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HEALTH MINISTER TACKLES HOSPITAL PROBLEM

THE 7 VIRGINS WERE LATE AGAIN!

By *Vernon Phelps*

PROCEEDINGS in Parliament last week provided convincing proof (if proof be needed) that the Opposition thinks up today what the Government has achieved the day before!

Relief to landlords by a comprehensive Rent Restriction Ordinance and providing security for tenant farmers by legislation (to prevent their exploitation by absentee landlords), the Opposition blissfully imagined, were handy "big sticks" with which to belabour the Government. But the barrage boomeranged to cause painful embarrassment in the Leftist dove-cotes.

When the Opposition spokesmen worked themselves to livid heat on the shortcomings of the present Rent Restriction Ordinance, little did they imagine that the chuckle would be turned on them by the Minister of Health and Local Government and the Leader of the House, Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, who blandly announced that an Amending Ordinance eliminating the defects (both real and imaginary) had already been prepared and would be submitted to Parliament shortly for its approval.

A little crestfallen at this setback, the Opposition then opened fire on the alleged failure of the Minister of Agriculture and Lands, Mr. Dudley Senanayake, to introduce legislation to guarantee security of tenure for tenant farmers.

Leading the attack, the Marxist spokesman pedalled the "sob-sister" technique with a vengeance. "Even this small mercy, the Government had denied the peasants," wailed the Marxist votaries. The burly Member for Dehiowita then took up the chorus of this plaintive wail and made it reverberate with the thunder of a thousand cascades, in his inimitable fashion. The poor peasants for whom his heart bled would never get what they wanted until the Revolution. "I can give them all they need and more, but they will have to wait for the Revolution," was the burden of the Dehiowita diatribe. Meanwhile, he added, with much lamentation, could the Government give these peasants—poor, poor peasants—even the little relief it could?



Mr. Dudley Senanayake

The Dehiowita boast-cum-lament was but the signal for a devastating Front Bench frontal attack by the Minister of Agriculture. Mr. Dudley Senanayake avidly seized upon the "distress" displayed by the Member for Dehiowita over the plight of "poor peasants exploited by ruthless landlords" to narrate to the House a little story. "When I went to a place called Imbulane, confided the Minister, I saw a palatial mansion amidst hovels inhabited by peasants whose distress was most pitiful. I then discovered that the mansion belonged to the Member for Dehiowita."

Having got that punch home, the Minister continued icily: "but I will not use that circumstance as an argument against the sincerity of the Member for Dehiowita!" Then came the last round, when the jabs came thick and fast: "Why do you ask me to help the peasants if you say your Revolution can do it? Why not be more sincere and wait for your Revolution?" Stony silence greeted this Front Bench challenge.

Finally the announcement of positive action taken by the Government. Mr. Senanayake declared: "The draft legislation in this connection is over. I sent back the first draft as I felt that it did not go far enough. The Parliament will soon have before it the Bill to ensure security and a reasonable chance of decent living for the peasantry against the exploitation of ruthless landlords." The belated motion sponsored by the Opposition in this connection was thrown out by the House. Like the Seven Virgins, the Opposition will have to trim its lamps in time.

MR. S. W. R. D. BANDARANAIKE, the Minister for Health, has taken several measures to tackle the grave over-crowding in our hospitals. In Parliament on June 2nd he made the following announcement:—

- (1) The old wards used by the Military at Eheliyagoda are being re-conditioned to transfer chronic and destitute patients from the General Hospital.
- (2) An infirmary will be constructed at Ragama. It will have 500 beds. This will be used by convalescents.
- (3) First-class paying wards in the General Hospital are being converted into second-class paying wards and the present second-class paying wards will be non-paying wards.
- (4) Five additional wards are being built at Regent Street.
- (5) An order has been issued by the Minister that no ward is to be over-crowded by more than 100 per cent.



Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike

- (6) With the exception of the Merchants' Ward all other first-class paying wards will be abolished.

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BEWARE OF IMITATIONS

MEDIA OF PUBLICITY

By Ananda Tissa

THE popular Press of a country like England is usually taken to be the most powerful medium of publicity. The reason is that in England the newspaper habit is deeply ingrained in the people and what appears in the daily press goes a considerable way to fashion the attitude of the people to the Government in power. It is possible for newspaper stories to be so complimentary to the Government that the public will through a period of years come to regard the Ministers as thoroughly incompetent and incapable of doing anything well.

At the same time the big circulation dailies in England are reported to have progressively lost their political influence owing to their dependence on stunt journalism for circulation purposes. Although there are many people who maintain this view I do not think that the political power of the "line" taken by the newspapers with a large circula-

tion should be underestimated. In this view I confess I am not supported by that celebrated authority, Francis Williams, who believes that big papers like the "Daily Express" and the "Daily Mail" have sacrificed their influence on public opinion for millionaire circulations intended to attract big advertisers. He believes that the regional newspapers with national circulations like the "Manchester Guardian" have more political influence than the "Express" or the "Mail."

It is true that the "Manchester Guardian" has earned for itself a reputation in the English-speaking world for its forthright and yet dignified statements on national and international events. But it has to be realised that in the modern universal-franchise-world what often counts is not the opinion in the business man's club but the opinion in the English tavern or, if we relate it to Ceylon, the Pettah Bus Stand.

In the local context we must appreciate the fact that our biggest dailies hardly reach the people. Although many writers to the English Press flatter themselves that they are reaching the

country, if they would only take note of the fact that no single English journal sells more than 40,000 copies in a country with a population of seven million it would be possible to have a sense of proportion. With regard to mass contact therefore we have to look to the Sinhalese and Tamil Press and strangely enough, this is an aspect of Ceylon journalism that is neglected and even ignored by very many gentlemen in charge of publicity in certain quarters. It never occurs to most people in authority to even inquire whether the publicist knows the language of the people. It does not seem to strike some people that unless you know what kind of material is published in the vernacular Press it is not possible for one to handle publicity intended for that Press.

During the time I was connected with the Department of Information I had to fight many battles to impress this fact on the Civil Service boss in charge. I remember an European Civil Servant who was at the head of it at one time as the supreme example of the type of person who should never be in charge of publicity. To him the Sinhalese and Tamil-speaking people were strangers who did not matter. He was quite satisfied if a paragraph appeared in the "Daily News," "The Times," and the "Observer." He used to doubt the wisdom of my suggestion that the Editors of the "Dinamina," "Silumina," "Sinhala Balaya" and the "Peramuna" should be invited to our Press Conferences.

"I suppose they will take over the news from the English papers," he would tell me!

In the end, however, he yielded more because he probably considered my constant reminders a nuisance than because he was convinced that I was right.

In dealing with publicity, therefore, we shall have to take serious notice of the opinion of the vernacular journals, particularly because most of them do not have news reporters who go round to the Government Offices as have the English papers.

The Press Conference is certainly one of the devices of modern Government publicity by which a Ministry can reach a large number of the people with a particular piece of information. Press Conferences, however, should not become every day affairs. The Ministry must have something important to say either on a matter of Ministerial policy or with regard to a matter of great public interest before it holds a Press Conference. Newspaper editors hate to have the time of their reporters wasted by being called to attend a Press Conference the result of which would not come to more than a few inches on their news pages.

Editors know best what is of public importance and what is not, and it would be merely facetiousness to tell the reporter that he should emphasise this or that or the other aspect of a ministerial point of view.

The Minister for Transport and Works initiated the practice of holding Press Conferences after the system of Cabinet Government came into being. He selected the subjects of Motor-Car Control, Petrol Control and Motor Transport Organisation for his conferences. All these were matters of great public interest and had caused tremendous public criticism of the Government in recent months. It is fully appreciated in Press circles that these conferences did much to indicate to the public that the Ministry of Transport and Works was fully alive to the importance of these matters and was determined to find solutions to all outstanding problems.

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Books & Authors

By Quintus Defilkhan

LENIN AND THE REVOLUTION

RUSSIAN idealogy, as was pointed out before, has its roots in a past which is entirely different from the practical soil from which the leading ideas of the main European nations have sprung. Marxism in becoming Russian took on a complexion which it did not have elsewhere in Europe, Russia being a kind of hothouse in which alone artificial bloom was possible. Marxism itself is international but it is evident in no other country in the world could so rash an experiment have been so completely and ruthlessly carried out. "Only in Russia," says Berdyaev, "could a communist revolution take place. Russian communism must appear to Western people to be Asiatic, and a communist revolution of that sort would scarcely be possible in the countries of Western Europe. There, of course, everything would happen in a different way. The very internationalism of the Russian communist revolution is purely Russian and national. I am inclined to think that even the active share of the Jews in Russian communism is very characteristic of Russia and the Russian people. Russian messianism is akin to Jewish messianism." And it is not possible to understand the Russian Revolution unless one has some idea of the man who was responsible for it, both by his outlook and by his tremendously energizing work.

Lenin was a man who could have been produced only in Russia. The cast of his features was Russo-Mongolian and his characteristics were not those which represented the intelligent-

sia but the common people themselves. He was simple, structurally compact both mentally and physically, had the roughness of the peasant and an essential vigour. Anything which was not strictly necessary to his purpose he could decisively cut out of his programmes. He was the enemy of whatever was decorative, because his mind inclined only to what was practical in its extreme forms of bleakness. He was the sworn foe of every kind of rhetorical flourish, and all these were qualities, as enumerated, which has a very close bearing on the work which he accomplished for Russia. Above all, he was capable of a nihilist cynicism in matters pertaining to the moral relations of life. No consideration would be allowed to stand in the way of his relentless planning. He decided and he acted with all the vigour of which his mind was capable. These qualities allied to a sensitive moral conscience would indeed be the making of a truly great figure in history which would have won for him universal admiration. But lacking that fine moral sense which is a safe guide, and the only safe guide in action, he has created something which the saner statesmanship of the world of normal and humane government can only detest. But he was undoubtedly a most powerful personality of that class of statesmen who could dominate the country in which their power was exercised, whatever the consequences in mass suffering and terrific revolutionary upheavals. He combined in himself the qualities of the statesman and of the revolutionary. "He combined," continues Berdyaev, "revolutionary ideas of the extremist type and a totalitarian revolutionary outlook with flexibility and opportunism in the means

(Continued on page 5)

TOWARDS A PARTY SYSTEM

By Nandalal

IT is for the historian of a later date to define precisely when one period in politics has ended and another has begun. The contemporary, who is mixed up with the movements of an era that is closing as much as he is involved in that epoch which is opening can only indicate certain trends and draw tentative conclusions from them. There are certain well-defined movements, certain outstanding events, however, which gave character to a period and aid that analysis and attempt of the times he lives in.

We are now living at a time when one definite era in our history has closed with the ambitions of that period achieved; we are moving into another with preoccupations and problems distinctly different from those of the last several years.

The thirty odd years since 1915 which culminated in February this year, politically, were noted for the agitation for freedom. All other issues were subsidiary to that compelling concern. How to win our freedom, how to be masters of our destiny was the main question to which were directed the energies and ambitions of our most eminent politicians and statesmen. The roll of national heroes of these last thirty years reads of patriots like Ramathan, Arunachalam, F. R. Senanayake, D. R. Wijewardene, E. W. Perera and D. S. Senanayake, dogged and determined agitators for national independence.

Their aspirations have been achieved with Dominion Status. In this period the problems of social reform, of economic amelioration and uplift were not quite as momentous as the realisation of national independence. That that ambition should have been realised in a quiet, constitutional way, in keeping with the traditions of a people wedded to peaceful habits should not make it less glamorous than the achievements of those whose heart's desire came to them only through the toil and turmoil of civil disobedience. The point, however, is that in the last thirty years all other problems were subordinate to the issue of independence. Without freedom there could be only slight social change, however urgently social change was needed.

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NOW, the preoccupations of men have a habit of determining their mental outlook and attitude. The purposes of history are best achieved by the single-minded. To each generation is assigned its particular task. To the generation of which Mr. D. S. Senanayake is its most illustrious example history had apportioned the task of winning Ceylon's freedom.

To the generation which succeeds him has fallen the duty of effecting reforms in the structure of our society. To this generation has been assigned the task of slum clearance, of economic improvement; briefly by building the new Jerusalem in Lanka's green and pleasant land. Let it be confessed that this new generation's work could not begin unless its predecessor had cleared the tangled weeds of foreign domination.

The new generation is now addressing itself slowly to its tasks of national regeneration and its activities are giving the tone to our period. Necessarily, there had to be a time lag between the end of one epoch and the shedding of habits peculiar to it on the

one hand and on the other hand the adoption of policies suited to the nascent period. From February to about the end of May this year was a period of quiet almost of inactivity. The sense of hopeless frustration, the feeling that nothing was being done, that urgent tasks were being neglected—all these proceeded from the fact that we had not yet adjusted ourselves to the new era that had dawned. Mentally we were still in the period of foreign tutelage. It has taken us some time to adjust ourselves to freedom.

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THE signs that we are making that adjustment are the increasing concern over questions of social reform. For instance, the Parliamentary Group of the United National Party has set up study circles to consider programmes for social action.

It is most appropriate that the initiative for such organisation should have come from the younger members of the Government group—from such

as Mr. M. D. Banda, Mr. V. Nalliah, Mr. R. G. Senanayake, Mr. M. Senanayake. I have referred to the inspiring example of Mr. R. G. Senanayake who organised a series of party meetings in Alawwa where the U.N.P.'s programme for action was put across to the people.

This increasing and vigorous activity among the younger members of the United National Party is a sign and symptom of their growing awareness of the new tasks before them.

The United National Party, by their action, will gradually be converted into a political party devoted to social and economic reform. From a somewhat negative task of forming a stable administration it will be turned to the positive policy of reform and peaceful revolution.

It is necessary to recognise this tendency because to do so would be to accelerate the pace of progress. It would also imply that the U.N.P. must be developed as the rallying point of all moderate forces who stand by con-

stitutional methods to introduce far-reaching reforms.

If the Party now turns its attention to its manifesto, to its pledges on economic reforms and launches action to make those visions real then the U.N.P. can become the Centre Party which men seem so ardently to desire in Ceylon—a party neither of rigid reaction nor of extreme revolution.

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THERE is a vast amount of dissatisfaction with the extreme Leftists because people are convinced that they are only slogan-mongers divided and distracted by their private ambitions. On the other hand people are also impatient with those who merely wear the panoply of power but do nothing to solve our pressing problems. A programme of action will unite the nation. The reception given in Parliament to Mr. Dudley Senanayake's Gal-Oya project indicates that. The immediate task is a Party Conference which will reiterate vigorously the Party's aims and convince the people that the U.N.P. which wields the power means to assiduously set about improving the people's condition of life.



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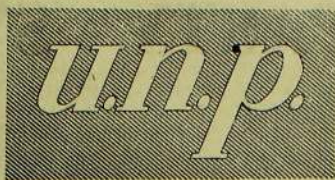
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Friday, June 11, 1948

JUNE 19TH

THE 19th is expected to mark an important event in the life of the United National Party. On that day the Party Executive will meet for the first time after the Parliament assembled. It will have to take notice of the present position of the Party, both within and without the Parliament. Inside Parliament it continues to be the controlling authority under the leadership of Mr. Senanayake. Nevertheless, it is regrettable that a large number of members in the House of Representatives who vote for the Government have not yet declared themselves to be members of the U.N.P. There are three Ministers who enjoy the somewhat unique position of being independent of the U.N.P. while enjoying the privileges of the U.N.P. strength in the House. Even their entry into the Government as Cabinet Ministers has not been sufficient ground on which they could become full members of the Party by signing the Party form and subscribing to Party funds. Their position, as is the position of several Back Bench M.P.s., is that today the Government is not entirely U.N.P. but is really a Coalition.

The time has come when this Coalition idea must be abandoned. If we continue to pretend that there is a coalition we shall open ourselves to the attack that the country cannot have full faith in the Party because it really is no Party at all. Today we are being told that the U.N.P. is a combination of the Sinhala Maha Sabha, the Ceylon National Congress, the Labour Party (to name the major Parties known to the country) and all other sections unnamed by any Party label.

If we are to continue as a Party we must declare a definite policy which could be placed before the rank and file, with the approval of the Executive Committee, so that all those who subscribe to it will henceforth be fully fledged members of the U.N.P. Whether or not members of the U.N.P. after that stage should be permitted to remain members of any other political party is a matter that could not be lightly decided. The difficulty will be that a great proportion of the present membership is already compromised by their allegiance to some other authority. The main consideration of all will be the preservation of the unity and thereby the strength of our forces and we do not suggest that anything should be done to weaken our organisation in

any way. That consideration, however, should not blind us to the principles on which our Party should be organised for the future. It would be far better for us to have a handful of really sincere and earnest men in the Party than to have a vast concourse of those who merely sign a printed form and continue to have mental reservations and ways of retreat always kept open for them. It is fitting that members should expect the June 19th meeting to pave the way for a definite declaration of policy. We suggest that a Sub-Committee should be appointed to report within a month to another meeting of the Executive on matters of policy as well as on re-organisation that are so essential if we are to move forward from the stage that has been reached.

FINANCE MINISTER'S SPEECH

THE speech of the Hon. Minister for Finance, Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, on the Trade Union Bill was one of the clearest and most definite utterances on the subject yet made in Parliament. As stated in our editorial last week on the same subject public servants do not number more than 1½ to 2 lakhs, and as stated by the Minister for Finance, Government "have a sacred duty to perform not only by the 150,000 public servants and their dependents who number about 3 or 4 lakhs, but by the 6½ million people who do not form the Public Service."

"We have a duty to see," continued the Minister, "that certain services are carried on continually and without interruption. I mention to you the transport service, those services which give power and fuel, and those services which carry food from the harbour to the homes of the people of this country. Those services must be carried on without interruption, continually. We will not permit that anyone who works in those services should seek to hold the whole community to ransom should seek to bully and to coerce this Government by saying 'We will withhold our services. We will see that six million people starve, six million people for whom you are responsible unless our wages are increased.'" Mr. Jayewardene must be congratulated for his forthright and honest expression of the views that the public would have wished a Cabinet Minister to express on their behalf.

Another phenomenon to which the Finance Minister made pointed reference is the tendency for all Left-wing Governments throughout the world to place bans on the right to strike that some sections of our public servants so vehemently demand. He pointed out that in England public servants have no political rights whatsoever. He gave a masterly survey of the economic framework of Eng-

land after the entry of the Labour Government and compared it to conditions in this country. It would bear repetition to quote the Minister on this subject.

"As we know, England has grown up by private enterprise, and trade unionism in England grew up through private employees forming themselves into associations. The public servants in England, particularly those of the working classes, were very few. The public servants of the Civil Service category therefore decided that it would be advantageous to them if they formed themselves into unions and affiliated themselves with the unions of private employees for the purpose of securing their rights and privileges because the union of private employees was strong and powerful.

"In Ceylon it is just the contrary. In Ceylon what is prevented is not the associations of private individuals but the association of Government servants because we have such a wide category of functions to perform through the modern State formed in Ceylon today. Our Railways are nationalized; our electricity service is nationalized; our Public Works Department is nationalized; and our Kolonnawa Factory is nationalized. In England until the Labour Government came into power the coal mines were in private employ. The Railways were in private employ, and the steel industry was in private employ. Therefore, I have heard in official British quarters that a move is being made by the British Government, by the Labour Government, to consider whether strikes by public servants in Essential Services should not be forbidden. And one index to that was the decision of the Labour Government taken while we were in England that those members of the Public Service who have Communist ideas should be immediately dismissed."

He continued to point out that in France the Communist Prime Minister, Monsieur Thorez, brought in a statute in 1946 whereby he denied to Government industrial workers the right to strike. With admirable finesse he capped his argument by pointing out that in Russia the penalty for strikers is death.

At the same time the Minister assured Parliament and the members of the Public Service that the Government would give them every facility to form associations of themselves in order to make it possible for them to meet representatives in order to make it possible for them to meet representatives of the Government on equal terms to discuss whatever grievances they might have.

It is obvious now that certain sections of the public service are being used by the Left-wing politicians who desire to interfere in public service orga-

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FINANCE MINISTER'S SPEECH

(Continued from page 4)

nisations in order to gain supporters for their own game of Party politics. We have seen a document circulated by a member of the Public Service which has attacked the Government in no uncertain terms. We would wish to inquire whether it is possible for a public officer to remain in Government employ while he uses such terms as in the circular referred to. We would point out that the Finance Minister as the Head of the Public Service should consider this case which amounts to insubordination of the worst possible kind.

LEFT POLITICS

We have persistently pointed out that politics with the Leftist parties is mainly a matter of personal ambitions. The twists and turns, the sudden shifts of the so-called Marxist groups in our country are not determined by the objective needs of a changing situation. On the contrary as we have reiterated it even to the point of tediousness, one policy is thrown over in favour of another merely because the strategic needs of the leaders' ambitions demand such inconsistent action. Events have frequently confirmed the correctness of our analysis of Leftist political behaviour.

The latest proof of our thesis comes from the manoeuvres connected with the Borella by-election to the Colombo Municipal Council. Only a few weeks ago the Lanka Sama Samaj Party had scoffed at the idea of an electoral truce and alliance among the Leftists. The offer of the B.L.P.I. and the Communists to draft an agreed list of candidates and to form a united front had been unceremoniously rejected. The Gampola contest provoked a most acrimonious controversy among the Left. The impression created was that the Lanka Sama Samajist Party, the only true disciples of the Gospel according to Marx, would have absolutely no truck with the heretics of the Communist and Bolshevik confession. Now, however, comes an incredibly amazing change of tactics. The same Doctor N. M. Perera, who had denounced with opprobrious epithets those who asked for Leftist unity, surprisingly seeks an alliance with the very elements he so heavily dislikes and detests.

What is the explanation of this inconsistency? Mr. Keuneman's Communist Party offers a theory, which strikingly, proves our view. It is now the turn of the Ceylon Communist Party to say "no" to Dr. Perera's proposals. And in doing so the C.P. also tells the L.S.S.P.: "The experience of our party during the recent conferences and the twists and turns in the attitude of your Party on the subject of avoid-

LENIN AND THE REVOLUTION

(Continued from page 2)

employed in the struggle and in political practice. It is only such people who are successful and victorious. He combined simpleness, directness and a nihilist asceticism, with astuteness, almost with cunning. In Lenin there was no trace of revolutionary bohemianism—a thing he could not bear; in this he was a contrast to people like Trotsky or Martov, the leader of the left wing of the mensheviks." It is inevitable that a man of this composition of qualities should come to the forefront in a revolutionary upsurge.

In the ferment of ideas which had been taking place in Russia, men would quite naturally talk endlessly in cafes, and this became in most cases a substitute for any kind of intelligent action. Lenin was averse to all this loose thinking and careless living. He worked steadily, methodically and purposefully at his home. He did not himself favour in any degree the anarchic principle, as it was not in the composition of his character. In fact he did what he could to eradicate this tendency in others. Being a realist, and trusting to achieve results by more powerful means, he held the talkers in contempt. He exposed this habit and was as hard as possible with what Berdayev calls "Communist swagger and Communist humbug." In 1918 when there was a possibility of an anarchist wave sweeping over Russia he did all he could to stem the tide. He could not bear anything which did not bear the stamp of discipline and responsible action, but if he prevented the collapse of Russia he did so by the most ruthlessly despotic methods. He

ing contests clearly indicate that your present letter has been motivated by your unprincipled desire to satisfy the vanity of your Party boss, Dr. N. M. Perera?"

Dr. Perera, it is well-known, is a candidate for the Borella seat in the Colombo Municipal Council. The public should profit from these political dog-fights by recognising the fundamental motives which determine the actions of Leftist leaders. We have been severe critics of the "Marxists" not because we do not sympathise with the ideals and aspirations of Marx. On the contrary, our Party too is committed to a programme of Socialism. We have always attacked the Leftists because we are acutely aware of the true class position of the "Bagawewa" brotherhood. We remind our readers that these men who publicly profess Communism privately practise capitalism. For example, the "Times of Ceylon" reported last that one of the large estates the Government is taking over to distribute among landless peasants belongs to Mr. Leslie Gunewardena, who is an important dignitary of the B.L.P.I. Mr. Dudley Senanayake has related in the Parliament how he had discovered that a magnificent mansion and the broad acres attached to it in Imbulana were the property of the Member for Dehiowita, Mr. Reggie Perera. Quite a number of the Leftists have a firm basis in the foundations of bourgeois society. We are sceptical of their love for the masses because we know how often the mask of Marxism has been an effective disguise for overweening ambition.

appeared to be touched by any tale of cruelty carried out by the Cheka but he could do nothing about it having inaugurated a cruel policy which could only result in evils over which he could not possibly exercise any control once it developed into the sphere of action aided by its own momentum. Due to the execution of his brother, Lenin steeled himself into indifference to all human suffering which he thought necessary. He had no great faith in human nature, having suffered disillusionment at the hands of individuals. He thought of his mission in the terms of merely organising life in which he saw much evil in such a way that oppression might be eliminated. This was the intention but in actual practice it turned out to be far otherwise.

It is not surprising that he was a master of revolutionary technique. His whole life was bent towards this one purpose. He despised the mere theorists of Marxism. He concentrated on a complete seizure of power. Once this had been achieved, he knew it became possible for him to turn the current of Russian history, making a new beginning with an experiment which was unique in human history, the complete dominance of a people by a theory of living which was as ill-defined as it was effective. It was not a theory which required that a whole people should be persuaded into its acceptance. Not even a majority of the people had to be appealed to for its support. A minority by seizing power was able to direct the life of the whole nation along lines which were new and untried. The key to the whole position was Lenin's idea of the final and complete seizure of power, as stated earlier. This is what is meant by saying that he had mastered the technique of revolution. Once this preliminary step was taken, the course afterwards to be steered by the men in authority became easy, for the sweeping power thus early obtained could be organised ruthlessly. He struggled for an "integral totalitarian view of life," and in this he unfortunately succeeded. The result is Stalin, and the Russia of today which menaces the world with an use of power which is utterly without scruple of any kind in fostering and preserving the fruits of a revolution which is an ever-present danger to the rest of the world which still values liberty.

It is interesting to know that the Irish Literary Revival, according to the admission of W. B. Yeats, would not have been so possible without the assistance, the literary genius and the strong and practical hand of Lady Gregory, the wife of Governor Gregory of Ceylon. The years she gave to this movement has not only made her name famous, but has been the cause of the manifestation of literary talent in Ireland which would have perished without the encouragement of an outlet and free opportunity of expression. Irish talent would have been turned down by English theatre managers as unsuitable for the English stage but they welcomed such work when once it has proved to be a smashing

success in Irish theatres. George Bernard Shaw was of course the exception. He had turned his back upon his backward country and has formed a definite plan, when penniless and without any prospects, to beard the lion in his den and bring England to his feet. This could not have been done, as it has been done with splendid and astonishing completeness, by any other Irishman, and the work of Lady Gregory was necessary to give them their chance. "LADY GREGORY'S JOURNALS" (1916-1930) edited by Lennox Robinson (Colombo Book Centre) covers the period of the Irish revival, and gives us an insight into the conditions under which this movement came into being, and continued its course, with the most astonishing results. Lady Gregory lived at "Coole", a place which has been made immortal by the wonderful poems which Yeats has written about its many natural beauties, and there can be no doubt that Lady Gregory felt that this gift of the gods deserved an intense love. It was undoubtedly one of the dominant passions of her life. Whatever the troubles of running the Abbey Theatre, the obstinacy of authors, the disputes of actors and actresses, there was always peace at Coole, a refreshment of the spirit there compensating for all the ills and distractions of life. And there was no doubt that the people who built up the literary fame of the theatre were a difficult pack to manage, each sensitive of his own work, resenting criticism, capitulating sometimes with bad grace, and generally contributing work of the utmost originality because they had the real stuff of the drama in them. "We can rightly praise," says Lennox Robinson, in his explanatory contribution to the unity of the book by bridging the gaps, "Synge and O'Casey and many another fine playwright, talk of the genius of this player and of that, but without Lady Gregory's doggedness and determination and belief in the theatre these people might never have artistically existed." This is a tremendous tribute to the driving force of one woman's work that so much genius might have perished but for her wonderful tact, good sense and discerning judgment in seeing that if this opportunity was lost the loss was not only that of Ireland but of the whole world of letters. It is seldom that any country in the world could call together so much dramatic talent. Lady Gregory had a flair for lasting friendships and so we get fine memories of W. B. Yeats, James Stephens, "A.E.", Bernard Shaw and his wife, and others whose names are amongst the foremost in literary achievement in this generation. Her life was singularly rich and she had the great gift of living in a glow of service, passionate interest—in the problems of others and in nurturing of her own genius, all her best work in the drama being done in the enchanting scenery of "Coole." "I sometimes think," she wrote, "my life has been a series of enthusiasms." There can be no doubt of it, and also that these enthusiasms have not been a following of illusions but the most splendid effort made by any woman in modern times to so work that she has been able to confer, along with others of like interest, a dower of magnificent literature on her country.

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SPORTS

Commentary

COVER POINT

U.N.P. JOURNAL TIPPED DERBY WINNER

"Cover Point" gave My Love," the Derby winner, as a straight win in last week's sports article. He gave My Love as the "best bet of the day." Congratulations, "Cover Point."— (Editor).

other long programme of nine races will be presented to punters. With most of the recently imported griffins coming nicely to hand, fields comparable in size to those at the major Indian centres will be a regular feature here too. With more newcomers likely to complete their preparation in the next months, we have every prospect of a record-breaking August Week.

As I shall not have another opportunity of discussing the programme for tomorrow, I should like to offer some suggestions to readers based on the entries and I hope that the same measure of success will attend my efforts, as did last week, when I indicated several good winners, including the

THE C.T.C. June Race Meeting will be advanced a stage further tomorrow when an-

winner of the Derby, My Love, whom I considered to be the best bet for the Epsom classic.

The chief event on tomorrow's card is the Club Stakes in which Manchu again gets top weight. As it is probable that this champion gelding will be withdrawn owing to a recent bereavement in the family of its owner, the race will, I think, resolve itself into another duel between Baldowrie and Seasprite, if, of course, King Cosmo, who is a second entry, does not accept and is reserved for August. I am afraid Seasprite will again have to be satisfied with the minor berth. Baldowrie is a hard horse to ride but Marrs made him gallop to such good purpose last Saturday that he won running away. For the upset I would suggest Navarro, who, I understand, is going great guns at Nuwara Eliya. The waler has bags of speed and may be seen to advantage, though, of course, a longer distance will be more to his liking.

The Malwa Stakes for Class II horses has attracted only a small entry and the race lies in my opinion between Tanstar and Tudor. My preference is for Tanstar who is a £1,000 waler who made his way back to this class after running second twice in the third class. He is a better finisher than Tudor who is a one-pace horse. If Montrose Lady is in galloping mood, she has the beating of the field.

The June Handicap with an entry of over 40 is to be run in two divisions. The best half dozen in this race are Shahmon, Supremacy, Winnie Wink, Golden Sapphire, Lady Gaby and Dinhill, who in spite of two failures, must be kept on the right side.

The Teldeniya Plate for Class IV horses sets a poser to punters. On his last run The Pied Piper looks a ready made winner but in Silver Valley, Simbad and Gay Mena he will have pretty stiff opposition.

Arabs in the top class have a 6 furlong race reserved for them. If Seventh Wonder gallops as he did last Saturday, he just cannot be denied the prize. New Jack and Jutland are his only dangers.

The Bombay Handicap for Class II Arabs should lie between Ragheeb al Khair and Kiwi. The former is a 7-furlong expert but I think he can just about get the mile. Mayfair is an ungenerous as you make them but, if he takes it into his head to gallop, he can leave even this field cold.

Sukab revealed himself last Saturday as such a coming champion that in the Matugama Plate over 6 furlongs tomorrow he looks unbeatable. His chief rivals are Rolex Prince, Zaman Shammar and the improving Waliq Hayil.

NOTHING since racing was re-started in Ceylon—not even Kunj Lata's memorable victories—was more fluent in achievement than King Cosmo's runaway victory at the first time of asking in Class III last Saturday. So impressed was the Handicapper with the performance of the Sir Cosmo gelding that he promptly sent him up to Class I even though King Cosmo had been originally handicapped at only 7.13. From barrier rise nothing could live with this handsome gelding who was barely off a canter when winning by nearly 5 lengths. Before the race there were some who doubted whether he would get the 6 furlongs. After the race the same critics were agreed that he could have gone a furlong more without letting up. King Cosmo will now challenge Manchu's supremacy in the top class and I, for one, am convinced that the older horse will not have a chance against his newcomer. On English form King Cosmo is stonies in front of Manchu and I believe that the August Sprint Classics are his for the asking.

I HOPE readers of notes made a tidy packet on the Derby, which was won by My Love, who is part owned by the Aga Khan and ran in the colours of the Indian Prince. They should have done if they followed my tip.



H. H. Agha Khan

I was one of the few who made this colt out to be the BEST bet of the day. In my analysis of the Derby last Friday, I said that the Aga Khan is too good a judge of racing to pay something in the neighbourhood of £12,000, for a colt who had no chance in the Derby. In suggesting him as the pick of the lot, I was influenced by the fact that the Vattellor colt had won twice over the Derby distance in France on heavy going. At Raymong Glendening said, it was better stamina that helped My Love to give the Aga Khan both Epsom classics in one and the same year. This feat has been performed, to my recollection, only twice and that was when the two fillies Signorinetta and Fifi-nella won the Derby and the Oaks. The Aga Khan has now had his colours carried to a Derby victory on no fewer than four occasions which, I think, equals the record.

TWO days before the Derby, the fillies showed their paces at Epsom and the Aga Khan had the satisfaction of leading in his second Oaks winner, when Masaka just spread-eagled a field of 25. As those of you who listened in to the excellent commentary on the race will remember, all the ladies were on their best behaviour, including Masaka who had thrown away her chances in the 1,000 Guineas by playing up at the start. Masaka must be a really good filly to win so comfortably and it is a pity that her owner has decided to retire her to the stud after one more race at Ascot. Though the two major prizes in the Oaks remained in England, the Continent must be given a certain measure of credit for this because the sires of both Masaka and Angelola were continental champions before they were sent to the stud. Masaka is by Nearco who won the Paris Grand Prix in 1938 and whose first classic winner in England was Dante, the Derby winner of 1945. Donatello, the sire of Angelola, has not yet produced a Derby winner, but was probably the best colt Italy ever had.

AFTER their whirlwind start, when they scattered their first eight opponents like chaff to the winds, the Australians were caught on the wrong foot twice last week. First, Nottinghamshire held them at Trent Bridge to their first draw and then Hampshire came along to confirm what Yorkshire and Lancashire had already suggested, namely that on a wicket responsive to spin the tourists are ill at ease and not the run-getting machine which they are on a batsmen's paradise.

The First Test match has already commenced at Trent Bridge, but unfortunately I have to write these notes before the match starts. While I am confident that the match will not be the one-sided affair some pro-Australian fans seem to think it will be, I must admit that I cannot see eye to eye with the English Selectors in their omission of young Hilton of Lancashire who followed up his excellent bowling against the Australians by taking 5 for 19 against Nottinghamshire last Friday. Jim Laker of Surrey, who was flogged by the tourists on the Oval, could well have been dropped in favour of Hilton. The scales are already weighted enough in favour of the Australians to permit of any rash experiments being made by the England Selectors.

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In the Land of the Rising Sun

MASS MARRIAGES A POLITICAL RACKET?

LAST month, Japanese men and women seeking mates joined in a mass "bride and groom hunt" at a Marriage Fair arranged by the city fathers of Ujiyamada, in Central Honshu.

Prospective brides and grooms each wore a heart-shaped badge, and anyone spotting a promising spouse obtained from the Fair authorities the relevant family background information.

If this is satisfactory, and the potential spouse is willing, the Mayor of Ujiyamada will arrange for the couple to be formally introduced, after which they will have the privilege of being married at the sacred Ise Grand Shrines nearby.

Some 500 mate-seekers showed up for the "mass interview," but though this method of boy meeting girl was advertised as daringly new and "democratic," it did not differ much in essentials from time-honoured Japanese custom.

Japanese marriages before the war were negotiated by intermediaries, and if, after heavily chaperoned meetings, the families thought the match suitable, marriage followed and the go-between collected either a silver gift (if a friend) or a cash fee if in business, as a marriage-fixer.

Love did not enter into the proceedings. Family history and position, wealth, dowry and character were the deciding factors, and every detail—down to the amount to be spent on the marriage feast—was worked out in advance. Even letters exchanged by the betrothed couple were sometimes written by professional letterwriters.

GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED MARRIAGE BUREAU

Despite the MacArthur reforms and the loudly-publicised democratisation of personal relationships, cables Hessel Tiltman of "News Review," well-known British News-magazine from Tokyo, more than 90 per cent. of Japan's 3,300 marriages daily are still arranged by go-betweens. The main change since the Surrender is that "romance"—Japanese style—has become big business.

Marriage bureaux are enjoying an unprecedented boom. The Ginza "Marriage Centre" in downtown Tokyo handled 700 applications for brides and grooms in one recent month. Another which opened last December, received 400 applications from would-be wooers in ten weeks. Following a threat that their advertisements for prospective mates might be boycotted by the Japanese Press, the professional go-betweens are planning formation of a trade association to protect their interests.

The Japanese Government is directly participating in the trade. Its Welfare Ministry's Eugenic Marriage Consultation Bureau receives 2,000 applications for mates yearly.

YANKEES.....TARGET FOR JAPANESE WOMEN

In direct contrast to pre-war days fully two-thirds of all applications now reaching marriage bureaux and matrimonial magazines are from women. Would-be husbands mostly ask for women who own houses or have money, while women seek bridegrooms who enjoy steady incomes—often adding the proviso "not earned in the black markets." British and American Occupation troops have evidently impressed Japanese womanhood, for tall grooms are in demand. Japanese men, however, still display a decided preference for subservient wives who are "gentle and quiet."

A wedding in traditional Japanese style with all the trimmings costs from 15,000 to 20,000 yen (£23 to £30 at the current black market rate of exchange).

This includes a customary 500-yen fee for private detective to check up on the character and antecedents of the prospective bridegroom.

COMMERCIAL OCTOPUS STEPS INTO "BUSINESS"

If the couple are married at a Shinto shrine, including such refinements as the priest "purifying" them by waving paper streamers tied to a wooden stick over their heads to scare away evil, the ceremony will take seven to eight hours to complete and cost around 12,000 yen (£20) all in, including loan of wedding garments, make-up for bride, photographs, wedding breakfast and two "honeymoon" nights at a country inn.

During the war, Tokyo's shrines were too busy conducting "morale building" services celebrating Tojo's mythical victories to bother much about the mar-

riage business, so the Mitsukoshi Department Store on the Ginza (Tokyo's "Regent Street")—owned by the Mitsui Commercial octopus—stepped into the breach and opened a "wedding hall" in its bargain basement.

The Mitsukoshi wedding hall is still marrying 2,400 couples a year at a total cost of 6,000 yen (£10) per couple. The firm runs its wedding hall on the assembly line principle. Its streamlined marriage take exactly two hours, and everything is worked out to the split second: bride's hair-dressing and make-up and groom's haircut and shave (30 minutes); dressing in loaned Mitsukoshi wedding garments (10 minutes); wedding service (20 minutes); photographing of happy couple (10 minutes); and wedding breakfast (50 minutes). —("Blitz")



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