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FREEDOM ACHIEVEMENT UNIQUE IN OUR HISTORY

By
Vernon Phelps

CEYLON'S Freedom Agree-
ments with Britain will be
discussed when the House of
Representatives meets on Tues-
day.

The Prime Minister, Mr. D. S. Sena-
nayake in a statement (which dispels all
the doubts raised in certain quarters
that our freedom is a fake) which clar-
ifies the Agreements said: "In a state-
ment in the Parliament of the United
Kingdom and the State Council of Cey-
long on June 18, 1947, it was announced
that as soon as the necessary agree-
ments had been negotiated and conclud-
ed on terms satisfactory to the Govern-
ments of the United Kingdom and Cey-
lon, immediate steps would be taken
to confer upon Ceylon fully responsible
status within the British Commonwealth
of Nations". This phrase means that
the Island will enjoy the status of a
fully sovereign member of the British
Commonwealth of Nations, that is, the
status commonly known as Dominion
Status."

The Premier's statement adds: "Cey-
long has been given exactly the same
status in the Commonwealth as the Do-
minion of Canada, the Commonwealth
of Australia, the Union of South Africa,
New Zealand, and the Dominions of
India and Pakistan. Ceylon will have the
same right to secede as any of the other
Dominions including India and Pakis-
tan."

The story of Ceylon's march from the
bad old days of Crown Colony Govern-
ment to a Dominion is the work for a
historian. But a noteworthy feature of
the Island's evolutionary progress was its
peaceful emancipation from political
bondage. In this respect Ceylon stands
unique. It has, in fact, been cited
by the United Kingdom Government as a
"showpiece of peaceful political pro-
gress."

More than one Opposition leader tried
to raise doubts in the minds of the peo-
ple when, during the General Election,
they described the grant of Dominion
Status to Ceylon as a piece of bluff on
the part of those who had obtained this
freedom for Ceylon.

There are many ways of securing an
objective be it a country's freedom or
something of less consequence. The
revolutionaries are never tired of telling
us that freedom is something that in
never bestowed. To them a country's
freedom has inevitably to be wrested
from the hands of the rulers at the in-
calculable price of human slaughter and
sacrifice.

In less civilized times this was, no
doubt, the popular mode of settling
international disputes. But the lesson
of two World Wars have taught the
world that freedom is the birthright of
every nation.



**DIYA SENA
SENAAYAKE**

It must be admitted to the lasting cre-
dit of those who piloted the political for-
tunes of this country that their vision
enabled them to capture the spirit of a
changing world to secure for Ceylon her
cherished freedom in a manner that is
perhaps, unique in the annals of his-
tory. It is a feat, nay, a service that
the people and the generations yet
unborn will always remember with grati-
tude and admiration.

It is indeed most gratifying that the
country is not unmindful of the signi-
ficance of the freedom it has won. It
was only the other day that a high
Church dignitary, the newly appointed
Bishop of the Jaffna Diocese of the
Church of South India declared that
the Christian Church in Ceylon felt
secure by the establishment of a res-
ponsible Government in this country.
The Bishop added that he believed that
the Christian Church "could face the
future without doubts or misgivings."

Even more significant has been the re-
action of the man-in-the-street who
firmly believes that freedom is but the
means to a richer and fuller life.

That the Government is keenly con-
scious of this urge on the part of the
people for the fruits of freedom in a
tangible form and not by the mouthing
of mere shibboleths, was made clear
when the Home Minister, Sir Oliver
Goonetilleke, declared the other day:
"Ceylon is full of the breath of freedom.
There is a greater urgency today in the
hearts of all men and women to experi-
ence a richer and fuller life. It is the
responsibility of the Government to see
that this fuller life is achieved."

A great task awaits the Government
and the people of this country. It is
the task of making a success of freedom.

With an united effort we can still
show the world that despite the parry
and thrust of our political conflicts—the
symptoms of the growing pains of a
young but robust democracy—we can
make a model of our freedom so that it
will be as much sought after a thing of
beauty as the scenic wonders of our
Island home.



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BRANCHES :—

RATNAPURA &
KURUNEGALA

Unemployment and Bribery Allegations

By

Maha Amarasingha

A SERIOUS allegation has been made by Mr. Pieter Keuneman, M.P., that Employment Exchanges in the Island are hot-beds of bribery. He has rightly pointed out that the question of unemployment involves not merely a group of people who are without means of livelihood but a far deeper and wider human aspect. If the charge made by Mr. Keuneman can be maintained there is no doubt that the Government should take drastic action to punish with the utmost severity all those responsible for extorting what can only be called blood money from the people.

Human degradation cannot reach a lower level than when it demands money from the unemployed before they are to be provided with the means by which they could maintain themselves and their families above starvation level. There is no doubt that the unemployment problem has gone beyond the stage when Government could satisfy itself with surveys and reports on the position.

I have no doubt myself that the Employment Exchanges are not functioning in the way they should. The intentions of Government are not being met by the kind of organisation that is now available.

A few months ago I telephoned a high official in the Colombo Exchange and asked him for the latest figures on the unemployment position. I received the stunning reply: "I am not sure what the latest figure is but I remember there

was a reference in the Communist Party journal, the "Forward"! Imagine an officer of the Department of Labour whose desk is in the Government Employment Exchange in Lotus Road referring me to the Communist Party journal for figures on the employment position!

I telephoned the Secretary to the Minister for Labour, Industries and Commerce, Mr. Raju Coomaraswamy and related the incident. Mr. Coomaraswamy promptly gave me the figure of 19,000 which at that time was the correct total according to the lists supplied by the Exchanges in various parts of the Island.

It is no surprise to me that the employment position has gone from bad to worse. Officers of the type mentioned above who can make such stupid remarks show themselves to be thoroughly incompetent and there is no reason why the U.N.P. Government and its Cabinet should have to answer to the people for such incompetence.

Incompetence must not be tolerated in any section of the Public Service. If a man cannot do the job assigned to him he must either be removed and placed somewhere where he will feel more at home or he must be drummed out of the Public Service. That is the only way in which the U.N.P. Government can get things done and that is the only way by which it can accomplish its various plans and go to the country with a clean record of achievement and progress. Any

effort to save an individual public officer at the expense of the interests of thousands of the people of this country will mean the betrayal of the people in favour of a single individual.

Mr. Keuneman's charges have a certain substance of truth. I appeal to the Government to make immediate investigations and clean up the Employment Exchanges so that any of the adventurers who ruthlessly exploit the situation caused by the lack of employment in the country should be found out and adequately exposed.

It is well known that in many firms which employ large groups of workers as well as in Government Institutions various officers in different positions of authority have been known to ask for and receive one month's wages from every new hand who is taken on. If this bribe is not given and the man is employed on the orders of a superior officer, then that man does not survive the intrigue that begins. It has been the practice to frame-up such workers and have them dismissed for alleged thefts.

A case of this kind was reported to the then Minister for Communications and Works, and when the papers about the inquiry were sent up it was found

that a prima facie case had been made against the worker in question. The rules of administration lay down that it would not be in the interests of discipline for a Minister to interfere with the decision of a Head of Department on matters of this kind. The dismissed labourer however persisted, and he spoke with such passion and again and again returned to his charge that steps were taken to unravel the mystery. It was found that the Head of the Department in question had been deliberately misdirected and that there was no doubt that there had been a conspiracy against the labourer until it culminated in his being dismissed on a bogus charge of theft. That man was exonerated but is still not at work—this time the Head of the Department is apparently trying to exculpate himself?

It is to be hoped that the new public Service Regulations will be interpreted in such a way as to make it possible for the under-dog to have his grievances inquired into by the highest authorities of the land and in a spirit of justice and goodwill. Heads of Departments should also realise that the old attitude of regarding a labourer as a nuisance who should be silenced at the earliest possible opportunity should be abandoned.

Mr. Keuneman would be doing something practical if he would present the findings of his inquiries and other evidence that he gets to the Minister for Labour and Social Services the Hon. Mr. T. B. Jayah. Merely capitalising them for political purposes would be as much a betrayal as the offences he condemns.

Traders Say: "HAWKERS WILL MAKE US SHUT SHOPS"

SHOP-KEEPERS and owners are up in arms—especially the Ceylon retailers. To their strenuous struggle against competition by Indian traders is added a menace from their own people, the hawkers.

"The municipal Councillors, who voted for the hawkers were trying to catch votes", said a trader to me. "But they forget that it is to us that they will come for financial backing for their elections. They have sold their birthright for a mess of hawker's porridge!"

The spectacle of hawkers blocking up the entrances of shops and stealing a march over them with competitive prices is "downright cheekiness", according to another trade.

A third trader told me that some years ago fruit-dealers, who sold apples and grapes in little boxes on the Pettah pavements paid him a monthly rental for the lease of the front portion of the shop. "It's all different now."

The barrow-boy idea has caught on with vengeance. With the release of military goods—they are dirt cheap, in fact—the enterprising hawkers have found the barrow a convenient base for his trade of these articles.

"Even if they must sell on barrows, why the heck cant they keep moving?" exclaimed an irate trader. "Isn't there a police bye-law against loitering?"

"Why must we suffer so", they ask. "What wrong have we done?"

Another argued on an ethical viewpoint. "We shall not mind the hawkers selling their wares if they will do it honestly. But is it honourably for them to shut out another businessman to fatten themselves?"

The next step, the traders believe, will be the granting of textile licenses to the hawkers. "That will finish us." We shall have to close shop then."

A REGULAR Pettah patron thinks differently. "The Pettah traders have fluced us too long. We have not forgotten the way they profiteered during the war; when they advertised much-needed goods, and said 'Sorry, sold out' when poor people like us went for our purchases, and sold those goods at blackmarket prices to their richer patrons."

"This is all a 'karmic' effect on these profiteering traders. The hawker has come to our rescue at last. He gives us everything we want at cheap prices. The hawker is the poor man's friend."

"Why should the traders quarrel over the profits made by these poor hawkers. Rather than do that, they should open their eyes and reduce their prices immediately. I am all for the hawkers—at least as a Damocles' sword hanging over the heads of our blood-sucking traders."

AND here is the hawkers' point of view—pointed and pithy: "Our big men complain that we are lazy and lack business enterprise. When we actually make an honest start, they create such a furore."

The battle goes on.....

By Mohammed

Choice of a Lifetime



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BEWARE OF IMITATIONS



MR. CHURCHILL
(eating his hat)



MAHATMAJI
(like the brook, he goes on)

"THE nauseating and humiliating spectacle of the one-time inner Temple lawyer, now seditious faqir, striding half-naked up the steps of the Vice-roy's Palace." So said Mr. Winston Churchill of Mahatma Gandhi with contempt many years ago. It was quite an unjustified remark on a venerated personality.

Now, I think he is eating his own words and hat at the same time! The Mahatma goes on like the Brook in the poem.

• * •

Shifting Statues

WITH the Colombo Municipal Council approving of the shifting of the War Memorial from Galle Face (it was never there since the war) to Cinnamon Gardens, the idea of removing more statues to more appropriate places is forthcoming.

A reader thinks that the statue of the late Mr. F. E. Senanayake should be shifted to the Parliament lawn, to stand in company with the statues of Sir Ponnambalam Arunachalam and Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan—his contemporaries.

There is no grouse about the Charles de Soysa statue which stands so close to the Eye Hospital, though some think that Sir Solomon Dias Bandaranaike's statue will be more appropriate in the Racecourse or at Queen's House.

There was once a suggestion that the statue of Sir Ponnambalam Arunachalam should stand on the premises of the Ceylon University as Sir Ponnambalam was the originator of the movement for a Ceylon University. He sat only for a short time, as an ex-officio member in the Legislative Council, during his tenure of office as Registrar General.

But let's not quarrel about it. So long as we have remembered our great men, it is enough.

• * •

Legislative Attendance

WHEN the last State Council was in existence, a constituent was in the habit of ascertaining whether the member for his constituency did attend the meetings of the Council. "We are not paying them for nothing", he told me, "if they, some at least, cannot speak, let them at least attend the meetings. Votes are essential, especially on matters affecting our constituency."

Mr. A. E. Goonesinha, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour, once claimed that he attended every meeting of the State Council. There is no doubt that he may keep up the same record in the Parliament. How many of our members of Parliament will be able to

boast of a hundred per cent. record at the end of their terms?

In the last Legislative Council eight members attended all the forty-five meetings of the Council. One of them was our Premier who is listed in the honoured roll with Sir James Peiris, Messrs. N. H. M. Abdul Cader, E. W. Perera, C. W. W. Kannangara, T. B. Jayah, D. B. Jayatilaka and M. J. Cary. Many are not living now, or are out of Parliament, except Mr. Jayah, who is Minister of Labour.

• * •

Municipal Guides

DO you remember the time when there were Municipal guides? It was a common sight those days to see these men escort European visitors round the city. They are no more now. The tourist companies have taken on the responsibility and guiding is not so profitable—to a profit-seeking Municipality.

Mr. H. E. Newnham, when Mayor of Colombo, once pooh-poohed the whole idea. "You see the guides get between the passenger and the motor car and they are entirely unnecessary," he once said. "My impression is that Guides are a dying industry like the Civil Service!"

Mr. Newnham also related an incident to a party of us; of a Municipal guide, who took some Australian visitors round Colombo. The guide pointed out Mr. E. G. Adamally's palatial bungalow and assured the visitors that it was the residence of the Maharajah of Colombo!

But the city continued to have guides for some more years. Dr. E. A. Coorey and Mr. C. H. Z. Fernando, I remember, used to have memorable passages-at-arms with the Mayor in defence of the guides. "I do not see any reason to deprive a poor man from earning an honest livelihood", said Dr. Coorey in a fighting speech when a proposal was made to abolish the guide system.

• * •

Birth Control and M.P.

WITH European and U.S. scientists clashing with padres over the rights and wrongs of birth control, a minor war has also broken out in Ceylon—in the meetings of students either in school literary associations or in associations of their own.

It is silly to allow school children to discuss so weighty a subject, however broadly one may view the question of sex education. The Mother Superior of a certain girls' school in Colombo should be complimented on her firm refusal to allow any such subject to be discussed by its school debating society.

I remember Mr. H. Sri Nissanka, K.C., M.P. presiding at a meeting of the Colombo Y.M.B.A. Lyceum about seventeen years ago, when the subject for debate was birth control. Mr. Sri Nissanka rightly refused to allow such a subject to be discussed but democratically allowed the house to have the final say. It was only by a majority of two meagre votes that the house decided to adjourn!

So They Said

HERE are more interesting quotes from speeches made by our public men and women during the last week-end:

"The youth of today are becoming a prey to wrong ideas. Events in the country point to a tottering of moral standards and values."

—Mr. T. N. Wynne-Jones.

"Already the bells of the elephant of retrograde steps in educational matters are heard in the distance. It remains to be seen how far back this elephant will go."

—Mr. C. W. W. Kannangara.

"In over 30 years as a doctor I have always tried to serve the community and I regard this (nomination as a Senator) as a new opportunity for service. That is the only thought in my mind."

—Dr. Frank Gunasekera.

Mrs. Selina Peries Speaks

OUT of the wilderness into which she had forced herself comes the voice of Mrs. Selina Peries, wife of the Leftwing Dictator, Dr. N. M. Perera.

From the platform of her new-found boss Dr. Colvin R., she has made a declaration on the national flag. She has said that "any national flag for Ceylon should be symbolic of a struggle."

Poor unhappy woman. She is always speaking of struggles. Perhaps some artist would be kind enough to depict two women tearing each other's hair while two learned Doctors of Philosophy try to sort out the tangle. Surely that should be sufficient symbolism for the present!

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Friday, November 21st, 1947

LEFTWING VERBAL GYMNASTICS

Leftwing politicians and the evening paper which has virtually become their official organ, looked foolish after the release of the Heads of Agreement between the Government of Great Britain and Mr. D. S. Senanayake. When so momentous and epoch-making an announcement was made by the Prime Minister, the "Times of Ceylon's" political reporter went scurrying to his party bosses to find out what great utterances they had to make on the subject. As usual, the Leftwing leaders could smell nothing but rats.

Mr. Keuneman put on his pet gramophone record on naval bases. It is seriously believed in Communist circles that Keuneman is a genius on defence strategy and knows all about naval and air bases. His knowledge of strategy is profound and his skill has been demonstrated by the ease with which he led the C.P. into the political wilderness! Young Mr. Keuneman knew so much about the

strength of his own party and that of the L.S.S.P. that he summarily rejected Dr. N. M. Perera's offer to join forces and form a Left Front. He then felt that the five-years of grace obtained by the absence of the L.S.S.P. leaders had given the C.P. unquestioned leadership of the working class. Now he is, we hope, a wiser man. But is he sad? Not a bit. He is still cock-a-hoop and strutting about, safely away from other Leftwing areas—in Jaffna! That is the background, and against that we can judge the value of his solemn comments on the Ceylon Independence Act. He has said that the leftwing parties must unite (when the L.S.S.P. said so he not only rejected the offer but betrayed a confidence by announcing it in his party organ, "Forward"). He has said that the U.N.P. Cabinet will mortgage away the freedom of Ceylon to British Imperialism! The publication of the full texts of the agreements immediately after Mr. Keuneman's irresponsible charge would have shown the country the utterly reckless manner in which leftwing politicians make pronouncements on public matters.

That other Pundit, Dr. N. M. Perera, was no less brilliant in playing to the gallery. He peered into the crevices of the Act and found that it did not say that Ceylon would be outside the British Empire. Therefore, his gigantic brain ticked to the

conclusion that Ceylon was still tied to the apron-strings of Britain, and that these could not be untied except by leftwing fingers trained by the High-Command in India in the gentle art of producing general chaos.

He intended to create the fear that the harmless agreements (already published) signed by Mr. Senanayake are Irrevocable. For a Doctor of Philosophy and for one who is reputed to have studied Constitutional Law, this was precious poor reasoning. It revealed a numbskull attitude of mind. No "agreement" in the world, between any two nations, is irrevocable. The only "irrevocable" thing is the loss of reputation for clear thinking that Dr. Perera has acquired. Dr. Perera talks in a tone which suggests that he has already assumed leadership of the Opposition, and assumes also that the "House" will reject the proposals! This is tall talk. We saw the relative strength of parties recently and there is not the slightest doubt that there will be a majority of patriots over Indo-philis and Russo-files who will pass the Agreements in the House of Representatives.

As for that other Doctor of Philosophy, he was not even clever. He spoke of the Independence Bill as a "carrot dangled before us". We regret we have no carrots to give him but find comfort in the fact that as long as he is here we shall not lack a donkey in politics.

U. S. SPENDING £1,600,00,00 On Scientific Research

IN 52 United States Government establishments 30,000 scientists use 2,000,000,000 dollars worth of equipment to study problems from disease-resistant tomatoes to cancer and atomic energy. This year public science expenditures will exceed 600,000,000 dollars, public financing of industrial and university research 400,000,000 dollars. Private research outlays will amount to slightly less than 600,000,000 dollars.

To orient this huge science activity John R. Steelman, head of the President's Scientific Research Board, issued recommendations for reorganization of the Government research structure, contained in a report entitled "Administration for Research" and made public early in October. It is the third in a series of five reports to the President on Science and Public Policy.

"Today, the Nation is spending more than ever before on scientific research and development", the report says. "Now, we are attempting to orient this program toward the manifold benefits it may bring to mankind in health, in welfare, and in an improved standard of living, without neglecting its continued application to the needs of national security. The increased size and importance of the program and the enhanced position of science in our daily lives, requires that the Government take steps to assure the most efficient use of this new machinery for the common weal."

SUGGESTED STEPS

The report proposes the following specific steps:

1. Creation of an Interdepartmental Committee on Scientific Research and Development, appointed by the President and advisory in nature to secure an over-all view of and to maintain the greatest possible return from scientific research.

2. Creation of a unit in the Bureau of the Budget to review Federal science programs in relation to total Government activity.

3. Designation by the President of one member of his staff to have primary responsibility for scientific liaison with scientists and their learned societies, with the Committees of Congress, and with the scientific sections of the Executive establishment.

4. Establishment by Congress of a National Science Foundation within the administrative framework of the Government, with half its members drawn from Government agencies having a major role in scientific research and development, and half from among the most eminent scientists and educators outside the Government. The Foundation would be primarily concerned with grants in support of basic research to be conducted by colleges and universities and with co-ordination of grants for basic research made by other Federal agencies.

In discussing in detail the many aspects and problems of the national science program, the 324-page report includes other specific recommendations such as, for example, that Congressional appropriations for research and development cover three to five years instead of the normal one year, and that increased salaries up to 15,000 dollars a year be paid scientists.

The report emphasizes that formulation of general policies does not imply centralization of operating decisions or a new layer of control. "It is the task of the Government to orient this huge and many-faceted program toward the greatest good of the people as a whole," it declares. "What is needed is a means of setting general goals towards which each segment of the whole effort can be oriented."—(USIS).

AMERICAN FARMERS SPENDING MORE ON MACHINERY

AMERICAN farmers spent approximately 800 million dollars in 1946 for new farm machinery other than tractors, according to current estimates. This is about twice as much as their annual average expenditure for these machines in 1935-39. It is almost 12 times as much as the farmers spent for this type of equipment in 1932.

Farmers' cash outlay for new machinery last year totalled a little over five per cent. of their net income. In 1935-39, they averaged an expenditure of between seven and eight per cent. of their net income for new machinery. The U.S. Department of Agriculture says that if more equipment had been available during 1946, American farmers probably would have bought more. Nevertheless, they now have enough equipment to do about twice as much work by machine as they could before the war. They also have nearly twice as many tractors.

On the average, farmers are getting about 2½ times the pre-war prices for farm products. Accordingly, only about half as much farm output is needed compared to pre-war, to buy most kinds of machinery. Running expenses for tractors also have gone up far less than feed costs since 1939.—(USIS).

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PILOTLESS TRANS-ATLANTIC FLIGHT A REALITY

A FOUR-ENGINE, Douglas Skymaster of the type that daily crosses oceans, on the night of September 22, flew the 2,400 miles from Newfoundland to Brize Norton airfield 40 miles west of London England, in normal trans-Atlantic time. Yet the flight made worldwide headlines: There was no pilot at the controls. The plane was one of the few with which the United States Army has been experimenting in all-weather push-button flying.

In contrast to remote radio control from the ground or from mother planes, the push-button craft operates on its own accord. The pilot's place is taken by a series of mechanical brains, self-controlled mechanisms, pre-set to do the proper thing at the proper time. Destination, flight mileage and altitude, fuel consumption, take-off and landing runs, retracting and lowering of flaps and wheels—all these actions are predetermined mathematically and the fully automatic pilot is set accordingly. When the motors are warmed up, a single push-button releases the

mechanism and the plane takes off for its flight.

On the long trans-Atlantic journey corrections for wind-drift were necessary. Radio beams emitted from surface vessels helped the mechanical brain to correct the course. Likewise, a radio beam outside Brize Norton airport initiated landing procedure.

In all, five different radio waves were necessary to guide the pilotless craft. But from take-off to cutting the engines after landing, no human hand touched a single control. The crew had as easy a time aboard as a trans-Atlantic passenger.

Further development of the mechanism is expected to lighten the pilot's job on long flights, guide him more safely through all types of weather. Military value is limited since no enemy would willingly supply the radio beams needed on the receiving end.—(USIS.)

★ ★ ★

NEW DEVICE TO ELIMINATE DISTURBANCES IN LONG-DISTANCE TELEPHONE CALLS

STATIC and distortion are being eliminated from long-distance

telephone and radio phone calls by a vacuum tube developed in the Bell Telephone Laboratories. Radio and electric waves which carry the sound have always been subject to distortion and to static, with disturbances added every time amplification in relay stations was needed to bridge distances.

The new tube operates on an ingenious principle called "pulse code modulation." It is a refinement of pulse modulation which breaks up voice into 24,000 parts and transmits only 2,000 of these voice fragments. The parts eliminated contain 11/12th of static and distortions, while the ear is incapable of discerning the rapid interruptions.

The new tube does still more. It translates the voice fragments into a code, composed of seven different "on" and "off" pulses, much in the manner of Morse dots and dashes. The various combinations, decoded in the receiver, reproduce faithfully all voice inflections. The code is produced by guiding an electronic beam inside the tube through a plate perforated in the seven pulse pattern.

Bell engineers, who are still experimenting with pulse code modulation, think it will in time become an important improvement in the telephone network, and probably also for the transmission of radio programs, wire-photo, and teletype signals.—(USIS.)

★ ★ ★

PAINLESS INJECTIONS

TO take the pain out of injections by hypodermic needle or syringe United States anesthetists have designed an instrument the size of a flash-light and "limited only by the ingenuity of man". The instrument, called hypodermic spray, blasts liquid injections by air-pressure through the skin without causing pain and in most cases without a mark of penetration. Dosage can be controlled at will. The idea of the hypodermic spray grew out of war experiences with bomb blasts which sometimes sent tar and pieces of steel through the skin of those nearly without leaving a trace.—(USIS.)

PHYSICIAN, HEAL THYSELF

BADLY afflicted with newspaper blindness and pachydermatic epidermal tissue rash is beetle browed dark skinned leftist tub-thumper Colvin R. de Silva. The diseases are of recent origin and are baffling Red Silva's medical advisers. Early manifestation of the myopic condition came when Dr. de Silva was handed four or five letters published in local newspapers and side-lined in blue by his No. 1 henchman asking for a forthright declaration of B.L.P. policy in regard to Indian immigration into Ceylon.

The soap boxer took the newspapers into his hands but to the amazement of the henchman said "Why have you circled these blank spaces in blue?"

"Blank spaces, me hat," said the henchman. "Surely you can see that in these so called blank spaces are open letters to you."

"No, comrade. I'm afraid I see nothing but blanks", replied the Doctor.

Subject to this same paralysing blindness was letter after letter calling for a declaration of policy published day after day in the press and pushed under the Red's nose. Pleading, challenging, threatening, the writers strove hard to draw out the Doctor. But all to no avail. Stone blind he remained. "I see nothing", he wailed.

Party sympathisers raddled round their decision to counteract the temporary malaise has just been announced. The Doctor is to have a Secretary; A secretary who could read him all anti-left political literature. (The Doctor can of course, read quite easily any pro-left jargon). The secretary is to whisper sweetly into Colvin's ear, coating the pill and muffling the ever increasing rumble in the Wellawatte-Galkissa electorate over the Indian issue.

By
"Rex"

The hat is being passed round for funds. Into this hat, I will gladly put a year's salary for a Secretary for I feel strongly that the Doctor needs a Secretary badly. May the secretary lighten the Doctor's darkness and may even he prove to the blind man that public opinion can snowball dangerously if issues are not faced! I will also pay two year's salary to the Secretary if a declaration of B.L.P. views on immigration is forthcoming within a fortnight.

The secretary can incidentally anoint the Doctor with turtle oil four times a day. May be this will help to rid him (the Doctor) of his thick skin.

★ ● ★

COLOUR BAR

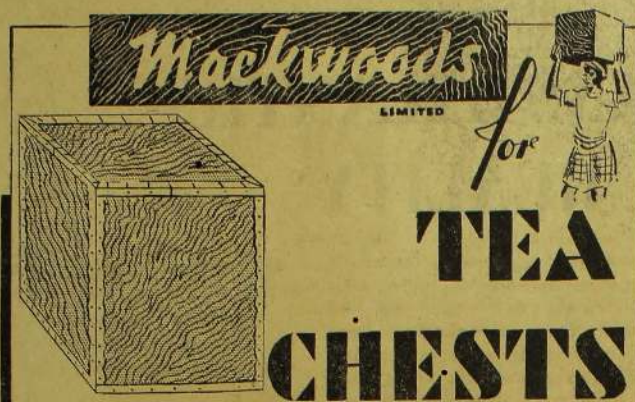
TO turn now to another theme. Those who want world revolution believe that after this revolution the workers of the will be one large family of brothers. I am rather intrigued by this promise. Is it possible that a dark hued easterner and say, for instance, some well connected American will work side by side, draw the same pay, and enjoy the same privileges. But why talk of any easterner. Let me be more precise. Will a man like Dr. Colvin R. de Silva himself be treated on the same footing as the afore-said American? The revolution may come owing to the workers and the workers only. But a pre-requisite successful world revolution is the abolition of racial and colour prejudice. Everyone knows how strong colour prejudice is in America—God's own country—and elsewhere. Our friends of the Bolshevik Leninist Party would, therefore, do well to devise ways and means of abolishing the colour bar before they start dreaming of world revolutions, agrarian otherwise.



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SPORTS

Commentary

by
COVER-POINT

THRILLING finishes sandwiched in between runaway victories ushered in the C.T.C. November meet last Saturday.

Interest in the racing itself never flagged, though the results did not always follow the money. In the absence of a class 1 race, horses in the intermediate class took pride of place and the big field of 13, which faced the starter in the *Hoseberry Stakes*, sorted itself out in the end into a quartette which battled almost in line past the post. Victory was claimed in the end by that very consistent English mare *Profile* but Sawyer had to ride his hardest to get home. When *Angel Gold* and *Golden Sapphire* had brought the field round the turn for home a few lengths clear of the field it looked, momentarily, as if the race lay between them but, once in the straight, Sawyer brought *Profile* on the outside and soon got upsides with the leaders. *Golden Sapphire* compounded at this stage but *Profile* had yet another challenger to tackle in *Peace Talk*, on whom *Foley* rode one of his typical late finishes only to lose by a head.

For a debutant *Golden Sapphire* carried a packet of money but was obviously in need of a race, and is bound to be an early winner.

If *Golden Sapphire* let down his supporters, his full brother, *Golden Reign*, made absolutely no mistake in the senior division of the *Schofield Plate*. This entire had come out to Ceylon along with *Luzon*, *Peace Talk*, *Darkello* and company but sore shins had prevented him making his debut till the last day of the October meet, when he finished fifth in a race won by his stablemate *Sizzler*. Regarded by his connections as the best of the bunch, *Golden Reign* had obviously benefited by his earlier run and after *Night Time* had flattered for a while, came right away from the field to win cantering. It will not be long before he joins his former stablemates in the higher class. The start in this race was delayed by over 10 minutes by the antics of *Seasprite*, who just wouldn't line up. Later on, *Sagittaria*, who had come under starter's orders, returned to the paddock, having slightly injured herself. After all this delay, the start was a ragged one.

The Junior section of the *Schofield Plate* was reserved for Riding Boys and gave *Clarendon* his first acquaintance with the winner's enclosure. Ridden out in front, *Clarendon* did not fold up when challenged and had over 3 lengths to spare at the finish.

The big race for Arabs served to emphasise what a great mare *Miss Irene* is. After *Badir Zaina* and *Ta'an Walid* had made the pace a scorcher early on, *Miss Irene* came under a wet sail to win pulling up by 4 lengths in timing, which was only a second off the record. Like her stable-mate *Golden Flake*, weight means nothing to *Miss Irene*, who carried 10.1 as though it was a feather.

The *Badulla Plate* for class 3 Arabs was run in two divisions. In the first, *Shandy* made such hacks of the field that he must be sent up without delay, while the second division brought to light a very promising youngster in *Itimad Jubayir*, who followed up his second, last month, to *Shandy* by winning in a tight finish in which a sheet could have covered the first four.

In the fitness of things the curtain was run down on the day's proceedings with as fine a bit of riding as has been seen for a long time. *Ranjit* had the market call in the *Jeddah Stakes* but, after being well placed till 100 yards out, faltered, and was passed by both *Khalaf Dalsha* and *Khalaf Janet*. The race seemingly lay between these two, when *Samaranayake* seized, with both hands, the opening made when *Ranjit* fell back and shot his mount, *Najaiman Sami*, through to win cleverly by a length. It was a rousing finish to an enjoyable afternoon's sport, in which the *Selvaratnam-Sawyer* combination again stole all the thunder.

And now to cricket. After being outplayed by New South Wales, the Indians played their first semi-representative

match in the Commonwealth, the Australian team, though led by Bradman and including, as it does, Keith Miller, Dooland and Brown, is still not anywhere near full Test strength and yet the tourists arrived, on the first day of the match, at a stage when they had 7 of their best batsmen out for a meagre 180 odd and it was due to the stubbornness of their last two men that they were able to finish up the first day with the fairly respectable position of having nearly 300 runs on the board. Perhaps the most heartening feature of the match so far has been *Gul Mohamed's* success as a batsman and the manner in which he steadfastly refrained from hanging out the same tentative bat to outswingers, which has cost his colleagues so many wickets. Until the Indians can overcome this fatal tendency to chase a ball wide off the stumps, their batting will always be suspect. When the match was continued on Saturday the Indians took their total to 325 and then the chief interest centred on whether Don Bradman would get his century of centuries.

After Brown and Rogers had been cheaply dismissed, Bradman and Miller came together and quickly collared the bowling. Bradman as usual took command and treated the Indian attack with scant respect. He raced to his half century in as many minutes and with in the 90s in under two hours. At this stage he was tied down for a short spell by two overs of immaculate length by Mankad, to whom Victor Richardson again paid high tribute when he said that it called for a really great bowler to keep Bradman subdued. I was listening in to Radio Australia, when Bradman got to his hundred and the applause, which greeted his performance, was so vociferous that I was compelled to take my earphones off. An indication of how keen all Australia was on Bradman getting his 100th century can be gauged from the fact that Radio Australia actually missed a race commentary from Randwick to keep listeners tuned in to the Sydney relay.

When the match was resumed on Monday after week-end rain, the glorious uncertainties of cricket were very much in evidence. With 6 wickets in hand, the stage seemed set for a huge Australian score but Sohoni almost immediately found his length and the Combined team could muster only 38 runs between their last six batsmen.

It was then India's turn to belie expectations. An opening partnership of nearly 70 gave promise of a big Indian total but half the side was out for the addition of only another 70 odd runs to the score. It was then that Kishenchand and Adikhari came on the scene and staged a great recovery when the match entered its final phase. Kishenchand batted for nearly 140 minutes without giving the semblance of a chance and his score of 63 not out gave him a total of 138 for the match without once losing his wicket. Just after the 300 was sent on the board Amarnath made a bold declaration, leaving the Australians 150 minutes to score 250 runs. Considering that Bradman, Brown and Harvey were in the team, it was not an impossible task that was set the Combined team and Brown and Rogers, who opened, started so confidently scoring 50 runs in 32 minutes that victory hove into sight. But with Brown's dismissal at 60, Mankad came into his own. Varying his pace, flight and length as only he knows how to do, Mankad accounted for the next six batsmen, the great Bradman included. An 8th wicket partnership between Harvey and Dooland, both of whom hit out grandly, nearly robbed the Indians of victory but Mankad was not to be denied and India ran out winners by 47 runs.

★
IN Ceylon, the inter-club tournament has been resumed and last Sunday the *Tamil Union* showed that they will again be a factor to reckon with when they made short work of the *Quidnuncs*. The match was a personal triumph for S. Coomaraswamy, who followed up an excellent bowling performance of which brought him seven wickets with an elegant 70 not out which gave the *Tamils* a runaway victory.

Arts & Letters By Quintus Delilkhan

THE LIVING NOVEL

THIS interesting volume of choice and penetrating criticism cover very wide ground. It is the work of an author who has ranged widely over many fields and who has a very striking mastery of his complex material. "The Living Novel" by V. S. Pritchett (Colombo Book Centre) is not a continuous story of the novel but it is a book which by a sensitive and sensible method brings us into close touch with the great novelists, and some small ones, reviving in our minds the memories of old books and the thrills we got out of them, and giving us strict but illuminating evaluations of the authors whose work we have enjoyed.

Some of these essays by Mr. Pritchett have appeared already in "The New Statesman" but they have been enlarged, and we may presume, rendered more elaborate and interesting in the process of preparation for publication in book form. The result is a series of studies of the utmost fascination in which Mr. Pritchett makes us realise how important is the possession of insight and a critical faculty to enable us to separate the chaff from the wheat, to discover the purpose in the creation of character and to study the extraordinary subtleties inherent in the art of the novelist. Here is no solemn canon of the novelists' art but rather rich glimpses into the mind and methods of many novelists by one who feels himself on very familiar ground, and we are left with the impression that Mr. Pritchett is a very safe guide in discovering what really constitutes a good novel. We see new meanings in the great writers, and the standard of judgment applied to them is modern. Altogether this is fine book to read, mark and inwardly digest as the comments are throughout illuminating in a high degree.

★ ● ★

MR. PRITCHETT has found that the approach of the general reader to the "standard" novelists is somewhat faulty. They have been regarded as authors who were writing "for critics, for literary historians, for students or for leisured persons of academic tastes, and people who read only the best authors usually let one know it. We had easily forgotten", he adds, "that the masters, great and small, remembered or neglected, were the freshest, the most original, the most important and living novelists of their time; that they stood above their contemporaries and survived them, because they were more readable, more entertaining, more suggestive and incomparably more able than the common run of novelists. The forms of the novel are various, but it has enormously developed the field of its curiosity; new country has been subjugated in every generation; and the masters are those who have first invaded and liberated and added new territory. Let us admit that changes in style, method and belief often stand between us and the immediate enjoyment of the great novelists; but these barriers become unimportant when we perceive that the great are the great, not only because of their inherent qualities, but because they were the writers who were most sensitive to the situation of their time. They are, in the finer sense, contemporary". This is as fine a defence of the reason for going back to the standard authors as one can find in recent literary criticism. The great novelists like Tolstoy, Balzac, Scott, Dickens and others have had a vision of life which is true for all time. They saw into the essential realities of human nature which contained very few dark places for them. They were able to track the soul to its last retreats, and hence they have a message and a revelation about life for every age. We would be limiting our own experience in cutting them off from our reading as if they had ceased to be of interest for the present generation of readers. The really great novelists have their work rooted in life which is an inexhaustible wellspring of ideas, but the writers of the secondary order have their work derived from literary conventions. They might become fashionable with a clique or a coterie but they pass away with the

change of the intellectual temper of their devotees. The great writer appeals to the mass of men, and he survives all changes of fashion because he has the weight, substance and authority which enables him to survive. The moral of all this is that from time to time, we must go back to the great masters in order to make our own vision of life clear, sane and strong in accordance with theirs. We can neglect this only at our peril.

In an interesting article on Fielding, Mr. Pritchett maintains that he is the ancestor of the English novel. He sees considerable affinity between the pages of Fielding's books and Dickens, Thackeray, Meredith even, and more strangely Kipling, Galsworthy and Woodhouse. Fielding's interests in his own day are very much the interests of these novelists who were moved to write of the tendencies of the age and to correct them. The English novel has been more or less didactic. Fielding disliked many aspects of the life of his day, its cruelties, shams and villainies. He was a man with a hearty appetite for life, and in a very real sense, he shared in the life of his day and learnt from it and so wrote about it vividly and unforgettably. All his writing had a definite social purpose. "When Fielding and Richardson", says Mr. Pritchett, "filled their novels with abducted heiresses, Tammany law, bribed judges, faked weddings, duels in Hyde Park, with squalid fights between half-naked women in Gin Alley or on the village commons; with scoundrelly nincompoops, bailiffs and middlemen from the Coffee House and the Court, they were not amusing themselves with the concoctions of artificial comedy. They were attacking the criminal violence and corruption that underlay the elegance of their time". This exactly what Dickens did in all the copious writing which so terribly depicted the abuses of his day, and pricked the conscience of England to solve the social problem which presented so many appalling features for her statesman who had the power to legislate for reform the existing evils which were sapping the foundations of the national life. The novel in this aspect is not merely a means of serving the amusement of the reader who has some idle time to fill in pleasantly. The reader can be amused as much as he likes. The caricatures of Dickens are undeniably amusing. But behind this mask of amusement lies a serious purpose.

It is only in the pages of a book like "The Living Novel" that one realises what a prodigious amount of talent has gone to the making of the novel in most countries. Russia is an unknown terrain of the mind to us until we realise the Russian character through the work of its great novelists. Someone asked Arnold Bennett in what order he would place the great novelists of the world, and he promptly replied that in his opinion the first was a Russian, the second was a Russian, the third was a Russian and went on till about a dozen when he was interrupted as carrying the matter too far. But whatever their place in the hierarchy of novel writing it cannot be denied that the Russians have enormously influenced all writers and readers and made their country find a place on the map of the world mind. Great thinkers who write their philosophies and live on the heights appeal only to the few, but the names of the novelists are genuine household words, not only in their own country but in other countries as well. It is good to be reminded by a writer of such distinct charm of the many names which are associated with the growth of the novel, and to have our curiosity awakened by a connoisseur who has tasted of the very best in all countries and in all genres of writing and has a quick and dependable judgment. Mr. Pritchett writes on all the writers he picks up for notice with a considerable knowledge and a clarity and ease which are beyond praise. This is a book which will drive a man back to the shelf where neglected standard authors have been housed, and help one to profitably renew their acquaintance. To be able to do this is to render a service to thousands who in the bustle of life are apt to miss opportunities for becoming acquainted with the masters who saw life steadily and saw it whole.

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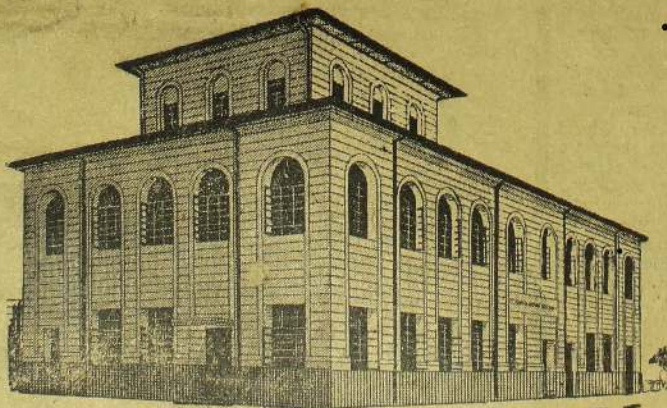
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