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VOL. I. No. 6.

FRIDAY, 18th APRIL 1947

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Putting Ceylon on World's Air Map Discussions at London and Montreal

Civil Aviation in Ceylon

CIVIL Aviation first assumed importance in Ceylon in 1932 when a Conference was convened by Sir Graeme Thomson, Governor. The Director of Civil Aviation in India attended this Conference. Discussed extension of Ail Mail Service between U.K. and India to Ceylon.

Provision of money by Ministry of Communications and Works for an Aerodrome at Ratmalana (1934). Runways constructed (1936). Same year Aero Club of Ceylon gave flights to the public.

Local Air Navigation Regulations published and three planes were registered with Ceylon Registration Marks (1937).

Development speed-up began in 1938 with the transfer of the subject of Aviation from the Chief Secretary to the Minister for Communications and Works. Official opening of Ratmalana Airport by Sir Andrew Caldecott, 28th February, 1938.

Emergency Landing Ground at Puttalam, on Colombo-Madras route opened by Col. Kotelawala, June, 1939.

New Aero Club opened (September, 1939). Air Display, in which several Indian aircraft participated, held to mark the occasion.

Airport Administration Building at Ratmalana, formally opened (Aug., 1940). Same year State Council sanctioned two lakhs for construction of three additional hangars and extensions to airfield and runway.

Jap entry into the war (1941). Fall of Singapore. Air attack on Colombo (5th April, 1942). Control of Airport taken over by R.A.F. Ceylon became centre of Eastern Air War.

Wartime improvements carried out on extensive scale. Additional development of aerodromes at Negombo, Kankasanturai, China Bay and Koggala.

PRINCE FOR CINDERELLA

MR. L. S. B. PERERA (36), dapper, handsome sky-scanner, is Ceylon's 12-hour working day Director of Civil Aviation.

He loves a holiday, the more holidays the better. For him a Government holiday provides an opportunity to work undisturbed by callers and telephone rings. He pores over every minute and file. They haven't yet written memoranda on Civil Aviation, in Ceylon, India, the Dominions, Great Britain or even in Timbuctoo that "L.S.B." has not read. He gets to grips with aviation literature as others do with a Peter Cheyney. Result. He is up to the minute with data on planes, routes and rules of the air.



MR. L. S. B. PERERA

Like other Civil Servants he has had his taste of Kachcheris and transfers from one job to another until from post of Secretary to Minister for Communications and Works he upped to the Civil Aviation Directorate on the upper floor of the Ministry Office. He found Civil

THE CONFERENCE OF THE DIRECTORS OF CIVIL AVIATION IN COLONIAL GOVERNMENTS NOW BEING HELD IN LONDON IS IN GREAT MEASURE THE RESULT OF THE SUSTAINED EFFORTS OF CEYLON'S MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS, COL. J. L. KOTELAWALA, AND THE DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION, MR. L. S. B. PERERA. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT CEYLON HAS HAD DIRECT REPRESENTATION AT SO IMPORTANT A CONFERENCE ON AVIATION.

Mr. Perera will also represent Ceylon at Montreal where there will be a meeting of the Commonwealth Transport Council in the first week of May. The Permanent Secretariat of the General Assembly of International Civil Aviation, is also located in Montreal.

Ceylon has fought for and won the right to be represented direct at the Commonwealth Transport Council. Hitherto we were represented, together with other Colonial countries, by an official from the Colonial office.

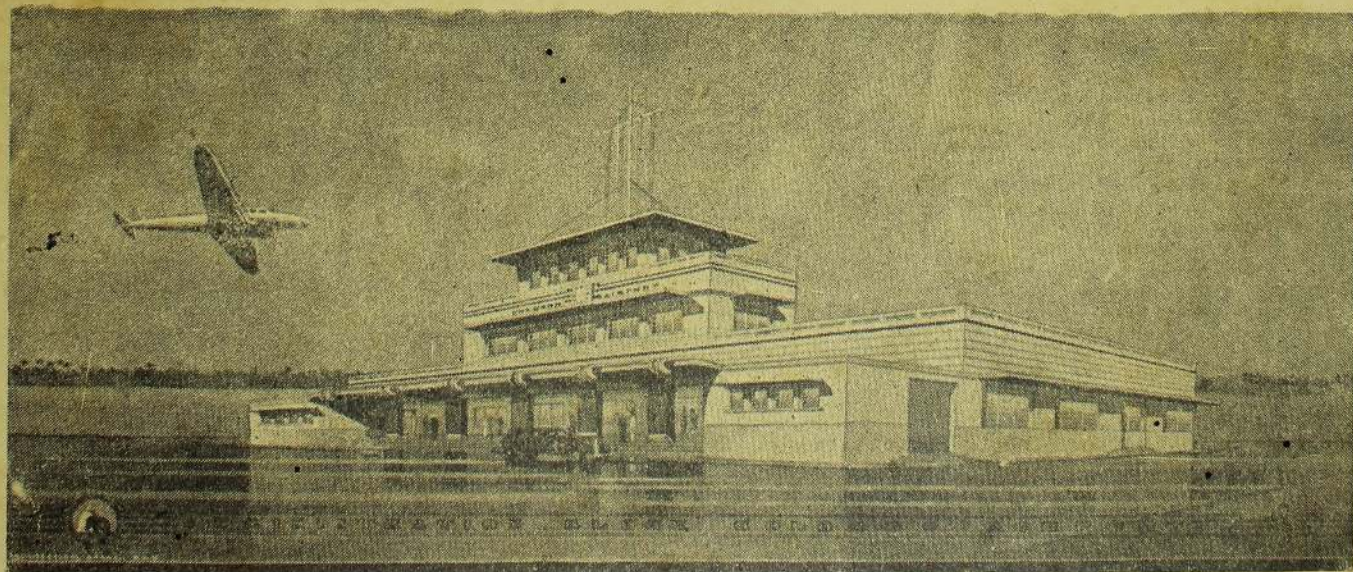
In addition, Mr. Perera will be included in the United Kingdom Delegation to the International Conference at Montreal, as only Sovereign nations are directly represented at it.

Contrary to expectations Ceylon did not fall within the main lines of international air lines, and there was the danger of this Island being left out completely. The loss to this country would have been very considerable. But Ceylon's Department of Civil Aviation has explored every possible avenue with a to the rehabilitation of this country on the major air routes of the world. We have now purchased our own planes, and every possible step will be taken to develop aviation.

The talks in London and at Montreal should be watched with care. They may be a turning point in our development as a first-rate Air Halt of the future.

Aviation somewhat forlorn. It was a Cinderellic branch of Government activity, regarded by all but Minister Kotelawala, as a suitable diversion for someone without much to do. Bang went all that. Cinderella found her Prince. She is now the Princess Charming of a new Ceylon.

COLOMBO AIR PORT





"One Issue Looms Large as Important and Fundamental"

DEMOCRACY OR DICTATORSHIP

By

Dudley Senanayake

It must be a government depending upon the mutual interchange of wishes, on mutual criticism of the ideas interchanged, and on the common and agreed choice of the idea which emerges triumphant from the ordeal of interchange and criticism. A government depending upon such a process can enlist in itself and its own operation the self of every member. It will be self-government in every sense of the term; it will square with, and be based upon, the development of personality and individuality in every self. It will be government by the people not as a mass, or as a majority, but as a society of living selves.

There will be no room in such a society for an individual such as Hitler or for a group such as the so-called intelligentsia, the vanguard of the proletariat to arrogate to themselves the sole function of being the keepers of the people's conscience and to lead them in the fair name of freedom to tyrannies undreamt of along the bitter path of dictatorship and degradation to ultimate ruin.

Let us now see how democracy ensures that proper functioning. The first and most obvious necessity is a Government responsible to the people, and the dependence of it and of the membership of the legislature on the free vote of the people. A necessary corollary being the power of the people to dismiss a Government which has lost its confidence. But, of course, this is not all, a further condition becomes imperative and that is that the continued existence of the above right implies and requires political institution. If liberty is to exist and the dependence of the Government on the will of the people is to be real, there must always be a real choice before the people. This implies the maintenance and proper functioning of an opposition to the Government of the day. Unless the electorate has more than one possible Government before it, unless there is more than one party able to place its views before the public there is no choice before the people.

This condition obviously reveals the absurdity of the electoral practices of modern dictatorship, which pay to the institutions of democracy the sincerest form of flattery—that of imitation. They copy the device of the "General Election." But it is an empty and silly imitation. It deceives no one except those who wish to be deceived. No amount of electoral machinery, nor platform eloquence, nor secret balloting has the slightest significance if there is finally nothing to vote about; if there is no choice before the voters.

The elections of Hitler's Germany or contemporary Russia, in which the party receives 98 per cent. or 99 per cent. of the votes polled, may have been a tribute to the efficiency of the terror with which these unfortunate people are governed; but they have no more political significance than the bleating in unison of a herd of sheep. For what is the choice before these electorates? There is only one party in the election. There is only one Government that can be formed. There may be a choice of individuals but there is no choice of party, no choice of government, no choice of policy. The alternatives before the German people were Fuehrer Hitler or Fuehrer Hitler and that before the Russian people were Comrade Stalin or Comrade Stalin. Here then is the acid test of democracy—it is the toleration of opposition.

Let us now critically look at the Marxist picture in order to realize that thereby lies the road to dictatorship. Marxism briefly summarised may be stated thus: History is a record of an underlying struggle between classes and in this struggle it is further supposed that no single economic class will give

up its privileges, or the political power by means of which alone those privileges are maintained, without making the kind of struggle which makes continuous political democracy impossible. Hence social equality and justice could only be set up by a proletarian party that will take to arms before the bourgeoisie, overthrow the opposing class by force, and set up a proletarian dictatorship during the last phase of the class war. This party after the liquidation of the class enemy is expected to usher in the millennium.

Of course this theory is generally adumbrated in a much more pedantic manner and with just that veneer of intellectualism sufficient to beguile the less suspecting and less critical amongst us. Nevertheless Marxism stripped of its superfluous verbiage rests on four propositions which are:

- (1) That history is controlled by economic forces alone;
- (2) That economic forces must take the form of group struggle;
- (3) That group struggle must lead to civil war; and
- (4) That the just society can be constructed by the dictatorship of one party.

Although it is possible to critically examine and dispose of each one of these four propositions it is not necessary for the purpose of this article to do so. It merely suffices to examine the implications of the fourth proposition alone, i.e., that social justice could be ushered in by the dictatorship of one party. A moment's contemplation suffices to convince us that dictatorship is neither the best nor the quickest nor even a possible route to the Socialist goal.

Even if there had been any ambiguity about the term "dictatorship of the proletariat" before the Russian revolution, that memorable event has certainly removed most doubts. It has now come to denote a political programme indistinguishable from the political strategy and method used in Russia. It consisted of three processes: first the revolutionary conquest of the organs of government by the Communist Party; secondly, the suppression of all the opposition parties, both bourgeois and proletarian in origin (the Mensheviks and the Liberals); and thirdly, a subsequent period of indefinite duration in which the Communist party governs with all the forms of terror and in which no opposition is allowed legal existence. Thus the dictatorship of the proletariat consists of the dictatorship of the proletariat over all other classes (including the peasants comprising 70 per cent. of our population) and the dictatorship of the Communist Party (the enlightened vanguard of the proletariat) over the proletariat.

At this stage many important questions arise particularly when we remember that in no country is there only one workers' party, as there is always competition for the political leadership of the working class because it is a very convenient weapon. Why should not these different parties compete for power? Why should not the proletariat be allowed to choose between them; after the bourgeoisie has been liquidated? There is no conceivable reason why the Communist Party should deny to the working class a choice between working class parties. If the class struggle were the basic reality in history, the liquidation of the bourgeoisie would be justified but not the liquidation of other working class parties.

Democracy, as already stressed, depends upon toleration, and this necessity sets a limit to the expression of aggression in action. Political opponents may make very aggressive speeches against each other on public platforms, but as long as democracy lasts they do not persecute or destroy each other.

The Marxists may shout "Bangawewa" to their hearts content but in a democracy nothing really of value is destroyed; of course we do hear at times that the local Marxists themselves split in various fashions, but then this is not surprising in an age when ever so minute a thing as the atom has been split.

But how different would it be under a dictatorship which is born of hatred and which feeds upon cruelty. A dictatorship usually comes into existence after a bitter struggle. It represents the complete and unconditional triumph of one of the participants whose expression of aggression cannot be checked. In a democracy the governors of today always realize that they may be subjects of tomorrow; therefore it ill-behoves them to persecute. But, in a dictatorship the governed are completely at the mercy of their masters; the opponents of yesterday lie broken and powerless at the feet of the victors. Such is the tragedy of a dictatorship.

The result of such a state of affairs in practice was seen in the torture chambers of the German Concentration Camps, in the senseless humiliation of the Jew, and in the sleepless agony of the labour camps of Siberia. Torture of the Middle Ages was the order of the day. Thousands were shot without trial every year—two thousand names were published in the Moscow papers during 1937 alone. Hundreds of thousands were thrown into prison. Over everyone hung the restless fear of the spy and the dread of the secret police. In such circumstances there is no limit to the senseless cruelties of man upon man.

How can social justice arise from such beginnings or in societies so governed? The minimum content of social justice is the combination in society of political liberty with economic equality. It may be true to say that most capitalist democracies are lacking in economic equality but does it then necessarily follow that the path to social justice lies through dictatorship and the consequent eradication of political democracy. Whatever political liberty may or may not mean, it is certain that it cannot exist without the freedom of opposition. Without that essential institution there is no political choice before the people, and therefore no political liberty in society.

Men lacking in emotional balance due to psychological causes may be moved to believe that they could build a new heaven on earth, if only they were allowed to override and destroy all those who disagreed with them. It is not so. The problems of social life is the problem of reconciling the conflicting ends of different persons and different groups. Justice cannot be achieved, much less happiness by the crushing of one party to a conflict. Injustice remains, hatred remains, the drawn sword cannot be sheathed. It is well nigh thirty years since the Russian revolution but the dictatorship muzzled with blood flows on these are not the conditions in which man can be seen in the fullness of his stature. Man's highest achievements are not merely the outcome of a full stomach but of a free and unregimented mind.

To those who really seek a better social order—and are not merely seeking in political action relief from the psychological maladjustments of their own natures—we could surely say "This is not the Road."

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Romance of the "NEW YORK TIMES"

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By Jules Archer in
"This Month"

THEY say in Washington that every Government official begins his press conference by introducing the New York Times reporters to each other. A highly plausible tale, because the Times maintains 19 reporters in the nation's capital.

Although the Times' 551,000 circulation is fourth largest in New York, it reaches the most influential citizens, and the large Sunday edition has a readership of over a million. The Times wields a national influence far out of proportion to its circulation, and is read carefully by United States Congressmen.

The man who actually founded the paper in 1851 was Lt. Governor Henry J. Raymond of New York. But its greatness dates from 1896, when Cincinnati-born Adolph S. Ochs, one-time newsboy and printer's apprentice, took over. At that time the Times had barely 20,000 readers; the staff was less than 300. Today the Times has 3,359 employees, of whom only 824 are in the editorial and news departments.

The first Ochs Times was twelve pages daily, 24 on Sundays. Today's average week-day issue contains more than 40 pages. On Sunday the Times offers over 200 pages!

"MARRY THE BOSS' DAUGHTER"

THE present publisher, graying middle-aged Arthur Hays Sulzberger, is a very frank man. With refreshing candour he states publicly:

"Others have been asking me how to succeed in the newspaper business, and my answer on many occasions has been: 'Work hard, never watch the clock, polish the handle on the big front door and marry the Boss's daughter!' That's what I did in 1917.

If Sulzberger is monarch of all the Times surveys, Managing Editor Edwin L. James, who joined the paper as a copy reader 31 years ago, is his Prime Minister. Under James is the largest foreign news service, the biggest domestic and local news-gathering system of any paper in the world. News from all over the globe pours into the third floor of the Times building via a complex communications network. This includes radio telephone, which enabled the Times to be on the news-stands with a report of the invasion of the Marshall Islands only 65 minutes after the action; leased telegraph wires which record on electric typewriters; teletype; telephone and cable; short wave radio including the remarkable Hell-scriber, an automatic radio receiver which rescrambles radio code and translates into English on a continuous tape.

In a world where the tempo of news gets faster day by day, the Times has persistently pioneered in speedier communications. It introduced reporting from isolated outposts by short-wave radio. It developed the original method of transmitting photos coast-to-coast over ordinary telephone wires. It originated and manufactured a portable radiophoto sending and receiving set, which the Army, Navy and the Office of War Information took over for the war. And it gives its photographers a portable photo kit to develop and print their shots on the spot.

Now a Times photographer, sent into the woods to take shots of a crashed airliner, can develop and print his own pictures in a forest stream, get to the nearest phone and set up his portable transmitter. A call to New York—and a few moments later a clear photo of the crash is ready to go to press.

150 REPORTERS FOR NEW YORK ALONE

JAMES uses 150 reporters to cover the New York scene alone. Some have fixed assignments (City Hall, Police Headquarters), some special fields (politics, science, business, labour), and others stay on hand in the city room, ready to rush out on assignments.

Phones are manned by a battery of re-write men who take down stories called in by reporters. Even in this age, the humble telephone has performed such miracles for the Times as allowing newsmen sitting comfortably at the rewrite desk, to cover a revolution in Brazil, earthquake in Cuba, kidnapping in Colorado, train wreck in Georgia and shipwreck off Cape Cod.

More than 100 Times foreign correspondents are scattered over all the capitals and strategic news centres of the world. These handpicked men have the unenviable job of piecing together half-truth from government hand-outs, opposition charges, local papers and key personalities, to provide Times readers with a tempered approximation of perplexing foreign news.

If any one individual attempted to cope with the flood of news pouring into West 43rd Street each day, he would quickly be drowned. Dispatches are therefore diverted to six news desks, each manned by an editor with as many as fourteen assistants.

Foreign news goes to the cable desk; States news to the telegraph desk; city and suburban stories to the city editor; sports and financial news to their respective slots; obituaries and items on society, theatre, movies, music, art, night clubs, etc., go wholesale to the obituary desk.

Each editor's copy-readers check, verify and cut the stories, then write the headlines. When proofs come in, the editor makes sure the stories are fit to print—and libel proof.

Desk editors give the Night Managing Editor and his staff who sit in a railroad-off sections advance summaries of the major news stories. This section then lays out page one and page one of the second news section. They also approve layouts of other pages submitted by the various desk editors.

Physical size of next day's edition is determined by Managing Editor James at 5 p.m. on the basis of estimates from each desk as to the number of columns required, and a like estimate from the business manager on advertising. If combined estimates don't work out to an easy division of pages for printing purposes, James either orders the omissions of some advertising or the addition of more space for news.

TWO-POUND SUNDAY EDITION

EDITOR of the two-pound Sunday edition is self-assured, round-faced Lester Markel. The Sunday magazine section goes to press the Wednesday before, which has decided drawbacks. Once the magazine had gone to press with a lead article on Mexico's "greatest living man," General Obregon. It was a splendid piece—except that Obregon was assassinated three days before that edition hit the street.

The Times Book Review, a respected giant in its field, is read as much for the essay-like style of its reviewers as for criticism. Because the reviews extract much of the book contents, the reader turns page 28 of the Book Review with the pleasurable sensation of having grown a good deal wiser.

The Sunday drama section is really an omnibus covering the stage, screen, music, art, radio and the dance; its 16-odd pages include news on travel, reports, autos, gardens, aviation, bridge and stamps.

Although its editors firmly disclaim having any pet subjects, the Times has always shown a tremendous respect for science news. When Byrd went to the Antarctic in 1928, the Times sent along radio equipment and a reporter who short-waved his articles.

The editorial page, including "Letters to the Times," is the province of Charles Merz, nominal editor of the paper. Working under him are the esteemed columnist, Anne O'Hare McCormick, who won the 1937 Pulitzer Prize as a foreign correspondent, and Arthur Krock, chief of the Washington Bureau and Pulitzer Prize-winner for 1935 and 1938. This trio is largely responsible for the world-wide reputation of the Times editorial page.

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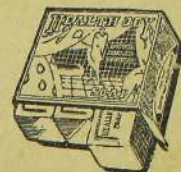
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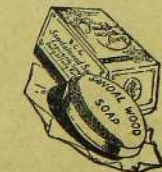
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u.n.p.

Friday, April 18th, 1947

WE ASIANS

WE do not incline to the view that the Asian Conference has finished making history, and that all we have to do now is to breathe easily again. We take a much more serious view of the importance of that Conference. Its importance is immense. The future of Asia, and indeed the future of the world, might yet be changed by it. But if we Asians are to derive the greatest possible benefit from it we must get down to practical measures. The new conception of Asian Unity should produce a desire for Asian citizenship among nationals of Eastern lands. That desire must be aroused wherever it does not already exist, and until then an organisation must be set up to plan the development of Asian unity. The goal might be the achievement of a Federation of Asia, with wide powers in internal affairs for each autonomous state in the Federation. It is well to realise that mankind is moving swiftly towards a time when narrow racial and national barriers will cease to be. Rather than let the flood of events carry us at its will, we should plan now to control and direct these new tendencies.

We can take pride in the fact that our delegates to the recent Conference made a contribution to the discussion worthy of the people of a country with such a ripe and mellow culture. Mr. BANDARANAIKE, the Leader of that delegation, and Mr. GEORGE E. DE SILVA, have been appointed members of a Committee to draft the Directives for a proposed Asian Secretariat. This is a recognition of the fact that Ceylon can make a distinct contribution to the thought of our times, and encourages us to look forward with confidence to the years when we shall have greater freedom to decide our relationship with fellow Asians. It is fitting that Pandit JAWAHARLAL NEHRU, who is, perhaps, the greatest living statesman, should have laid the foundations of a New Asia so soon after his assumption of power in the Interim Government of India.

Far from shutting our doors against the rest of the world we should adopt a broad historical view. The human race may comprise innumerable shades of colour and as many variations of dialect, custom, and habits of mind: but in the elemental desire for the freedom from the Fear, of each other, and of Want, there is no variation in the White, or Yellow or Black or Brown Man. The historical view will lead us to the attainment of the goal towards which humanity in the mass has always marched.

MR. G. F. VAN DER HOEVEN, Hony. Secretary of the Burgher Association of Ceylon, struck a pessimistic note the other day in the local Press.

Calling on the Burgher community to decide one way or the other for the sake of their children who may find "that they are definitely side-tracked by the nationalistic sentiment of the ruling representatives of the country, who put their own people in all departments and activities worthy of note and recognition," he suggests a way out.

"There is the opportunity of going to Australia where we as a 100 per cent. literate community can find every opportunity of fitting in, so as to achieve our purpose and obtain recognition for services we may be called upon to render for the good of the country which gives us a home and a living."

This is deplorable. It is surprising why a "100 per cent. literate community cannot adapt itself to Sinhalese or Tamil. Even the Malays, who number only 15,000 to the 30,000 Burghers and who like them speak neither Sinhalese nor Tamil, have voted to stay behind and join hands in the national struggle. The 30,000 Ceylon Moors, who speak Arabic Tamil or patois Tamil have agreed to throw in their lot with Sinhalese. In the allocation of posts, discrimination has been the ground complaint by other minority communities, too. But matters should right themselves when the new Constitution is worked.

I hope the defeatist attitude of Mr. G. F. Van der Hoeven is not the general opinion of a community whose sons have given us the best lawyers, administrators, etc., and their departure from this lovely isle, would, indeed, be a great loss.

Indian Singer

* THOSE who missed the song recital of Justika Ray missed a lot. It was not only the beautiful rendering of her songs—Bengali and Hindi ballads, "bhajans," and "geet"—but the simplicity of the singer as well that appealed. We are accustomed to local artistes "dressing" for the stage—make-up, best Kashmir saris and mother's best jewellery. Justika Ray was different. Simplicity was her strong-point. With hardly an ear-stud by way of adornment, with a natural complexion and in a plain white sari she appeared impressive and beautiful. It was a lesson. Next, she sang in a low but pleasingly effective manner, with the orchestra synchronising faithfully. It was a contrast to some of our local artistes who bawl into the "mike." That was the second lesson.

Justika Ray, I hear, will be returning to Ceylon next October to participate in the Music Festival in connection with the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Ramakrishna Mission.

Henry Ford

* THE death of Henry Ford, the car magnate, removes from the world a colourful personality, whose name will long be remembered as the man who "put the world on wheels."

In his own words the success of his business was due to his shrewd understanding the judgment. Once he said: "If an employee keeps talking about his work. Sack him. He knows too much." He was no mean paymaster. According to a newspaperman, Ford had once remarked: "Keep the worker contented and you get tons of work. Let him grumble and half your potential labour power is lost."

Tram Fares

* WHEN passengers protested against the increased tram fares in Colombo, a wag was heard to remark: "Wait till the next elections for any reduction." The old fares, a compromise between Boustead's low fares and the Colombo Municipal Council's exorbitant rates, were proposed a few weeks before the last Municipal elections. Having saddled themselves in their seats, the City Fathers have grown indifferent again.

The history of tram travel ever since the Colombo Municipal Council rashly bought the white elephant, has been a shameful one. Besides given rain-shackle cars (with bugs and cob-webs) the public were asked to pay at various times: 10 cents for 2 sections, 5 cents for 2 sections and once again 10 cents for 2 sections.

And to think that during the Boustead's ownership of the tramways, when the fare of 4 cents for 4 sections was increased by just one cent, there was such a howl from this very Council.



Spain A Monarchy

* GENERAL FRANCO, by a shrewd diplomatic move, has laid the United Nations flat and gasping by his pronouncement that Spain is to be proclaimed a monarchy. It was a master stroke. In effect he told his opponents: "You wanted a monarchy in Spain. Well, here it is—but, of course, I shall be the head of the State." And those nations won't stomach that.

The draft law specifies that Franco reserves the right at any time to name the person who is to succeed him, and provides that there will be no restoration of the monarchy as such until the death or inability of Franco.

Spain lost her monarchy in 1931 when on April 14 of that year the Municipal Councils of the larger cities of Spain declared for a Republic and Senor Alcalá Zamora called on King Alfonso XII to abdicate.

Raman's Diamonds

* HAD a chat the other day with large-hearted Commissioner of Local Government, Mr. E. W. Kannangara, who was full of the Asian Conference which he attended as a delegate from Ceylon. He told me a number of good stories about various personalities. There was a good one about Sir C. V. Raman who was in Ceylon a few months ago on a lecture tour.

Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, the Chairman of the Conference, had asked Raman why he had not brought his diamonds to the Conference, and Raman replied, "But, Mrs. Naidu, the best diamonds of Asia are here!"

Mr. Kannangara was interviewed on the radio the other night during a programme of the Over Sixteen Club, the President of which asked him whether

there was any truth in the statement that the Asian Conference indicated a possibility of Asia uniting to dominate Europe. Mr. Kannangara assured his listeners that the entire tone of the Conference was on a much higher plane than that of mere power politics. The delegates present felt very keenly the need for emphasising a spirit of comradeship among the nations and races of the world. The main object of all present was to find some solution to the conflicts that were dissipating the energies of the human race.

Soft-voiced K.C.

* DR. L. A. RAJAPAKSE has the gift of saying a soft and correct word at the correct moment. He is the kind of person to have at a Conference table for if there should be some point at issue which generates undue heat, he can be relied upon to intervene with just that soft answer that turneth away wrath.

I remember the last meeting of the Executive Committee of the United National Party when there was a minor debate on the wording of the terms of reference of the Nominations Board. One clause in it said that in the case of "open" seats members of the Executive Committee of the Party should not engage in open participation in the electioneering campaign of the candidates. There was quite a discussion on this one word. Some argued that instead of "open" the opposite might well be allowed according to the reading of that clause and so on and so forth. In the middle of this somewhat pointless argument which was holding up the main business of the meeting we heard a soft authoritative voice from somewhere in the middle of the hall. "Shall we use the word 'public' instead of 'open' suggested Dr. Rajapakse and the argument ended.

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Indo-China Spotlight



IN AUTHORITY
Ramadjié—Premier of France

"WITHOUT Indo - China France may become another Portugal." This statement made in the French Assembly is the answer to the question why there is fighting today in French Indo-China.

Like all other colonial possessions, this colony of the French took advantage of the War to declare its Independence and formed a Republic under the name of the Viet-Nam Republic.

The new Socialist Prime Minister of France has declared: "Colonial possession is only really justified on the day it ceases.....when the present crisis is overcome our object will always be the same—the organisation of a free Viet-Nam Republic."

These noble sentiments are quite opposed to what is now happening in the name of the French Socialist Government. French para-troops have been sent out there, dive-bombing of villages is taking place and all the machinery of modern warfare is being utilised to crush the Indo-Chinese forces.

Let us see what this French Empire that was consists of, and who are the human beings who inhabit these vast regions. French Indo-China consists of five states between Siam and the China Sea. They are TONKING to the North, adjoining China, LAOS and CAMBODIA below this and adjoining Siam. To the East of Laos in Annam, and to the South-East of Cambodia is Cochin China. The immediate cause of the present trouble is that the Viet-Nam wants Cochin China attached to Tonking and Annam and the French are preventing the holding of a referendum which will decide in favour of this and they are instead taking into their hands the cities and posts of the country.

Cambodia and Laos have a population of 1,000,000, while Cochin China, Annam and Tonking have a population of 20,000,000. The French want the first two and Cochin China to enter the proposed Union as semi-independent units. The Viet-Nam wants Cochin China which is closely linked with the last two on the eastern sea-board to form one powerful unit. Cochin China is the centre of the rice industry and Indo-China, the first to be conquered by the French in 1863 and contains their largest investments.

By
J. R. Jayawardene

The Buddhists of Ceylon should take a particular interest in these countries, for both Cambodia, Laos and Annam contain a Buddhist population. A thousand years ago, Cambodia was a great Buddhist Empire stretching from the Bay of Bengal to the China Sea. Little remains of all that grandeur and its most magnificent scenes are the Buddhist temple of Angkor Vat at Angkor in Cambodia. The religion of Cambodia is the Theravada Buddhism of Ceylon. The people of Annam are a medley of races. The chief people are the Mongolian Annamese. They profess the Buddhism of the Chinese and Buddhism flourishes side by side with Tarism and Confucianism. Cambodia and Annam both had their own emperors, whose power was no more than that of the Indian Maharajahs.

These ancient countries and dynasties are in the melting pot. Out of them what will ultimately emerge we cannot say, but one thing is seen that just as British Imperialism is fading away so will French and Dutch Imperialism and the peoples of the East, rising in power again, will give to the World the blessings of the Buddha Dhamma, which at one time flourished throughout these regions.

IN "REBELLION"
Ho Chi Minh—Viet-Nam Leader



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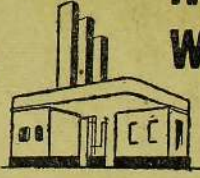
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“**THE
ISLAND'S
CHOICE**”

SHOOTING THE

“As long as my memory lasts I will never forget
the stare of this brave beast, that stare which was
mingled with such hatred and contempt for man.”

ARRIVED one hot August
afternoon in a Gan-Vedda
village named Rotawa, approxi-
mately twenty-four miles from
the Welikanda Railway Station,
bordering the North-Central
and Eastern Provinces. My main
camp was actually pitched in a
place named Pachakaduwa approxi-
mately twelve miles from Rotawa. I
had walked to Rotawa with my
Head Tracker (K. P. Charlie Silva of
Welikanda) and a Gan-Vedda—the
one carrying my haversack contain-
ing a few cabin biscuits and a few
bottles of light drinks and the other
carrying my D.B.B.L. shot gun and I
taking my favourite high-velocity 9 m/m
Express Rifle.

The reason why I actually decided to
leave my comfortable camp, which was
fixed on the bund of an ancient tank
commanding a most enchanting view,
was that after two days' tramping in
the suburbs of Pachakaduwa I never saw
even the spur of bear—(this particular
shoot was meant for bear more than
any other game)—and on the advice of
my Head Tracker who told me that
Rotawa was infested with bear and we
could obtain the help and advice in this
connection from the Chief of the Gan-
Vedda clan of Rotawa.

On arriving at this Gan-Vedda ham-
let, which consisted of a 100 sq. ft.
clearing with a crudely constructed pal-
sade, and containing about eight small
palm-leaf and straw thatched huts I was
conducted by my tracker, amidst the
barking of the dogs of the hamlet to the
largest abode of the hamlet, which I
understood to be the home of the Chief
of the clan. I was very self-conscious
as I noticed the ladies of the hamlet
peering at me.

We were greeted by a very sickly look-
ing Vedda who informed me that he
was the only male left behind to look
after the plantation as all the other
able-bodied males had set out on a wild-
bee honey collecting expedition and that
they were not expected back in the
hamlet till the next day (Wild bee-honey
is a very relished food of Veddas).

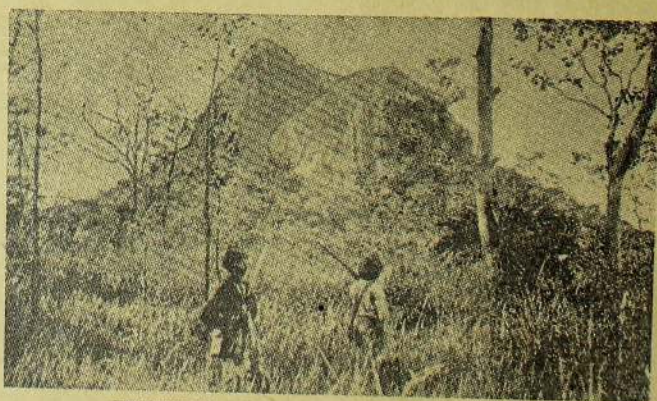
We were invited to stay over the night
in the hamlet, and as we were tired the

invitation was accepted. Our host told
us that they were much harassed by a
wild bull-buffalo which frequently
grazed in the vicinity of the hamlet and
which in addition to destroying their
small field gave chase to anyone whom it
came across. Incidentally a Vedda
fears the wild-buffalo more than any
other animal of the jungle. This man
further told us that they had fired sever-
al times at the animal with their long-
barrelled muzzle-loading guns without
any apparent effect. On the other hand
these ministrations had only made the
animal bolder. I agreed to do my best
to destroy it and was readily conducted
to the area in which the buffalo usually
roamed. I was accompanied by my
Head Tracker who did the work of gun-
bearer as I wanted to have my shot-gun
at hand if my rifle failed. After about
half an hour's walk we came across a
sandy game track, and after traversing
this for nearly a quarter of a mile my
Vedda guide pointed out fresh hoof-
marks of a buffalo crossing the game-
track diagonally.

The imprints appeared to be new and
our guide said that this was the spur
of our quarry. The hoof-marks pointed
in the direction of a water-hole where
buffaloes usually go in the hot after-
noon to wallow in the mud.

My gun-bearer, who was an experi-
enced hunter, observed that the fact
that there were no other hoof-marks
across this track proved that the
spur in question was of a lone bull
buffalo. Wild buffalo graze and are
always together in herds. A lone bull
buffalo on the other hand grazes and
roams the jungle alone—this type of ani-
mal is avoided by the herds and is
usually or is invariably in a bad temper
and is very vicious. The hoof prints
which had crossed the game-track led to
a stretch of thick shrub jungle on an
undulating strip of land covered with
general shrub and long grass called
“Mana” or “Elate” and for the greater
part of this jungle the shrub and grass
was so dense that one's range of vision
did not exceed a radius of 10 feet.

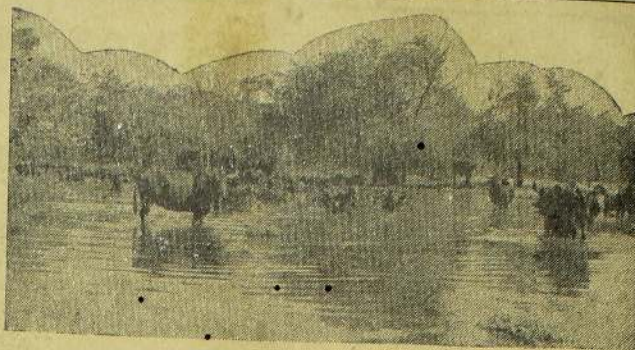
We were, however, able to follow the
track the animal had taken as all the
grass and shrub along it was dis-
turbed. Our luck, however, in this
direction was short-lived, for as we
went further we were unable to follow
our quarry owing to thickness of shrub.



FRONTIERS OF THE VEDDAH COUNTRY

WILD BUFFALO

By
F. V. P. Jayawardene



A HERD OF WILD BUFFALO

The Vedda guide took another line of approach to the water-place where the buffalo had gone. We cut across this veldt-like land in Indian-file taking the greatest care not to make any noise—the only means of communication being by signs. The Vedda took the lead followed by me with my fully loaded magazine rifle on the "safe" and my gun-bearer just behind me with both barrels of my shot gun loaded with "destructor-ball" cartridges.

We were fortunate in having at that moment the wind against us so that there was no danger of any animal ahead of us picking up our scent. The shrub jungle gradually thinned as we proceeded—later I discovered that we were heading for a vast extent of ancient paddy land, now in ruins, so very common a sight in the Tammanakaduwa District—and abruptly ended in a small clearing. As we stood by the edge of it my Vedda guide showed me a massive buffalo hardly twenty yards in front of us, grazing quite contentedly. From the excited look on my guide's face, I knew that this was our quarry. I stepped in front and aimed right at the centre of

the buffalo's forehead (the animal was at the moment grazing in a position, facing us). I do not know what made the animal raise his head during the fraction of a second I took to steady myself and touch the hair-trigger of my rifle—perhaps it was the sudden change of wind-direction, or the trampling of a twig by the excited Vedda—but the fact was the buffalo did raise his head and my shot failed to hit the spot I wanted—the distinct thud of the bullet at 20 yards range, however, told me that I had registered a hit somewhere.

The wounded buffalo, however, did not make any attempt to charge but shifted himself a bit towards the edge of the shrub without shifting his gaze at us for even a second. As I was using a magazine rifle I was not long in putting another bullet in a vital spot—but still the animal showed no sign of collapsing—blood was spurting from his nostrils, mouth and ears, but the buffalo stood his ground and never for a moment averted his eyes.

As long as my memory lasts I will never forget the stare of this brave

beast, that stare which was mingled with such hatred and contempt for man. He was in the same attitude till I emptied my balance magazine of four rounds on him.

As I was reloading my rifle that fiery lustre of his eyes suddenly became glassy and the animal which was facing us so stoutly collapsed on his forelegs and with one deep gasp and with a convulsive twitch of his massive body lay still never to haunt Rotawa again.

On closer examination I found that the first round I fired was a "solid"—steel bullet—which had as a result of the animal raising his head, caught him on the snout—the portion between his nose and forehead—the bullet which at 20 yards developed a velocity of 2,035 feet per second and an energy of 2,255 ft. lbs. had traversed across his snout and entered his body in the region of his chest, just below the neck, presumably cut

across his heart and got embedded in his body. I think the fact that I used an Express rifle and at close range had given this animal a knock-out shot with the first bullet and wounded him mortally.

I might mention in this connection that I had only one "solid" round of ammunition in my magazine of 6 rounds—the balance being "soft-nosed" ammunition with only blasting effects and lesser penetration power. It was sheer luck that made the single round of "solid" ammunition which I had in my magazine get into the breach of my rifle for the first round of fire—I quite carelessly did not ensure this before setting out to track the animal. Had it been a "soft nosed" round and had it caught the buffalo on the identical spot where I hit him, I think it would have only blasted his snout and given him a very fair chance of charging with what results I cannot say.

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3	992	1,000.00	15.00	977.60	16-2-45	25-5-45
4	I.A.181	500.00	119.90	239.10	1-12-43	9-4-45
5	I.A.104	400.00	66.25	400.00	1-11-43	13-11-45
6	I.A.554	400.00	6.25	381.25	6-12-45	12-2-46
7	I.A.537	500.00	10.00	478.80	15-11-45	12-2-46
8	I.A.553	500.00	10.00	470.40	6-12-45	25-2-46
9	2503	1,000.00	15.00	959.60	31-1-46	4-3-46
10	2456	1,000.00	28.75	1,973.25*	25-1-46	10-5-46
11	1616	1,000.00	58.65	1,000.00	25-1-46	21-8-46
12	2186	1,000.00	47.25	484.25	10-12-45	25-9-46
13	3663	1,000.00	15.55	1,953.35*	23-8-46	6-10-46
14	I.A.502	450.00	34.65	221.85	15-2-46	7-10-46
15	469	1,000.00	130.90	956.35	31-7-44	16-10-46
16	I.A.568	500.00	38.50	996.50*	28-12-45	4-11-46
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