weight to victory twelve months back. The runner-up last year was Claro and once again this Irish horse will have Gordon Richards, to ride him. The Cambridgeshire like the Derby, has always eluded the champion jockey and I am afraid the bogey will not be laid this year.

[Note by Editor:—These notes were written before the race owing to printing exigencies.]

THE emasculated Indian team, which is on tour in Australia, is now engaged in their second match in the Commonwealth. I am afraid I do not share the optimism of an old friend and former colleague, who recently gave expression to the view that the Indians did make a good start at Perth when they dismissed West Australia for 171 and, without net practice, proceeded to get to within 44 runs of that total on a "sticky dog." I would have been prepared to subscribe to that view myself, had the West Australia team not been so notoriously weak. It contained only one player in Carmody, who might be regarded as being of near-Test standard, and yet the Indians were distinctly outplayed. The fact that they attacked the bowling whenever the opportunity arose is evidence only of the typical Joie De Vivre, with which an Indian always plays his games, and could hardly be regarded as suggestive of a state of parity between the visitors and any of the major state team in Australia.

My fears that the Indians, (being as they are without the services of their sheet-anchor Merchant and their two most prolific run-getters in recent years, Mushtaq Ali and Russi Modi) would be rather out of their depth in Australia have been heightened by what has taken place so far at Adelaide.

Though Bradman naturally towers above the rest of his team-mates, as indeed he does in any world team, South Australia, apart from him, is not nearly so strong as Victoria and New South Wales, and yet the Indians conceded, on the first day, nearly 400 runs and had only three scalps to show for it. The hitherto unknown Niehaus profited by a fielding lapse to gain the distinction of hitting the first century against the tourists; Craig, who opened with him, followed suit with a more restrained hundred; and then Bradman, hitting with all his old fire and power, scored the third century for the state, reaching three figures in a little under 100 minutes.

The valiant Mankad, hero of the Perth match, toiled gamely but in vain and, as the tour progresses, I fear, will realise, as England did last year, the utter futility of tilting at Australia without a barrage of really first class bowlers. A lone hand is of little avail.

The second day of the match saw the Australians indulge in terrific hitting. Bradman showing the way, as usual, with his characteristic pulls. Declaring at a total of just over 500, the state would have had India on the mat, had not Hazare and Mankad retrieved the fortunes of the tourists with an excellent partnership of over 150 for the third wicket. Hazare, in form, is always an attractive batsman but the burden of carrying the team may be too much even for his broad shoulders. Mankad's promotion in the batting order pays tribute to his all-round ability but may put too big a strain on him considering that he is the mainstay of the attack.

The last two days of the match easily provided its purple patch. From the seemingly hopeless position of being nearly 300 runs in arrears with only 4 wickets in hand the tourists recovered so well on Monday that they got to within 67 runs of the South Australian total, thanks chiefly to a captain's innings by Amarnath, who, in the fitness of things, gain the honour of scoring the first century for the tourists.

Apparently not satisfied with this, the tourists proceeded to dismiss 3 Australians, including the mighty Don, for a comparatively paltry 101 before stumps were drawn on the penultimate day.

The match concluded on the following day on a note of sensation and it was only the clock that saved the state from defeat. Once again, it was Mankad who laid the foundation for a possible victory. When wickets were fall-

ing like nine-pins, Mankad was the personification of steadiness and, when he was partnered by Amarnath, the two of them went to expose the weakness of the State attack. They lashed out at the bowling and scored over 150 runs in less than two hours but time was against them. Mankad richly deserved his century, while Amarnath equally deserved to get his second century for the match, a distinction which only just eluded him.

Mankad and Amarnath are without doubt the "stars" of the team but I don't envy them the burden they have to carry.

NEARLY a third of the English League soccer season is now completed and Arsenal is the only unbeaten side in all the Leagues and his naturally at the top of the table. The North London club have accomplished a rare feat in not being beaten in 13 matches and the strength of their defence is indicated by the fact that only 7 goals have been scored against them. A London "Derby", which will be worth going a long way to witness, is next Saturday's clash at Stamford Bridge between Arsenal and Chelsea. For what it is worth, the Pensioners are going down to the sea for a week in training for this match!

AND now for some boxing news. The schools championships to be held this week-end have attracted very good entries and some close fights should be witnessed before the Stubbs Shield is claimed by the champion school.

From school boxing to a world title fight may be a big leap but the date of Joe Louis' next defence of his world heavy weight championship, December 5th, is close enough to expect action in the training camps now, but apparently Louis is not particularly worried about starting his preparation to meet his fellow negro, Jersey Joe Walcott.

Because of its supposed one-sidedness the match has received more adverse criticism than any championship fight of recent memory. Virtually every critic is convinced that the comparatively aged Walcott does not stand an earthly chance against Louis. Neither do they consider that he has done anything in the ring to earn the distinction of being labelled challenger. Louis' own training plans seem to suggest that he does not attach undue importance to the fight.

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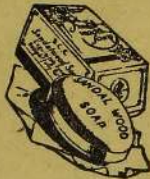
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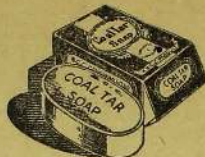
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