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VOL V. No. 41

Organ of the United National Party
 Rgd. Office: No. 238, Galle Rd., Colombo 3.

FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 1952

Registered at the
 G.P.O. as a Newspaper

PRICE 5 CENTS

Paradise In Peril

BY now the whole country must have been shocked by the Governor-General's revelations about the state of the tuberculosis wards at Welisara and Ragama. Lord Soulbury said: "In Mr. Barlow's opinion, the tuberculosis wards are in a state comparable to the prison camp of Belsen in Germany in the last war." His Excellency added that, from all that he had himself seen and learnt since then, he was certain that description was only too well justified.

As regards the responsibility for this state of affairs His Lordship pointedly remarked: "It is impossible not to wonder how it is that such a situation has been allowed to develop for it points to a long period of neglect and apathy, and one is tempted to indulge in criticism and censure. But the main problem is to put things right and, as regards the past I think it is better to leave it to anyone who has been charged with responsibility for the administration of the health services and particularly the treatment of tuberculosis during recent years to re-examine his own conscience."

Now, whose responsibility is it that the tuberculosis wards at Welisara and Ragama resemble the dreaded Belsen camp in Germany? Primarily, is it not the responsibility of a Minister of the Government (who is a representative of the people) to see that the health and medical services in his special charge are efficiently administered and that the officials responsible for apathy and neglect are adequately punished? Until Mr. S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike resigned last year, he was responsible to the people for the proper administration of the medical and health services of the island, and when the Governor-General refers to a "long period of apathy and neglect" to whose administration is he referring? Wasn't Mr. Bandaranaike Minister of Health for a period of four years before he resigned?

Everybody knows, beyond the possibility of contradiction by Mr.

BELSEN AND MR. BANDARANAIKE

Bandaranaike, that his reason for resigning from the Government was that certain reactionary proposals which he persuaded the Sinhala Maha Sabha to put up to the Government were peremptorily rejected by Mr. D. S. Senanayake. In other words, Mr. Bandaranaike resigned from the Government for certain personal reasons of his own. Even in his speech of resignation in Parliament he never uttered a word about the deplorable state of the health and hospital services, nor did he say that he was resigning because he was not given the freedom to correct the appalling conditions which existed in these services. When resigning, had he stated in Parliament that he was filled with horror at the conditions existing in these services and that he was leaving the cabinet because he lacked the freedom to remedy those evils, the whole country would have applauded him and sympathised with him and supported him. But such a statement he could not possibly make for the simple reason that, at UNO Health Conferences, both at Rome and in India, he painted a picture in glowing colours of Ceylon being the most advanced country in Asia as regards the general state of health of the population and the health measures she had adopted. In India he advocated the need for birth control measures in Ceylon, when what was really and urgently needed (in the light of the Governor-General's revelations) were measures to save a large percentage of the population (whose existence has not been prevented by birth control) from the ravages of tuberculosis.

It must, therefore, be a shock to the people of this country to now realise that Mr. Bandaranaike, who resigned from the Government for certain reasons of his own, was actually not aware of the terrible facts about the health services which the Governor-General has revealed, and that the facts discovered by Mr. Barlow — namely, the appalling state of the tuberculosis wards at Welisara and Ragama — were facts which any laymen could have easily observed for himself. They are not conditions which need an expert eye to discover.

Incidentally, the Governor-General appealed to the man who had closed his eyes to the conditions at Welisara and Ragama or had not taken the trouble to acquaint himself with these conditions, to re-examine his conscience. This, I fear is a counsel of perfection in this particular case, because Mr. Bandaranaike's conscience is not perturbed by the chambers of horrors he has left behind him as a legacy to his successor in the Ministry of Health. On the other hand, the sufferings of the pathetic patients in the frightful tuberculosis wards in Welisara and Ragama do not seem to worry him at all since he has never, since his melodramatic resignation from the Cabinet even hinted that he was aware of the existence of these unfortunate folk. In fact, the conscience of Mr. Bandaranaike is not perturbed by the spectacle of human suffering. His conscience is only concerned with the political value of religious

hysteria and the dire necessity to install Sinhalese as the national language.

This is the man who is now going about the country stating that he had resigned from the Government because he was dissatisfied with what the Government was doing for the masses. What had he done for the masses during the four years he was Minister of Health? Is the Government which he left satisfied with what he had been doing for the masses who patronised the hospitals in his charge? Can he absolve himself of the responsibility for the dreadful conditions existing in the tuberculosis wards at Welisara and Ragama? Can a man who so disgracefully neglected his own duties during a period of four years be trusted to do his duty by the country in the higher sphere of Prime Minister? can a

(Continued on page 3)

YOUTH LEAGUE WORKING COMMITTEE MEETS

THE monthly meeting of the Working Committee of the U.N.P. Youth League was held at the Headquarters, Galle Road, Colpetty, on Sunday, the 2nd instant.

Mr. Hamilton Abeywickrema presided, in the absence of Sir John Kotelawala and the Vice Presidents of the league who were at Akuressa.

After the confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting, reports of the sub-committees on Membership and Finance submitted by Messrs. K. D. Sumanasinghe and Wijepala H. Mendis were adopted.

AKURESSA BY-ELECTION

Mr. Nimal Rohana moved a resolution that the members should organize themselves for the forth-

coming by-election for the Akuressa seat in Parliament.

A sub-committee consisting of Messrs. Tudor Wijesiriwardene, K. D. Sumanasinghe, J. Niyathipala, Nimal Rohana and Wijepala Mendis was appointed to implement the resolution.

It was resolved that the proceedings of meetings of the Working Committees should be conducted in Sinhalese.

GROUP DISCUSSIONS CLASSES

The group discussions classes held every Monday evening have been suspended for the period of the Colombo Plan Exhibition.

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TRENDS OF NATIONAL EXPRESSIONS

Common Background of Ceylon & Indonesia

A VISIT to the Indonesian Pavilion reveals the trends of national expression as demonstrated in the murals, wood-carvings and other exhibits of art and culture of that young Republic of South-East Asia. There is a striking resemblance of these wood carvings to those found in Ceylon, indicating a common origin as regards craftsmanship. The earliest cultural expressions of Indonesia are unmistakably of Hindu influences from India and later influenced by Buddhism—the grandiose Borobudur, a Stupa dedicated to Gautama Buddha being additional proof thereof. In wood carving the patterns shown depicting Hindu epics, the Mahabarata and Ramayana emphasise the Hindu influence, similar to the counterparts in Ceylon. Among the heirlooms of history today the remaining evidence of the craftsmanship of the College of Wood Sculpture is to be seen at Embekke Dewale in the carved wooden pillars and the panels each of which is ornamented in different patterns. No two panels are alike and the wide range of motifs is most striking. It is said that when Burma, Siam, Cambodia and the Indonesian Archipelago received Buddhism from Ceylon, craftsmen and artists were taken from Ceylon to decorate the temples in those

countries. The conclusion can reasonably be drawn that the immigrants from India and Ceylon had exercised great influence in sculpture, art and culture. The trends of national expressions in Ceylon as well as in Indonesia indicate a common background.

A COMMON BACKGROUND

Within recent years there has been a definite revival of interest in the Fine Arts of Ceylon and the public taste has been quickened mainly owing to the awakening of nationalism which brought in its wake a sense of pride in the earliest examples of Sinhalese Art of the fifth century, which survive today. The earliest cultural expressions in Indonesia and the Malay Archipelago date back to the 9th century. Both countries were colonized by Aryan-speaking people from North India. Therein lies the common background. A certain degree of civilization facilitated the absorption of the higher culture of the immigrants from India which lasted till the 12th century, when Hindu influence became static and was replaced by the Buddhist religion and the Buddhist conception of life. The ancient Sinhalese embraced Buddhism in the 3rd century B.C. as a result of the missionary ardour of the great Indian Emperor Asoka. Stimulated by the spiritual impulse of the Buddhist faith, culture developed and civilization distinctive of Ceylon came into existence. The eminent historian Tennent once

claimed for Ceylon the origin of oil-painting and that in sculpture, architecture, wood carving and the allied arts the Sinhalese excelled. It is possible to trace the development of painting, from the paintings discovered at Anuradhapura, right up to the present day. Even the more modern examples of murals show evidence of a continued and permanent tradition.

INDONESIAN NATIONAL BASE

The new era for Indonesian art and culture was heralded after the transfer of sovereignty. Vigorous attempts were made to look for new creations, based on the existing foundations acceptable to the nation. The grand purpose is the creation of a new art, a new culture of the Republic of Indonesia on a national base. This base is sought in the five Principles as presented by President Sukarno himself to be (1) Belief in god; (2) Nationalism; (3) Humanism; (4) the Sovereignty of the people; and (5) Social Security. All power should be focussed on the Pantjasila. But they start from the idea that the ancient culture should be studied and mastered and should be imposed on the younger generation with the aid of available modern methods and together with what has been obtained by the studies of modern Western art, to create something new while maintaining the ancient tradition, to create the national republican Indonesian Art.

OMEGA.

MANKYALA STUPA— HISTORIC BUDDHIST RELIC

FOURTEEN miles from Rawalpindi, Pakistan, as one goes on the GRAND TRUNK ROAD towards Lahore, a massive dome would appear about half a mile on the north-easterly side of the road, from Lobani Rest House.

A great mystery shrouded the area and many legendary tales were related about the group of ruins there. A careful study of the ancient history has revealed that this is the great stupa or 'tope' associated with the 'body offering' of Gautama Buddha.

The Buddhist story tells us that at this place Buddha offered his body to appease the hunger of seven tiger cubs. To commemorate the offering, a Stupa was built at this site of blood stains, near the ancient city of Manikpur, which was established by Raja Man or Manik and was later on known as Mankyala.

Hiven T Slang, the renowned Chinese traveller, also mentions and identifies the place with the scene of the occurrence and it is stated to be one of the four great Stupas of North-Western region of the sub-continent.

The dome of the Stupa is an exact hemisphere about 100 feet high. Its diameter is 127 feet. In circumference, the outer circle measures 500 feet. There are four flights of steps on two sides, leading to a procession path, which is about 16 feet wide. A range of ornamented pilasters is noticeable even to-day, of which the tee has gone. The disfigured remains indicate that these ornamented pilasters at one time contained, in miniature, various phases of the life of Buddha.

The Stupa first attracted the attention of Mountstuart Elphinstone in 1809 on a mission to Shah Shuja of Kabul. It was thoroughly ex-

plored, later on by two army officers of Ranjit Singh, General Ventura and General Court in 1834. This Stupa was opened by General Court, who found three cylindrical caskets of gold, silver and copper in a stone niche, covered by an inscribed slab, making the mention of the sacrifice of Buddha's body. In the golden casket were found four gold coins of Kanishka. The silver casket contained seven silver Roman Denarii, originating about the year 43 B.C. The copper casket had eight copper coins of Kanishka and his predecessors.

This Stupa was further explored by General Sir A. Cunningham, after the surrender of the Sikh army at this place in 1849. General Cunningham ran trenches across another mound, and unearthed many monk cells. Remains were traced of 15 monasteries, fourteen smaller buildings of the same type and many isolated massive stone walls. The ruins pointed out that apart from the monks, the pilgrims took their residence at this place as they came to worship at the shrine.

The coins found from the Stupa were of Kanishka and Huvishka dating from the advent of Christian era. Amongst these coins was found a gold coin of Yaso Varmma, and many silver Sassano-Arabian coins. Yaso Varmma of Kananj, reigned not earlier than 720 A.D.

On this discovery, General Cunningham thought that the Stupa might have been originally built by Huvishka, who in the customary way deposited coins of his predecessor Kanishka along with coins of his own reign. Later on the Stupa might have been damaged and rebuilt in the present massive form by Raja Yaso Varmma, who after re-depositing the relic-caskets, also interred his own gold and several other coins of contemporary Arab rulers.

The Stupa as it stands today has a very impressive and imposing look. The other ruins have been levelled to the ground, and except for the

By S. H.
Yoonoos

pieces of plaster, which are lying here and there, there is no other sign of this ancient religious centre, for which Mankyala was famous once; and it also claimed the honour of being the burial place of Bucephalus, Alexander's well-known charger.

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Red China Traces Mind's Secret Thoughts

By Quintus Delilkhan

IT is incredible that an age-old civilization like China which has resisted innovation from outside influences with even some degree of asperity should now be undergoing an inward transformation of set and deliberate purpose under skilled communist techniques, but the process is active there all the same. We are all concerned that democracy in its genuine form should flourish in this country and in others which have adopted the democratic way of life and have found it to be good. It is accordingly valuable for us to realise the utter ruthlessness of the methods of "brain-washing" which are being adopted in an important part of the contemporary world. Communism is active at all points reducing the minds of those over whom it has influence to conform to one set pattern. It is to escape such a fate that we should have a continuance of a democratic form of government in this country. If once communism gets a definite hold here, the minds especially of the young and the workers will be subjected to a most severe trial. They will have no chance of resisting such a "brain-washing" process as China is experiencing. Communism has discovered that the victory of arms is not enough. It is at best but an uncertain victory. To continue to exercise authority the minds of the people must be substantially changed. It is the process which is so very cruel, arbitrary and dangerous.

Edward Hunter in the book referred to last week—"Brain-Washing in Red China"—has taken the trouble to indicate the methods which are being practised in that unhappy country to secure permanent support for communism. The work that is being carried out is apparently very thorough. No classes of people are exempt. The communists in China have learnt their methods from Russia, the great storehouse of these forms of new instruction. This has become a nation-wide activity. Men, women and children in their thousands have had their brains washed. Professors, army officers, municipal officials, reporters, printers and others have undergone this process of change. No one can secure employment unless there is an application of these tests which have been set up. It is only after this process has been completed that a person is considered to be trustworthy and can be depended on, as the phrase there runs, "to lean to one side." There is a very special meaning behind this phrase. It signifies that in all things one is to lean to the side of Russia. Russia can never be wrong in any line of action she takes, Russia must be defended and there could be no deviation from this line of action. When we see people in this country showing the

same symptoms of mind, it is not hard for us to believe that the process of indoctrination has been going on in this country too to some extent under the spread of communist literature and the education imparted by the leaders of the communist way of thinking. They are only not in a position, under democracy, to carry out the same comprehensive process as is being applied to China.

The case of the student named Chi which is expounded by Edward Hunter concerns this failure on his part to lean towards the Russian side. A means of withstanding the encroachments of capitalistic misrepresentation in China is the wall newspaper which is a small newspaper pinned to the walls for the education of the new red democracy. It appears in factories, villages and other places. In these newspapers, the people are expected to freely express their opinions, without any kind of constraint. Once, however, an opinion has been expressed it is open to the communist authorities to judge the frame of mind of the writers. Chi believed that freedom and democracy were realities which Communism had assured to him. He freely expressed in an article in the Tsing Hua University wall newspaper his dissatisfaction with Russian policy. This was at a time when China was making an effort to lean towards Russia and break away from America. Chi asked why Russia had taken control of the Manchurian railways? Why were whole factories dismantled and removed to Siberia? Why should ports in Manchuria be held by Russia? He did not know that he was putting himself in the way of disaster. Explanations were offered. The substance of these explanations was that Russia, was under the necessity of resisting Nationalist China and keeping off American aggression. The students were not satisfied with the explanations of the authorities. Then the trouble took shape. Chi was summoned to appear before the chief of the Communist Party Committee and upbraided for creating discontent among the students by causing these matters to be freely discussed. He was told that he was trying to destroy the fruits of the revolution. He was still under Kuomintang influences. Would he keep a diary of the ideas that passed through his mind and submit it to this official?

Chi explained his point of view in detail and also kept a diary. The normal conception of a diary is a record which is meant for one's private use. In its one can enter the secret processes of one's own thoughts, the development of ideas, one's impressions of all things that crowd upon the mind. It is not meant to be a case-book for analysis by outsiders. They are not in a position to be able to sympathise with

any matter pertaining to the welfare of a people?

These are not rhetorical questions? These are questions of fact, and these are questions of fact which every intelligent and politically conscious voter should ask the ex-Minister whenever he gets up on a platform and talks about the failings of the members of the Government which he thought fit to leave.

a personal attitude or the personal evolution of ideas and the conclusions which might be arrived at later by the writer when he feels that he has examined a subject from every point of view that suggests itself to his mind. Such conclusions should be a free development for his own enlightenment. But in China this is not the position. Chi, like hundreds of others whom love of their country affected most deeply, were regarded as dangerous until the transformation desired by the communists had been brought about. This diary was subjected to examination, and she was found singularly wanting. Chi had taken part in the

discussions of the students which began at the absurdly early hour of 6 a.m. and went on, with brief intervals, till 9.30 p.m., when they went to bed, their minds and bodies tired out. In the circumstances of such continuous discussion, there was much that the diary could contain which would not please the communist authorities. Other students had also come under the same cloud of suspicion that their minds required a complete reorientation. One morning they received instructions to be prepared to go to the North China People's Revolutionary University. There were thirty-three students, including two girls, who were to be put through their paces, and thus become fit to shoulder their burdens of responsibility in the new China. We shall consider in the next article what this process was, and how human beings fared under its impact on their minds.

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BELSEN AND MR. BANDARANAIKE

(Continued from page 1)

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**RICE SHORTAGE PANICKED
COLOMBO IN 1866**

By T. M. G. Samat

WE have rationing and high prices in the open market when there is a short supply of rice but there are no riots, hold-ups and looting as happened in 1866 when a temporary short supply of rice occurred. If queues are impatient there is respect for constituted authority—an authority more nearer to the people than in 1866.

In this comparison in civil wisdom, 1866 might lose what 1952 gains. But famine in 1866 could have raised its ugly head.

And under Famine anything is possible. Now with the Gal thing is possible. Now with the Gal Oya of Tomorrow and the Walawe of the near future, not to mention our Grow More Food campaigns it is doubtful whether Famine will ever be able to menace this Island. Early in October 1866 supplies of rice from India fell and as a result the price of rice in Colombo went up from 15s to 17s. These rates were abnormal but higher prices were demanded in Galle and Kandy. By the middle of the month there was rioting and hold-ups. The worst phase was still to come with no improvement in the supply position from India. Increasing difficulties in feeding prisoners in Police custody caused the policemen much concern. Permission was sought from Government to double the contractual rates for a prisoner's meal viz 4d vice 2d. Only 3d per meal was sanctioned, urgency of the position compelling the Governor Sir Hercules Robinson (Later Lord Rosmead) to concede this rate. The Governor disagreed with the Chief Superintendent of Police, an office corresponding to I.G.P. that victualing prisoners should be a charge on the Treasury.

Violence on rice dealers broke out on 22nd October. Mobs broke into rice stores and godowns and so rapidly did the situation deteriorate that before the day was far gone restoring order became a task beyond the power of the police. By noon that day a subaltern's guard of the Second Battalion of the 25th Regiment had mounted guard over Colombo Kachcheri and strong detachments from the Military patrolled the streets.

The worst came with the activities of the rioters taking organised shape. They concentrated next day on particular centres, these being Ohetty Street, Main Street and New Bazaar. In addition to looting and

damaging property, the rioters carried out a deliberately planned attack on all shopkeepers the outcome of bitter feeling against traders. Panic struck Colombo and a wild exodus began. The authorities were compelled to take drastic action.

The guard from the Kachcheri was called out to clear the streets and at several places they had to do this at the point of the bayonet. The Police Magistrate in Colombo took strong measures to stamp out lawlessness. He had the captured ringleaders flogged publicly with salutary effect in the very shops they looted and in several areas a semblance of quiet soon emerged where fear all but ruled a short time ago.

At New Bazaar Street the presence of a police squad caught the mob in two minds, but only for a moment. Instead of looting the shop which the police were guarding the mob decided to attack the policemen. Stones and cabook rained thick and fast on the policemen. Inspector Hoogan, who led the squad and his party would have been wiped out had not the Chief Superintendent Mr. G. W. R. Campbell come in time supported by his Mounties. The mob ceased stoning the police and fled. Inspector Hoogan's restraint came in for unfavourable comment as it nearly resulted in the loss of several lives of policemen and passers-by.

Riots of lesser proportions were at this time being handled by the authorities in Kandy and Galle. A serious form of crime was coming to notice, "Combinations" on the road to Kandy were holding up and robbing carts transporting merchandise.

The last week of October, the most exciting month of the 'Famine' saw the country rapidly return to normal. Outbreaks of violence petered out with firm action against lawbreakers and meanwhile several cargoes of rice had arrived in Colombo. Arrangements were made at once to send the much needed supplies to other parts of the Island, and military guards specially detailed for convoy duty conducted on 3rd November 400 carts carrying provisions to Kandy.

With convoys leaving for other parts of the country and the flow of further cargoes the price of rice became normal again and the famine soon ceased to exist as such.

**ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS OF
UNIVERSAL COLLEGE PANADURA**

THE 37th anniversary of Universal College, Panadura, which was started with a single child in 1915, was celebrated in the Panadura Esplanade on Sunday, 17th February, at 4 p.m. A vehicular "Ahimsa" procession starting from the College premises at 2.40 p.m., wended its way through the important roads of the town and reached the Panadura Esplanade where a public meeting was held. It was presided over by Mr. R. M. Arthanayake, Vice-President of the Ceylon Humanitarian Society.

In giving a brief survey of the institution, which has imparted education to 526 pupils, Mr. W. S. Fernando, the Principal and Founder, referred to the Ahimsa movement which plays an important part in the activities connected with his institution. He stated that the movement has spread to 18 countries. He gave a stirring account of the difficulties that he had to surmount in running the institution without submitting to any departmental control. An important feature of this institution is that Religious Knowledge has been made a compulsory subject in all the classes since 1921. At the conclusion of the speech he pre-

sented to the Chairman a copy of "A Century of Vivisection and Anti-Vivisection" by E. Westcott, which he had received from the authoress.

Rev. Pitakotte Somananda Thero said that he had witnessed the pathetic scene at Dematagoda where hundreds of cattle destined to be slaughtered are gathered. At the sight of the yellow-robed monk those helpless animals began to shed tears which apparently meant that they were praying for intervention. He briefly touched upon the evils that were in the wake of animal sympathy, cinema, liquor and races.

Rev. Pandita Madupitiye Medhananda Thero said that an education served no useful purpose unless it went hand in hand with Ahimsa.

Mr. Arthur V. Dias said that religion is being exploited by certain people to serve their political ends.

The Chairman remarked that any reduction in the price of liquor would inevitably lead to an increase in crimes.

The following resolution was unanimously passed: "That as we feel that it is highly unbecoming to run meat-stalls in a town like Panadura, which has taken the initiative in movements both religious and social, we, the residents of Panadura request the Urban Council not to issue licences for slaughtering animals and running meat-stalls within the Council area."



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Communism Is a Dying Force In Ceylon

Says A. G. Perera

JUST as a seed thrives in fertile soil so does Communism flourish in a land of misery and poverty. The wave of Communism that has been sweeping across the world since the Bolshevik revolution of 1917 in Russia has been the direct outcome of unjust government, unfair distribution of wealth and despotic control on the one hand and on the other the dire distress and endless suffering undergone by millions of humanity. Looking back at the annals of history we can see that such sweeping changes in world affairs have been caused more than once in the past. Such revolutionary ideas and trends begin with the vengeance and also are apt to end with the wind.

The principles of the theory of Marxism are too sound an analysis of the ills of human activity that there are many who now doubt the realization of the promised land, the Utopia of a stateless society, without suffering, without inequality, without religion, without every thing that is bad.

The early thirties marked the beginning of Communism in Ceylon. Many students from Ceylon in London and other Western Countries returned to the island as die-hard nationalists. The foreign picture of colour bar, of hatred of suspicion and gross disgrace opened the eyes of these students and hence across the first stages of a Nationalist Movement in Ceylon against the Colonial administration of the days. It was only then that they saw the inequity of such things as "Collections on Poppy Day, the injustice of the white government. Many of our present politicians at the helm of today, both in the Government and the Opposition, were in the same boat at the time, although they did not know that they would become strange bedfellows at a later stage.

The National Congress, the Suriya Mal Campaign the Tamil Congress were nationalist Organisations. In course of time splinter movements from these like the Communist party, B. S. P. etc. come into existence. The Donoughmore Constitution gave adult franchise and greater representation in the Legislature for the masses. The seeds of Communism and Samasamajism began to thrive in the fertile soil of maladministration under the Donoughmore Constitution. The second world war broke out in 1939 and during this period the attitude of the different Marxist Organisations is worthwhile recording. Communist Party and the L.S.S.P. were against the allies. When Russia joined the allies the C. P. supported the allies, hence showing that their policy was nose-led by the U.S.S.R. The L.S.S.P. persistently opposed the policy of the allies from the outset and suffered internment for the duration of the war.

It was only after the conclusion of the war and the ushering in of the Soulbury Constitution that the C. P. and the L.S.S.P. became revolutionary Marxist Organisations in a democratic set up as seen today.

The true principles and theory of Marxism are unknown to the supporters of these parties from the ordinary masses. They are led away into their groups by false promises of National and economic betterment etc. The working people who suffer, live in a world of their own. The industrial workers and the agrarian workers in Ceylon are totally different political entities. They live almost in air-tight compartments. They will never join hands in an open revolt.

The Industrial worker is more prone to Marxist propaganda than his agrarian counterpart. Hence it was that the success of the L.S.S.P. and C.P. was primarily due to the trade union activity organised by them among their workers.

The contented attitude of the Ceylon Worker cannot become revolutionary under any circumstances. The most able and efficient Marxist propaganda will not succeed in achieving this end in our Country. Religious scruples are of paramount importance to them. To the majority of the country, viz: the Buddhists violence is something to be dreaded, nay avoided like the devil. The C. P. during the years 1947-1949 advocated an aggressive policy and insisted the suffering people to be ready for the revolution, which they said was round the corner. A few dare-devil workers intoxicated with Marxist theory and propaganda were ready to take the plunge, but the majority remained, silent and unconcerned. The aggressive policy changed into a reformatory programme.

The peasants and agrarian workers in Ceylon are a happy set of people contented with their lot and enjoying the serenity and peacefulness of their life. To most of them politics and matters mundane are as alien as to the quadrupeds that inhabit the surrounding jungle. They can never be extorted to violence and revolt except in the name of religion. Hence it is that some politicians have thought of raising a religious cry as an election slogan.

I have been present at Marxist propaganda meetings in the villages well attended, where a good deal of steam is generated by the words of the speakers. The peasants listen with approbation but forget everything about it on their way home. The life of our peasant is not a life of suffering, in comparison to the object poverty of the Chinese or Russian peasants. Our tillers of the soil live in comparatively happy surroundings.

From highly revolutionary tactics in 1947-49 the Marxist parties have now come down to Social Democracy. They have forgotten the bloody revolution that was round the corner. They are preparing to form a Parliamentary Government but if they expect to achieve a Marxist State through a parliamentary system it will be a cry in the wilderness. The people in Ceylon are at heart Social Democrats, Buddhism, the religion of the majority makes them such, but will never sponsor a Marxist set up. To them Marxism is anathema Stalinism still worse.

The Marxist leaders of our country are really not revolutionary Communists. They are parlour Marxists who believe in fighting the U.N.P. not by sacrifice with poverty, with helplessness, with spade work of suffering among the masses, but by family influence, money and land. Many leaders of the Marxist opposition won their seats in Parliament at the last general election merely because they had enough money at their command. The next election will see no new tactics. The proposed electoral agreement with the Freedom and Republican parties shows that Communism single handed, cannot win the hearts of the people.

Communism is a spent force in Ceylon. It is fast deteriorating to a kind of social democracy, which will be able to achieve an efficient welfare State. Democratic Socialism not efficient socialism is what the people are longing for.

Ceylon is too small a country to stage an internal Communist revolution. As long as India remains democratic in government, Ceylon will remain so and may become an ideal social democracy, a second Switzerland or Denmark of the East. The task of the U. N. P. at the next election, whatever is said and done by the opposition groups, remains as easy as before. Give the people not a fat budget, but plentiful goods at cheap prices, not free education in a white paper but equality of

(Continued on page 9)

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Friday, March 7, 1952

THE AKURESSA BY-ELECTION

Three weeks from now the voters of Akuressa will be called upon to exercise their franchise and elect their representative. The issue before the electorate is clear-cut: it is democracy or totalitarianism. The U.N.P. nominee like all other nominees of our Party, stands for the preservation of the freedoms which are so dear to man. He stands also for development and orderly progress. His Leftist opponent, on the other hand, is committed, in spite of opportunist declarations to the contrary, to the destruction of democracy and the annihilation of religion. It is common knowledge that the established aim of the Marxists is to get into power solely with the object of putting an end to those very processes of democratic government which took them into office. Once in the seats of authority it is the avowed intention of the revolutionaries to subvert law and order and thus create by their

own tactics, a state of chaos and confusion which will enable them to pose as saviours.

It is only within the last few years that the Red ideology has captured Akuressa and a handful of other electorates in the South. But within that time, it should have been quite apparent to the voters in these areas that their chosen representatives had their interests very little at heart. All that these Members of Parliament had been ordered to do by their "masters" from the Kremlin was to obstruct the progressive policy of our party. Whatever scheme was adumbrated by the Government for the amelioration of the conditions of the poor in our country, the Marxist M.P.s. saw only evil in it and opposed it tooth and nail. Fortunately for the country their opposition was of little avail in view of the majority which the Government Party has in the House of Representatives. Consequently, gigantic development schemes like Gal Oya were got under way but even when all their gloomy prognostications have been proved to be false, the Marxists will not concede that they were wrong and the Government was right. This shows how perverted is their judgment and how utterly unmindful they are of the interests of the country.

U. N. P. Youth Leaguers In the North

MR. V. KARTHIGESU, Propaganda Assistant of the United National Party, addressed three public meetings last week in the North and organized Youth Leagues at Mandativu, Pungudutivu and Analativu. He explained the policy of the party and the principles for which the party stood. He advised the youth to take a lively interest in promoting the principles. It was up to the youth to loyally support and sustain the good work done for the economic welfare of the country. They must be prepared for service and sacrifice for the mother land.

The election of office-bearers for the three branches resulted as follows:—

Mantativu:
President: Mr. S. Ratnasabapathy.

Vice-President: Mr. S. Velanthalpillai.
Hony. Secretary: Mr. T. Thilaisivam,
Asst. Secy.: Mr. M. Nadesapillai.
Treasurer: Mr. S. Sempothsothy,
and a Committee of nine.

Pungudutivu:
President: Mr. V. Visuvalingam,
Vice-President: Mr. R. Pararajasingham,
Hony. Secy.: Mr. V. Carthigesu,
Asst. Secy. Mr. V. Somaskandan.
Treasurer: Mr. P. Muttuvelu,
and a Committee of nine.

Analativu:
President: Mr. K. Vaithiyalingam,
ex-Udayar, and thirteen office-bearers.

ASWEDDUMIZING 400 ACRES IN MATALE SOUTH

MATALE, 20, February,
1952.

MR. V. T. Nanayakkara, Member of Parliament, Matale on his visit to Ketawala to declare open a school was told by villagers that it was possible to asweddumize 400 acres by raising the Loluwela-Doruwela anicut across Ambanganga and by extending the present channel by about two miles. The M. P. immediately contacted the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Lands who in turn directed the Irrigation Engineer, Matale, to inspect and report on the suggestion. The M. P. accompanied the Irrigation Engineer and he gathers that the scheme is practicable and has asked the Hon'ble the Minister for

Agriculture and Lands to put the same on the Priority List.

The M. P. contends that Matale South has not a single tank and this will be the biggest block of paddy fields for his electorate which has only about 5,000 acres of paddy fields in all. 300 acres out of the 400 belongs to Rajamana and Hatamungala Estates in old rubber and the acquisition will not cost much to the Government.

The M.P. has also written to the Assistant Government Agent, Matale asking him to give top priority to this item at the next meeting of the District Agricultural Committee.

There are over 1,000 villagers in the area without any paddy land.

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ABC PLAN FOR PEACE

IN the United States today there are three large national movements working for a world federation. These three national movements are supported by three private organizations in the Citizens Committee for United Nations Reform, the United World Federalists and the Federal Union. The policies and programmes of the three movements may be different, but what must be remembered is that all agree that world peace could be maintained through an international organization working on a principle of law underlying the American constitution. The three movements have received the approval of a large section of the American public and an appreciable quarter of the U.S. Senate.

The innumerable international organizations that have propped up in the past could be broadly divided into categories—the League type and the Federal type. Organizations of the type of the League of Nations and the United Nations belong to the former. One of the features of the League type of organization is that the sovereignty of member States remains unimpaired and the central authority remains ineffective, while in the Federal type the component States delegate a measure of their sovereignty to the central authority, as a result of which the central authority becomes a separate entity itself. Past world organizations have made attempts to instal peace into a troubled world but invariably their efforts ended in miserable failure. From the Federal type of international organization there is some possibility of achieving this goal. I say this because the Federal type has shown remarkable stability in America and Switzerland.

Asks Eardley Gunasekera

If then, the world consents to accept this federal principle we are confronted with (1) whether an organization based on such a principle would maintain peace, and (2) how we are to achieve this goal. In keeping in mind these considerations we must try to investigate what kind of federal structure would be most suited. The Soviet contention is that a world Communist State is the only solution and this the Citizens Committee for United Nations Reform emphatically rejects. This Committee also rejects proposals such as a world socialistic state which was formulated by a special committee at the University of Chicago. There has also been another proposal by the United World Federalists who hold that peace could only be restored by disarming all nations and erecting an all-powerful federal armed State. This, most nations would definitely reject as a single armed force would turn out to be an instrument of tyranny.

The Citizens Committee for United Nations Reform approaches the question from a different angle and in doing so are conscious of two guiding factors. Firstly whether a proposal could be completed before a third world war and secondly once completed whether it will maintain peace. Thus the implementation of a universally acceptable scheme must always contemplate the minimum possible changes in order that it may be politically acceptable. In conformity with these minimum specifications this committee advocates the basic principles of a world law, a federal authority, and an effective police force. These are the

minimum requirements, the committee believes, for the maintenance of peace and order. Religion, education, improvement of economic and social conditions are intended to remove the causes of crime and is therefore considered a long term policy.

Having ascertained the principles that underly the working of such an organization it was the committee's task to explore the possibilities of achieving such an organization. The Committee then believed that the primary object should be to convert the present United Nations run on a League basis to that of a Federal organization. The United Nations, the Committee was of opinion, has rendered and is rendering yeoman service in the direction of cultural and economic activity. While admitting this fact the Committee felt that the United Nations central authority was unable to give the world peace because it was paralyzed by the veto and had no police force to uphold its decisions.

The Citizens Committee for United Nations Reform propounded the three-point ABC plan for the overhaul of the United Nations organization in which they stated:

POINT A: Elimination of veto-right in defined matters of aggression and armament for aggression. Having eliminated this veto the composition of the Security Council had to be changed in order that the six smaller States cannot outvote the five major powers. This was to be effected by giving collective representation to the minor States. They also recommended a World Court to interpret the new revised Charter and its jurisdiction would extend over both individuals and governments.

POINT B: Abolition of the atomic threat and the armament race. The Committee observed that atomic energy had to be controlled internationally on the lines of the Baruch proposal. In the production of other weapons the larger States will not be allowed to exceed a quota while the smaller States will be prevented from exceeding a collective quota.

POINT C: Establishment of an effective but tyranny proof international police force. The nucleus of this force would be an international contingent controlled by the Security Council, and a federal force comprising of volunteers from the smaller member States. The federal force will be armed by the collective armament productions of the smaller States. The armed forces of the five major States would form the national contingents or reserves of the international police force.

By nourishing the United Nations Organization with these three basic elements the Citizens Committee for United Nations Reform hoped to convert it into a federal organization having world laws against aggression and a veto-less Council and Court to support them, not forgetting a police force to enforce the decisions of the new organization.

This is the program of the Citizens Committee for United Nations Reform a non-political organization having a membership of approximately 20,000 members. Their ABC plan has received much support from a large number of organizations having an aggregate membership of over seven million people. It has, as I have said elsewhere, the support of a good proportion of the Senators. Taking all these factors into consideration the ABC Plan cannot go unheeded. It has something credible in its beliefs but whether they are practicable is the problem.

SAMAT pleads for Burma Ceylon Boxing Link

IN the C-Plan Sport Festivities what an opportunity is afforded to resuscitate the Burma-Ceylon Boxing Meet? 21 years ago due to internal troubles in Burma this annual sporting "hardy" of South-East Asia went out but only temporarily, but then again the 1939 hostilities dealt a grievous blow from which this old and interesting Meet has not been able to recover yet. Burma's participation in the C-Plan Exhibition, an indication of return to normal conditions in Burma supported by the reviving of the Burma-Ceylon Boxing Meet would have found more happy hearts among sportsmen in this country than without it now.

In the 12 meetings so far between the 2 countries Ceylon leads with 9 wins to Burma's 3 with Burma still to score a win away from home. Ceylon has had this distinction many times in Rangoon. Instituted in 1927, this contest between the Police of the 2 countries was till 1939 held every year if 1929 when there was no contest owing to internal trouble in Burma is excepted. Success has attended the Meet with monotonous regularity. On the last occasion in Colombo conceding only 1 fight in 7 Ceylon beat their opponents repeating their previous victory in Rangoon.

Much of the keenness, enthusiasm and interest is of course induced by the element of interport rivalry. But in an encounter between 2 units of the same denominations of 2 countries many good things must come out. Large crowds at Rangoon's

Jubilee Hall and Colombo's Town Hall at these Meets were always a feature of these past contests. It was out of this Meet that Ceylon established a perpetual link with Gene Tunney, the undefeated ex-World Heavy Weight Champion.

Tunney in 1935 graced this contest in Colombo with his presence along with Mrs. Tunney. At the time Gene Tunney and Mrs. Tunney were on a world tour and by the agency of some pleasant coincidence were passing through Colombo at the time Tunney was at the ring-side supported by Sir Herbert Layard Dowbiggin the I.G.P. Much impressed by the sport provided the World Champion marked his appreciation by donating a Cup for perpetual competition as an award for the best boxer and sportsman in these inter-port series. Tunney, on this occasion, gave away the prizes to the winners and runners-up and thus made for each of them a moment, remembrances of which will be carried by them to the last of their days.

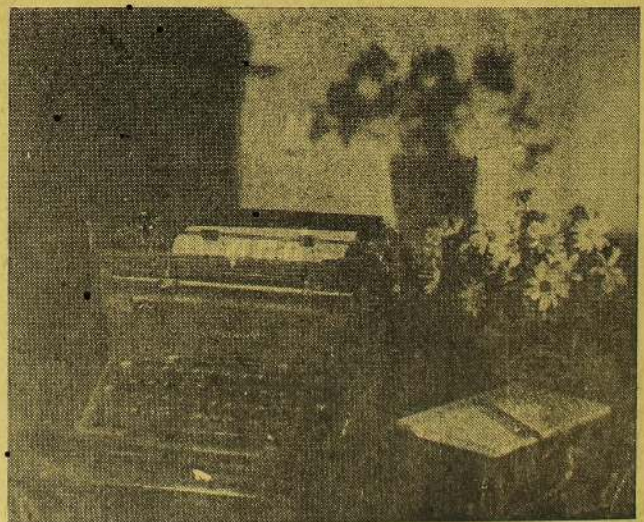
On completion of his tour Tunney sent from New York the present "Gene Tunney" Cup, a beautiful one to Sir Herbert Dowbiggin, Sergeant Quinn of the Burma Police had the honour of being the first holder. He won it in a memorable fight notable for a wonderful comeback he staged by getting the better of a much younger opponent, Sub-Inspector De Niese of Ceylon. Quinn was then well over the age for such strenuous things as competitive boxing. Burma held this Cup again in 1938 through P. C. Ma Than Yin but Ceylon got even with a win in 1937 through Empire Games Champion Henricus and a win in 1939 registered by A.B.A. Champion Ammon. On the other hand the Challenge Cup for the Meet has been won by Ceylon 9 times to Burma's 3.

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Short Story By "Toper"

CHUG! Chug! The powerful roar of a motor-boat, shattered the silence of the night. On the beach of a little town, on the northern sea coast, a small group of men were gazing intently and anxiously, through the darkness, at the boat. On the safety of the boat, depended their entire savings and those of some others. The cargo of the boat was contraband goods—dope, gold, and silks. The spot was a lonely and deserted one, with no inhabitants around; it was a vast stretch of beach, flanked by palmyrah palms. Nevertheless, even here, they were not safe from an Excise Raid.

As the boat came up to the beach the onlookers rushed forward to greet their accomplices, and showered a barrage of questions, as to the nature of the cargo and its value. "Shut up, you bloody fools," rasped a man at the helm of the boat, "Hurry up and unload the goods. Do you want the cops on us?" The man was short and swarthy; he seemed to be about twenty-six years old. His hands and fingers were adorned by gold chains and rings—a common custom among well-to-do Northerners. His not unhandsome face was clean-shaven, except for a small neatly-clippped moustache—the so-called Hitler moustache. It was evident from his behaviour and outstanding personality that he was the leader. He watched the unloading, indolently and wrapped himself a cigarette from his favourite ganja leaf. As he puffed away lazily, he noticed one of the men slip something surreptitiously into his mouth. He dealt the man a blow and snarled out, "You blackgourd, you thought no one noticed you swallowing that nugget. Each gold nugget will fetch us about two thousand rupees. Remember to bring it to me, immediately after your next call of nature!" Strange are the ways of nature; she is one of the best accomplices of the smuggler!

When the cargo was cleared and despatched in large fast limousines—the smugglers never used lorries—the leader walked towards his car, parked nearby. None knew this strange man's name; he was known to all and sundry as Sando. His reputation as a daring and skillful smuggler had spread all over the province. His car was a large black Plymouth saloon, which was conspicuous in the darkness with its highly-polished fittings. Against a background of palmyrah palms and barren land, this Broadway limousine presented a strange spectacle. Such cars were common sights in this prosperous little town. These were not merely for personal use, but also for "business" purposes. The so-called businessmen had to transport contraband goods, under cover, to other parts of the Island. In order to do so without arousing suspicion, large, expensive cars were utilized instead of lorries. The cars, ostensibly, are conveying private individuals, but actually the seats and linings are filled with dope and gold.

The older methods of transporting such goods, inside vegetables, such as pumpkins, whose contents have been scooped out and filled with dope; and also in linings of clothes, are now obsolete.

Sando's spirits were soaring up, as he sped along the deserted road. Speed was his craze; his crack-driving had saved him from many desperate situations, in encounters with the police. As he turned up the drive of his palatial home, built on the spoils of his adventures, he sighed contentedly looking forward to a good rest. Three young women rushed out to greet him; he received them indifferently and pushing them aside, went to bed. Sando was a bachelor—or rather a "married bachelor." His unconventional customs and behaviour aroused the antagonism of his townfolk. But he did not care two hoots, for their opinions and feelings. Sando just took what he wanted and did as he pleased, and none dared to stop him.

THE whole town was buzzing with news of Sando's latest haul. People congregated in

the market square, in boutiques, in the compounds of their houses; all discussing the same topic. The small fry of this smuggler's syndicate were delirious with joy. They had invested their meagre savings in this venture and were now amply repaid. They rushed to temple to make offerings to their deities, who were supposed to have aided their venture. The "big-shots" of the business were also patting themselves on the back, and their greasy faces were all smiles. The only man who remained unperturbed, was Sando. To him, smuggling was an adventure, not a financial project; he was not influenced by the monetary remuneration, but by the thrills it promised.

As Sando alighted from his car, at the market square, the attention of all was diverted on him. Men looked on sullenly, with envy and admiration. Women, cautiously edged off, with lowered faces. For, although Sando was admired by all, none liked him. In fact he was feared by many. This was so, because Sando himself treated the people with contempt and scorn; he was brutal in his ways and utterly lacked in consideration for persons or property. Just then a couple of drunken bums, who were arguing about "that ball of fire in the sky" walked up to him and one said, "I say that, that blazing ball in the sky is the sun; he says it is the moon. Now you tell us which is it?"

Sando cast a scathing glance at them and replied, "Well, I don't know, I'm a stranger to these parts!"

Thus while the people were making merry at home, on the roads and in the taverns, there were a few men who were in utter despair. They were the Police and Excise Inspectors and the Customs Officials. Frantic searches and raids had been made, but to no avail. The illegal cargo had slipped through their hands, once again. This was the fourth big haul which had escaped their attention and passed unchecked. The authorities were frantic, as the Assistant Commissioner of Excise, and A.S.P. of the district were coming down, in person, to investigate into the matter. The local authorities could easily guess who the perpetrator of the crime was, but as usual they had no evidence or proof.

AFTER two months of loose living and inactivity, Sando was becoming restless. He was yearning for adventure and thrills—and for the women, across the sea. He knew that his movements were being closely watched by the police. This, however, did not worry him, for he knew he could easily dupe them and slip away, unnoticed. A few days later he left on another mission to Tuticorin. He slipped out to sea, while the attention of the police were diverted, by his accomplices on shore. On reaching Tuticorin, he made the necessary business contacts and within a few hours the boat was fully loaded and ready to leave in the early hours of the next morning. And Sando had a few hours, at his disposal to seek his own pleasure.

The trip back home proved uneventful till they were within a few miles from land. A Customs launch appeared before them, out of the blue. The smuggler's boat proved too powerful, for the slow-moving Customs vessel; and soon Sando shook the law off his trail. But their difficulties were not yet over. The police were awaiting their arrival, on the beach.

News of the impending arrest of the smuggler, spread round the town. Their accomplices were forming "rescue parties" and devising ways and means of aiding the smugglers. The police in their anxiety had neglected the little crowd that had collected on the beach. The apparently innocent by-standers were busy filling the petrol tanks of the police cars, with sugar and sand, disconnecting wires, and even puncturing the tyres. The smugglers, in the meanwhile, were busy dumping their valuable cargo, overboard, to destroy all evidence of their illegal traffic. As the boat, approached the shore, the police

(Continued on page 9)

PROGRESS OF LIBERTY

By Stanley Weerasinghe

THE Government of Ceylon from 1815-1910 might be rightly described as an autocratic administration. In this space of time Sri Lanka has been governed by British officials according to their whims and fancies, introducing into Council Ceylonese members who could be depended upon to vote with them, to say "Yes, I agree or vote for the motions brought forward by the Officials whether in the interest of the country or not," and thereby secure a majority for the schemes they favoured.

The election of Sir P. Ramanathan was the initial step for representation in voicing the demands and grievances of the people. Sir Ramanathan's presence in Council not only woke and roused the spirit of nationalism which had gone to bed after the revolution of 1817 but also he awakened an interest in public affairs. The greatest tribute I can pay to this great statesman is by saying that he succeeded in lifting the people above the pale of officialdom and making them conscious of their own existence.

Though entirely inadequate, the election of one Ceylonese was a beginning. The "high-brows" regarded it as an affront. Those who were below par than they marked it as the birth of a new era. As time passed on people became dissatisfied and agitation grew, with the result that gradually the constitution suffered slight changes for the better. But the way was slow and tedious.

Not until 1920 was the official representation (replacement) replaced by an unofficial one composed of elected and nominated members. No real, wholehearted attempt was made to educate the sons and daughters of the soil of Sri Lanka to a proper appreciation of themselves as governors or rulers for if this happened or occurred it would mean the loss of the prestige of the officials.

As there was a deficit in the budget and as the country's finances had almost come to the verge of bankruptcy a Royal Commission was sent under Lord Donoughmore to solve the problem. The others who formed the Commission were Dr. Drummond Shield, Sir Geoffrey Butler and Sir Mathew Nathan. There duties were:—

1. To examine the working of the present constitution
2. Examine proposals for reforms
3. Make their own recommendations.

They found that the government was unworkable because power was separated from responsibility. So they gave Ceylon a Council of sixty-one members, 50 being elected by the people. Three ex-officio Ministers were appointed. They held the portfolio of Secretary of State, Legal Secretary and the Financial Secretary. The other eight vacant seats were filled by nominated members to represent the various interests of the country. The State Council was presided over by a Speaker elected by the members themselves, who appointed seven Committees out of the number. Each committee elected a Chairman who ipso facto rose to the status of a Minister. The new constitution granted adult suffrage. It enfranchised about one and a half million voters of whom more than six hundred thousand were women. This is an outline of the Donoughmore Constitution.

This government could not work for we find that the Cabinet had

three nominated Ministers and seven Ministers elected by the people. The officials or the nominated Ministers tried to carry out the policy of the Imperialistic Government of Great Britain while the elected Ministers did their best to satisfy and help the people in Ceylon. Thus the Cabinet was divided. "United we stand, Divided we fall." There was endless trouble in the working of the government.

The Government, a clumsy machine, had been long creaking showing that its component parts were of ill design and badly fitted. Skilled political engineers were necessary to draw up new plans and reconstruct the whole faulty system. The constitution had had a fair trial and was found wanting.

The new machine was seen in the sea coming in the direction of the Pearl of the Indian Ocean. The machine was no other than the Soulbury Commission. A detail explanation of the Soulbury Constitution, I think, is not necessary.

The seed of freedom and independence had been sown ages ago by our political forefathers, Sir P. Arunachalam, Sir Ramanathan, Sir Baron Jayatilaka, Sir James Peries, only to name a few, and this seed had to be harvested.

The sun of freedom was rising but its light was obscured by many clouds. The people saw a thin ray shining. That ray was the United National Party. And its victory scattered many clouds. On the Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister's shoulders fell the task of reaping the harvest and moulding the destination of free Lanka. I hope the people will do their part in seeing that no cloud obscured the sun of freedom.

COMMUNISM IS A DYING FORCE IN CEYLON

(Continued from page 5)

opportunity in the Schools, not housing schemes and blueprints, but tenements and flats and huts for people to live in, in short give them concrete things in rupees and cents and not empty and boastful promises. Then the people will be satisfied, the U.N.P. will win, Communism will wither and a Social welfare State will be in the offing. The days of Communism are numbered. It is no doubt a force, but in Ceylon the greater forces of religion are in a position to offer an effective challenge. Preserve religion then the spectre of Communism will disappear.

CONTRABAND AHOY!

(Continued from page 8)

rushed forward and a struggle ensued. The by-standers, also joined in the fight. Showers of stones, kept in readiness, rained on the police party; chilly powder and sand were thrown into their eyes. Even women were seen wielding the heavy rice pounder, freely amidst this chaos, Sando and a few others broke off from the fray, rushed to a car waiting for them and made a swift retreat. The police on rushing to their cars, found the engines out of order and the body badly smashed up by stones.

Sando and his men had not gone far, before they found police blockading all major roads. Sando was not deterred by this. He went crashing clean through them; swerved, recklessly, through by-lanes, fields and other short cuts. His driving was breath-taking and nerve-racking to his mates, who were scared stiff. Luck was not with him for long. In negotiating a sharp bend, his car shot off the road and came to a dead stop on its hood. A few minutes, a figure crawled out weakly, only to drop down. Sando had cheated the Law, but not Death!!

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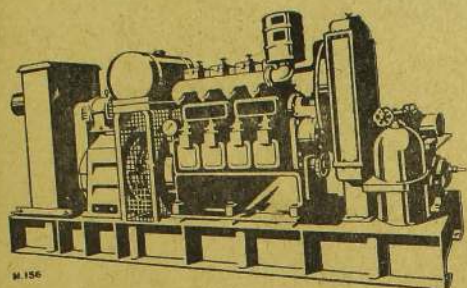
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WE CAN CATCH ALL THE FISH WE NEED

By JURGEN

CEYLON imports about thirty million rupees worth of fish each year. This indicates a large unsatisfied local market for fish and fish produce. If the fishing industry can be developed to meet this demand, this sum of money which is now going out of the country will circulate in the industry and undoubtedly go a great way towards solving the problem of the backwardness of the industry.

sive deficit areas in the South-East Asia region.

STOCKING OF INLAND WATERS

In view of the general tendency in the more remote inland areas to be deficient in protein it is a matter of importance that the indigenous population should be educated in the rearing of fish for domestic consumption. By this means the rural population can provide at no extra cost, a valuable protein food for inclusion in their diet, thereby becoming independent of supplies from the big market centres. Millions of people in the South-East Asian territories and in India cultivate fish in inland areas both in ponds specially constructed for the purpose and in paddy fields. Much of the 918,000 acres now under rice cultivation can be used for the rearing of fish. In Malaya a yield of 1,200 tons by one particular variety of fish (gouami) was exported during one year from a few thousand acres of paddy land. All that is required to enable fish to live under paddy is the provision of a narrow trench along the lower bund into which the fish may get if the depth of water becomes insufficient and a shaded sump pond 20 feet by 6 feet or any convenient size found suitable by experience. In the lowest part of the paddy tract, in which the fish can be gathered when the field is harvested and the land has dried.

The Census of 1946 revealed that out of a total population of 6,657,339, the number engaged in the fishing industry was 112,600 or 1.7 per cent. It is significant that the previous Census in 1921, showed that out of a total population of 4,498,605, the number of people engaged in the fishing industry was 79,687—also 1.7 per cent. Of this number it is estimated that about 72,000 are actively engaged in fishing operations; 9,481 are listed as being engaged in inland water fishing.

ANNUAL PRODUCTION FIGURES

As stated in the Administration Report of the Acting Director of Fisheries for the decade 1940-1950, that total production for 1949 was estimated at 458,400 cwt. of fresh fish and 87,500 cwt. of dried fish, the latter representing three times its weight or 262,500 cwt. of fresh fish, giving a total landing of 720,000 cwt., which excludes 4,240 cwt. landed by the trawler. This gives a production of 14 cwt. per head of the active fishing population per annum. Compared with the figure for Denmark which is just under 300 cwt. per head per annum, it shows that there is considerable room for improvement. The total fish production in fresh form at the various coastal fishing centres round Ceylon, from January to December, 1950, was 491,936 cwt. and the production of cured fish for the same period was 135,797 cwt. while the total catch for the period amounted to 833,774 cwt., of which 49,936 cwt. were wet fish and 341,838 cwt. cured fish, the percentage of catch cured being 41.0.

FRESH WATER NURSERY PONDS

In recent years gourami had appeared increasingly in the catches landed by fishermen in inland waters. Gourami were found in the villus of Manampitiya where they had established themselves presumably after having escaped from the Peradeniya Gardens and the Drayton Dam where they had been introduced from Java. Within the last five years they have begun to appear in evergrowing quantities. Consignments of gourami were distributed by the Fisheries Department to several tanks and fish farms. They were sent to Wagolla, Wellewa, Kesbewa Lake, Naviduwa in Bolgoda Lake, Puttalam and Horana. Consignments of Chinese carp of several varieties, imported from Singapore were sent to Polonnaruwa, Parakrama Samudra, Minneriya, Makandura, Madampe, Deduru Oya, Kurunegala Lake, Kalawewa, Kaluganga, Kotte Lake, Kandy Lake, Giants Tank, Walawe Ganga, Badullu Oya, Kande Ela, Minipe, Giritale, Nuwara Weva, Tab-bowa, Batalagoda, Maha Oya, Atfanagalu Oya and a number of smaller tanks in the Dry Zone. The introduction of these imported fish into the larger tanks has resulted in a remarkably short time in their appearance in large quantities in the catch and is growing in popularity as a good edible fish in inland areas. Much valuable information has been gained by the experiment on the possibility of these imported varieties of fish breeding under natural conditions in Ceylon.

THE NEED FOR DOUBLED PRODUCTION

The present import of some 600,000 cwt. of dried, preserved and frozen fish, representing about 1,500,000 cwt. of wet fish, indicates a local demand for double the quantity of fish now produced locally. This does not take into consideration the large unexplored markets which must exist in areas where fish is now not available due to short supply. If the local production per head can be doubled the present problem of self-sufficiency would be almost solved. In view of the primitive fishing craft now used and the restricted quantity of gear which the fishermen can carry and operate, it is reasonable to infer that, with the introduction of modern craft and improved techniques, the local demand can not only be met from our own landings but also in due course Ceylon should be able to export fish to the exten-

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CHILD LABOUR

By Amy Satturukalsingha

THE employment of children is the outcome primarily of the poor economic circumstances of the unfortunate parents of the child. Faced with the prospects of starvation, inability to provide wearing apparel and the lack of adequate facilities for educational and religious instructions induce the parents to part with their children rather than risk the alternative of their children slipping into a career of crime.

However, it is not always the above reason which prompts a parent to permit the employment of his child. It is sometimes also the desire on the part of the parents to ensure quick returns in the shape of salaries and the desire on the part of the children themselves to emigrate from a rural to an urban setting.

Extravagant and tempting offers are sometimes made to the poor needy villager by the Urban employer who encourages the villager to part with his progeny on the assurance that the future of the young hopeful is in safe hands and once the shackles of interfering parenthood are removed the employer is free to have his own way with the child. Sometimes Servants Agencies, through their promiscuous Agents have been known to help the employer to procure such children.

At present there is no comprehensive legislation satisfactorily controlling the widespread activities of Servants Agencies and their Agents who visit Rural areas and contact the parents of young children and young women and lure them on to the cities in the prospect of employment after a nominal payment to the natural parents of lawful guardians of these persons.

These young people often below the age of 14 are brought as Domestic servants to Urban employers who stipulate an insignificant wage and take over the custody of the child. Therefore it is essential that these unsalutary features of the social system be removed by the introduction of legislation to control and regulate the activities of Servants Agencies.

Ordinance 24 of 1941 for the Adoption of children provides for 2 Categories of children—viz. "Adopted children and protected children." While the provision relating to 'Adopted Children' would appear to be rather salutary and just, those relating to protected children appear to be dubious in their scope and sinister in their outlook. It does not prescribe an age limit at which the initiation into a state of protection is to commence. A child of very tender years can therefore be a protected person provided he fulfills the statutory obligation of registration. 'Protection' does not involve the surrender of property rights or entail lasting legal obligations which fall to the lot of an 'Adopter'. Indeed there is no duty whatsoever cast on the 'Protector' to put by even a cent on account of a child who has not attained the age of 12. The irony of this part dealing with protected persons is that while they are not legally accorded the status of domestic employees and are not subject to the wholesome requirements of Registration and Wages of domestic servants, provision appears to be made for protected persons, between the ages of 12 and 18 having a sum of money deposited to their

account in the savings bank. What this sum of money is intended to represent and for what service this money is intended to cover is not explained by the Ordinance. It is open for one to assume that this sum of money is merely a penalty for 'protection.' It is difficult to understand what other payment this monthly deposit is intended to be made than for service of a purely personal of domestic nature rendered by the 'protected' person to the 'custodian'. And yet the protected person is specifically excluded from the category of a domestic employee with its entailing safeguards of wages and registration.

Similarly, the prescribed officer can hardly expect to glean from his occasional visits whether the amount decided on as a monthly deposit is commensurate with, or truly represents, the nature and type of work performed by the 'protected' person.

These safeguards therefore appear to have very little substantial value and are chiefly of academic importance.

The fact that the protector cannot at any stage prevent the Lawful guardians from removing the child would induce in him a mentality that would desire to get the maximum out of the protected person at very little sacrifice on the protector's part during what may well be in his contemplation only a temporary sojourn of the 'protected' person under his roof.

There is no doubt that in the sphere of domestic service exploitation of child labour is rampant and more pronounced than in any other sphere of labour. The public notes with deep regret and dissatisfaction the increasing toll of cruelty cases in this Island where children employed as domestic servants are involved.

Domestic service involves full-time residence and a more personal and closer association between employer and employee and hence provides ample opportunity for exploitation and cruelty without the attendant risks of detection. The same cannot be said of employment in any other sphere or undertaking. This does not necessarily imply the non-existence of employers who are kind and humane towards children employed in their service. Indeed instances are not wanting where employers have very competently and very generously filled the role of foster parents to children who are employed under them.

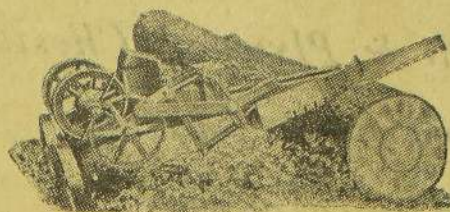
The problem regarding those children presently employed in domestic service will have to be solved. It is suggested that the employers who have in their households employees under 14 years should be given the option of adopting such employees under the Adoption Ordinance within a period of one month from the date of total prohibition of employment of children under 14 years of age. Where the employer exercises his option against adoption he should be required to inform the Department of Labour and Social Services of his intention within the period. The employer will also be required to get in touch with the parents of guardians of the child and entrust them with the custody of the child.

The Department of Labour and Social Services will, if considerations of poverty had compelled the employment of the child, institute an investigation into the manner and the mode of relief that should be meted out to the parent or guardian. This Department will, in conjunction with the Education Department consider and provide suitable educational or vocational training or suitable scholarships to better the future of the child as well as to relieve its parent or guardian from economic strain or poverty.

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