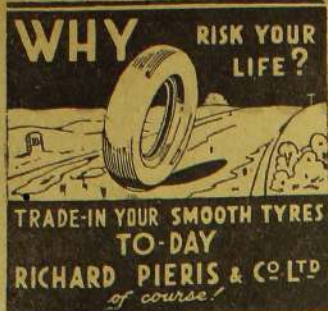


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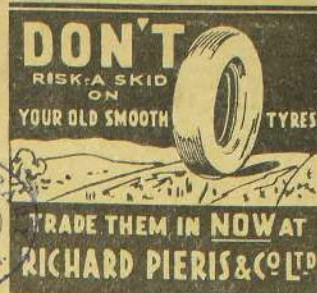
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# Senator Demands Election Commission

## "Too Premature Now: Await Commissioner's Report"—Says Sir Oliver

**T**HE considered view of the Government is that it is too premature now to decide that a Commission should be appointed. The Government is awaiting a very valuable document—the report of the Commissioner who conducted the Parliamentary Elections. He will indicate the defects in the law, the deficiencies in the administration; and he will indicate to what extent amendment should take place. On the point of amendments to the election laws valuable enquiries have already been initiated," said Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, Minister of Agriculture, at the first session of the Senate held last week, in the course of a debate on a motion moved by Senator S. Nadesan that a Commission be appointed as early as possible to inquire into, report and make recommendations generally in respect of the laws governing Parliamentary Elections.

The motion was lost. The Senate divided "Ayes" 5; "Noes" 15. Sir John Tarbat declined to vote.

Senator Nadesan said that in a democracy so far as election laws are concerned they should primarily safeguard the rights of the voter. That should be the first consideration. The next consideration was to see that irrespective of wealth and influence which one can bring to bear in respect of, say, procuring vehicles, etc., it should be possible for a person of merit who comes forward and stands for election to have a reasonable chance of being elected. Those were the two most important matters they should always have in mind in devising the election machinery and the election laws.

### TREMENDOUSLY EXPENSIVE

So far as the country was concerned, today elections were tremendously expensive. There was no doubt provision in the present election law that a candidate shall not spend more than 30 cents per voter which meant in the case of an electorate of about thirty thousand voters Rs. 9,000. But he knew of elections which cost a candidate anything from Rs. 30,000 to a hundred thousand rupees. The law should be so amended that in the future the voter may be safeguarded in the exercise of his rights that it may be possible for the poorest man, provided he has the necessary ability to come forward and stand for election with a reasonable chance of being returned to Parliament. Apart from the question of the enormous sums of money spent on transport and for other purposes, much expenditure was incurred in the country on banners, flags, torches, cockades etc., which tend to rouse up the passions of the people and not conducive to the preservation of peace. He was of the opinion that a candidate who floods the electorate with flags, banners, cockades and so on, creates a sort of psychological effect on the voters and scores over his rivals. In a country like Ceylon it was essential that the practice should be stopped.

### PROBLEM OF IMPERSONATION

One of the problems was impersonation. There were various methods of stopping the practice. One was by the issue of identity cards, which method would prove useful from the point of view of illicit immigration. The other method which might be considered was to make it compulsory for a voter to produce his rice ration book and as soon as he votes, stamping his ration book with a seal that he has voted, so that his ration book cannot be utilized subsequently. There was a much larger question and that was the desirability or otherwise of making voting at elections compulsory. There were some countries which have adopted compulsory voting satisfactorily. If, in fact, voting at elections were made compulsory a large amount of money would be saved. He ventured to submit that in a true democracy he did not think there was any occasion for spending any money on anything except on propaganda—for informing people what a party stands for and its views in respect of political problems.

### SIR OLIVER'S REJOINDER

"While listening to the Hon. Senator," began Sir Oliver, in replying to the motion, "I was trying to visualise what would be the picture of the next general election if his views had complete sway. In this land of great freedom of Peraheras and buntings and shoutings, we would have the spectacle possibly of men, too frightened to look to the right or to the left, marching along with drooping shoulders to cast their votes, because this is what happens in the country about which the Hon. Senator seemed to know so much, but he could not give a single example of the election procedure in that particular country which we should follow. He took very great care not to recommend some of the election practices of the country from which he draws his political views."

"I was thinking," continued Sir Oliver, "whether, in a sense, the Hon. Senator was probably not creating an impression which he himself would not subscribe to, namely compulsory voting. Is that completely in accord with the views of constitutional theory, of democratic practice, that the large majority of people in this country seem prone to accept? Must the sick and the infirm, must even those who deliberately decide that they do not want to vote, be compelled by law to go to the election booths?"

### INTERESTS OF THE CANDIDATE

In the interests of the candidate, asked Sir Oliver, whether it was not an essence of parliamentary government that a candidate should take all possible pains, excepting the use of intimidation and corrupt practice, to explain at all times to his electorate his point of view. Was it possible to achieve this result without using a part, at any rate, of the paraphernalia which would help him to bring these men to his side?

Were they not moving on from compulsory voting to compulsory attendance at political meetings and step by step going on to the allegedly so-called state of full democracy that some hon. members believe in?

In regard to the other point raised that there should be a complete removal of all transport facilities. It would mean, of course, the intensification of polling booths. The number will have to be increased to figures not visualised but that is worthy of examination if it is proven that the possession of an extra number of cars makes such candidates to play with loaded dice.

### COMPULSORY VOTE NOT NECESSARY

"So far as my hon. friends on the Opposition are concerned," added Sir Oliver, "until they have an election that will put them in power, any election that any other party holds will be full of loopholes. They say that we are destroying the faith the people have in the ballot box. I hope we will not proceed in the way of thinking so that we will discover a means of doing without the ballot box. So far as democratic parties which are prepared to accept one result or the other go, I submit that a system of compulsory voting is not necessary."

(Continued on page 2)

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# THERE WAS A COUP D'ETAT IN CUBA TOO

By Eardley Gunasekera

THE entire face of the Middle East has undergone a remarkable change. Governments have come and gone and in these chaotic times revolutions, rebellions, wars and violence become matter of course things. The cause for these uprisings are bad economic conditions and poor standards of life. Beneath the surface of these uprisings there is an inevitable thirst for freedom, peace, justice and the absence of want.

Having experienced the despotic and tyrannical rule of the Spanish for a considerable length of time the Cubans had finally emancipated themselves in 1898 and set up a complete republic. The Cuban constitution was coloured by a tinge of liberalism. It was admired and praised so much so that the country offered a refuge to unwanted and uncared for exiles of other nations. It is, however, not completely free from internal dissension. On the contrary there were regular and constant political eruptions.

The revolution of 1933 was a memorable instance of the necessity to be ever vigilant to safeguard the fundamental requirements of a democratic people. In this revolution the brilliant leadership of Fulgencio Batista was responsible mainly for the overthrow of the existing Machado government. The Machado rule had never been in keeping with democratic tenets and more particularly with the Cuban people. Cuba moved towards a dictatorship and Batista annulled the constitution establishing a provisional government. Batista came to be known as the "strong man" of Cuba.

The year 1952 was an important year for the Cubans for two reasons. Firstly it was the 50th anniversary of the birth of the republic and secondly it was the year the people were to have their presidential elections. The various parties had been announcing their candi-

dates and their policies. President Carlos Socarras, the present holder of the office, was not eligible to be returned since it was a convention in that country for a president to hold office for a period of four years only. The authentic party which President Socarras represented had now to put forward another candidate. Carlos Heira was their choice while Batista represented the Pav party. The election was envisaged to be a peaceful and orderly one but it turned out to be contrary to expectations. Batista was yet a force to be reckoned with and the "strong man" of Cuba now conspired to forcibly overthrow the Government of President Socarras. It was a dangerous and daring move which required thoughtful planning and strategy but the military capacity of Batista readily provided all that. At a single command Habana, the capital city, was blockaded and marine and power stations, radio and police headquarters were similarly surrounded. The country was in chaos and unrest and Batista gained supreme control. President Socarras himself was unaware of all that had happened so far for he too was, having a brief sojourn at a country health resort, when, however, he got wind of the coup d'etat Batista had successfully staged.

The country was already in a state of unrest and the President decided to offer no resistance. It was fully realised that armed resistance would plunge the country further into confusion. The President withdrew with his family to Mexico. General Batista triumphed. His bold and ruthless action he justified in a contribution to a magazine called the "Carteles." In it he stated: "Those that listen to me know perfectly that it is almost impossible to support any longer a reign of crime and bribery without guarantees, without hope and without any other horizon than that offered by those who have carried the country to the border of chaos," and furthermore

President Socarras convinced of the unpopularity of Carlos Heira—the nominee of his party had intended to suspend the elections and throw the country under dictatorial rule.

From this point of view Batista was regarded the liberator of the Cuban people who refused to be subjugated by an irrational dictatorial rule. It was the era of free men and women and General Batista was conscious of this fact. He, therefore, sought to preserve

those democratic values of life and to do this he consolidated his position by increasing the salaries of the police and army personnel. The liquor ration too was made more substantial and in adopting these measures few remembered that he did what Napoleon III did centuries earlier in France when the coup d'etat organised by him and the liberal laws and concessions he granted procured for him the hal- lowed title of Napoleon III, Emperor of the French. History, it is said, repeats itself and here was a classic example.

## Senator Demands Election Commission

(Continued from page 1)

### IDENTITY CARD?

As was expected very great emphasis was laid by the mover on the possibilities of impersonation and the various ways in which impersonation might be, the mover himself gave the answer. "Probably until we have a national register and each man and woman in this country has to carry an identity card, containing his or her photograph and thumb print, we would never evolve a perfect system. He seems to forget that even in the case of a photograph, a young man of 20 years does not look like the same at 60 and unless the identity cards are renewed we will be faced with a number of problems quite apart from the tremendous additional expenditure that will be involved.

### RICE RATION RAMP

Sir Oliver said he feared the rice ration book would not prove to be of very much help, because it is being found out, as some of the regulations issued during the last few days, would confirm that it is not a very difficult matter in this country to swear an affidavit saying that a rice ration book had been

lost and get another. A reference to it appeared in the newspapers that if any one loses his rice ration book, he will not get a fresh one. They were doing that with a view to stopping this ramp which is going on. It is well known if one loses a ten-rupee note, it is not possible for him to swear an affidavit and get another one. The same principle was being adopted with regard to the rice ration books. There is no question of starving as a result of not getting a fresh book; it only means that because of his carelessness a man is deprived of his ration book of subsidised rice.

### HANDLED BY HONOURABLE MEN

The mover suggested that there should be some independent authority to take charge of election procedure. Sir Oliver's reply was emphatic on that point. "We do not subscribe to a constitution that is based on suspicion. The success of our constitution depends on it being handled by honourable men—men with a realization of their responsibilities. It is the keynote of our constitution that those who have

(Continued on page 5)

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# The Peace Theme in the History of Soviet Communism

THE appeal to a strong popular desire for peace can be described as a classic form of Communist tactics. The Soviet leaders have made use of it at several critical moments in the history of their regime and are familiar with all its possibilities for exploitation.

The following quotation from E. V. Tarle, the Soviet historian and Academician, shows how well these possibilities are understood in Moscow:

"The masking of purely aggressive and predatory aims for the sake of which wars are undertaken is constantly encountered in history".

.....Examples of the concealment of predatory ends behind noble principles are offered by the exploitation of the idea of disarmament and pacifist propaganda in the broad sense of the word for one's own purpose.

"From time immemorial the idea of disarmament has been one of the most favoured forms of diplomatic dissimulation of the true motives and plans of those governments which have been seized by a sudden 'love of peace.' This phenomenon is very understandable. Any proposal for the reduction of armaments could invariably count upon broad popularity and support from public opinion."

(E. V. Tarle, Istoriya Diplomatii, Gospolitizdat, Moscow, 1945, Vol. III, p.p. 708-709.)

In 1917 the desire to end the war with Germany was one of the main factors in winning mass support for the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia.

".....the October Revolution began during the imperialist war, at a time when the labouring masses, exhausted by war and thirsting for peace, were by the very logic of events led up to the proletarian revolution as the only way out of the war. This circumstance was of supreme importance for the October Revolution for it put into its hands the mighty weapon of peace, furnished the opportunity of connecting the Soviet revolution with the ending of the hated war, and thus creating mass sympathy for it."

(Stalin: "The October Revolution and the tactics of the Russian Communists," 17th December, 1924; reprinted in Problems of Leninism.)

As soon as they had seized power the Bolsheviks used this "mighty weapon" again, and this time they used it, as they are using it to-day, to influence the peoples of other countries against their governments. The Second Congress of Soviets of 7th-8th November, 1917, which announced the deposition of the Provisional Government, adopted a "Decree on Peace":—

"The Congress called upon the belligerent countries to conclude an immediate armistice for a period of not less than three months to permit negotiations for peace. While addressing itself to the governments and peoples of all the belligerent countries, the Congress at the same time appealed to the class-conscious workers of the three most advanced nations of mankind and the largest States participating in the present war, namely Great Britain, France and Germany."

"It called upon these workers to help to bring to a successful conclusion the cause of peace, and at the same time the cause of the emancipation of the toiling and exploited masses of the population from all forms of slavery and all forms of exploitation."

(History of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolsheviks), Short Course; Moscow, 1945.)

## (a) Collective Security

In the late 'twenties, when the Soviet Union was engaged in building up its economic strength and embarked on the Five-Year Plan, it became urgently necessary to avoid any danger of foreign wars. Litvinov then Soviet Foreign Minister, played an active part in plans for collective security. This is how the Comintern described Russian policy at the time:—

"The international policy of the U.S.S.R. is a peace policy which conforms to the interests of the ruling class in Soviet Russia, viz. the proletariat. This policy rallies all the allies of the proletarian dictatorship around its banner and provides the best basis for taking advantage of the antagonisms among the imperialist States.

"The aim of this policy is to guard the international revolution and to protect the work of building up Socialism—the progress of which is revolutionising the world. It strives to put off the conflict with imperialism for as long as possible.

"In regard to the capitalist States, as to their mutual relationships and to their relationships with their colonies, this policy implies: opposition to imperial war, to predatory colonial campaigns, and to pacifism, which camouflages these campaigns.....

"The peace policy of the proletarian State certainly does not imply that the Soviet State has become reconciled with capitalism, as the Social-Democrats and their Trotskyist allies declare in order to discredit the Soviet State in the eyes of the international proletariat.

"This policy is the Leninist policy of the proletarian dictatorship. It is merely another—and under present conditions—a more advantageous method of fighting capitalism; a method which the U.S.S.R. has consistently employed since the October Revolution."

("Theses of the VI World Congress of the Communist International," 1928; issued by the official Comintern International Press Correspondence, No. 84, 28th November, 1928, p.1590).

The point had already been made clear by Stalin in a speech the year before:—

"We cannot forget the saying of Lenin to the effect that a great deal in the matter of our construction depends on whether we succeed in delaying war with the capitalist countries, which is inevitable but which may be delayed either until proletarian revolution ripens in Europe or until colonial revolutions come fully to a head, or, finally, until the capitalists fight among themselves over the division of colonies."

(Stalin: Speech to the 15th Congress of the P.S.U. (b) (2nd December, 1927); Collected Works, Vol. 10, Moscow, 1949).

## (b) Nazi-Soviet Pact

The rise of Hitler turned Soviet peace policy to pacts of mutual assistance against German aggression, and the Comintern proclaimed the policy of the United Front. But on 23rd August, 1939, the Party line was suddenly changed by the signing of the Nazi-Soviet Pact. On 28th September, after the Nazi and Soviet armies had occupied Poland, their governments issued the following joint communique:—

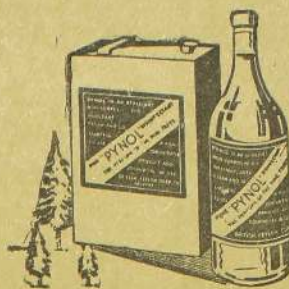
"After the Government of the German Reich and the Government of the U.S.S.R. have, by means of the treaty signed today, definitely settled the problems arising from the collapse of the Polish State and have thereby created a sure foundation for a lasting peace in Eastern Europe, they mutually express their conviction that it would serve the true interest of all peoples to put an end to the state of war existing at present between Germany on the one side and England and France on the other.....

"Should, however, the efforts of the two Governments remain fruitless, this would demonstrate the fact that England and France are responsible for the continuation of the war, whereupon, in case of the continuation of the war, the Governments of Germany and of the

(Continued on page 4)

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## Ceylon Arts and Crafts

### By Quintus Delilkhan

IT is a very great credit to the Minister of Home Affairs, that he has decided to take very vigorous, decisive and practical steps to see that Ceylon arts and crafts should receive the attention which is due to them. The country prides itself upon its awakening nationalism, but nationalism should be, not merely an exaggerated worship of the past glories, but an active and invincible desire to see that under such inspiration, actual service is rendered towards genuine revivals. There is a debacle of centuries to make up for. Under foreign rule, it was inevitable that the ancient arts and crafts of the country should be neglected. The flood-tides of trade were opened and overflowed the land. Many great and valuable heritages and skills of the people of this country were swept away. But now there is freedom. We can decide on what is good for us, and what is not. In reviving the arts and crafts of the country on a scale commensurate with our need to preserve them, we are only doing a signal service for which not only this generation but generations to come would be grateful. The Minister can be sure of the wholehearted support of the public in a venture which has been very long overdue.

Sir Ananda Coomaraswamy, in an address which he once delivered in Ceylon, made a terrible indictment of those who had destroyed the ancient arts and crafts of this country, and deplored in incisive terms, the destruction of the taste of the people of this country as they were prepared to accept cheap trinkets, manufactured in the mass in other countries like England, whilst they neglected what should have been regarded as a priceless heritage. Now that the Government is taking a definite line of action in this matter it will be a very heartening piece of news for the neglected craftsmen. I remember that Dr. Andreas Nell had for years made it a practice to keep in touch with the skilled craftsmen in this country, and it was always an exhilarating experience to hear him talk on this subject. He has an unrivalled fund of experience in this matter, and he could be of immense service in this enterprise which the Government has decided to carry through on a large scale.

I hope that some enterprising publisher would be able to produce in pamphlet form the address of Sir Ananda Coomaraswamy as it would have a rousing effect on the people. It is beautiful not only for its literary character but for that note of personal urgency and protest by a fine and sensitive mind distressed beyond words by the trade vandalism which had destroyed the skills of a people by neglect, indifference and a lowering of the national standards of appreciation. To read it today would give an added impetus to the work planned by the Minister, as people would begin to realise how necessary it is that there should be a gigantic effort to retrieve the neglect of the past. Skills which run in families for centuries cannot be revived in a day. They must be carefully conserved wherever they can be found, and a process of training of the young carried on with the most meticulous care, so that this country would again see a flourishing system of local arts and crafts adapted to all the needs of the people.

The people themselves have a duty in this matter. They have allowed their tastes to be formed upon lines which have withdrawn from them the appreciation of the work of the Ceylon craftsman. They have become used in large measure to what is cheap and tawdry and machine-made. They have despised, in the mass, the skills which they should have praised and sustained. If the craftsman has suffered under this

## The Peace Theme in the History of Soviet Communist

(Continued from page 3)

U.S.S.R. shall engage in mutual consultations with regard to necessary measures."

After this pronouncement the Soviet Government launched another "peace campaign." It is interesting to compare this with the present campaign; for although its theme contrasts oddly with those of Soviet "peace campaigns" before and since, its technique was noticeably similar.

In an interview with "Pravda" on 30th November, 1939, Stalin said:—

"1. It is not Germany who has attacked England and France, but England and France who have attacked Germany.

"2. After the opening of military operations, Germany made overtures to the British and French governments, proposing to them to make peace. The U.S.S.R. supported this peace offer.

"3. The British and French governments rudely rejected these German offers and the efforts of the U.S.S.R."

Molotov had already explained the international situation as follows to a meeting of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. on 31st October:—

".....In the past few months such concepts as "aggression" and "aggressor" have acquired a new and concrete connotation, a new meaning. It is not hard to understand that we can no longer employ these concepts in the sense we did, say, three or four months ago. Today .....Germany is in the position of a State which is striving for the earliest termination of war and for peace, while Britain and France, who only yesterday were declaiming against aggression, are in favour of continuing the war and are opposed to the conclusion of peace. The roles, as you see, have been reversed."

**(c) Theme of "Peace"**

The theme of "peace" was taken up by Communists all over the world. Every attempt was made to weaken the war effort against Germany by the holding of meetings in favour of "peace," by sabotage in factories and by attempts to weaken the morale of the fighting forces.

In France and Britain the Communist Parties, after an initial period of confusion over the change in the Party line, switched their propaganda to attacking the war and the Allies. On October 1st, the

(Continued on page 10)

process, the people of this country themselves have suffered a loss. Whilst shouting out their nationalism, they do not in their homes, in its decoration, or furniture and other useful household article, show that they appreciate the things which are produced in their own country by the ancient skills. They have not asked for adaptations to their requirements, but have shown generally a complete indifference. The position is no doubt now changing to some extent. Several homes have a display of local ware. The traveller to Ceylon was for years the one type of person who was deeply fascinated by local handwork in which our craftsmen excelled. But this was not enough to keep going a class of men who found it more paying to take to other trades in which they could get better returns.

We urgently require in this country a patriotism which is big enough to make the little sacrifices which are necessary to lead to a revival of the arts and crafts of Ceylon on a large scale. If the craftsman produces good work, he should be enabled to live by such production. He cannot do this if the public does not patronise his work, and is satisfied to patronise only cheap foreign manufacture. We require foreign ware, but not at the cost of our own arts and crafts perishing. Now that the Government and the public have an opportunity to co-operate in this valuable undertaking, there can be no doubt that the public will respond by making a much greater effort than ever before to be interested in and to patronise our arts and crafts products.

# Wanted—A Marshall Plan for Asia

By Stanley Morrison

TIME is running out. Persia is a dreadful warning both to Asia and to Europe and the U.S.A. The Persian Government's rejection of the most generous terms yet offered to her in regard to the oil industry is a portent that hatred of the West in that unhappy country is now an obsession to the point of self-destruction. It looks now as if Persia is irretrievably lost to the Western world, which means that the Third World War is now brought within the realms of possibility and is not a mere probability. If the pro-Communist Party were to take over in the near future, it will mean that India will be surrounded on three sides by a huge arc of Communist States stretching from India's Assam border right down to the Persian Gulf. It will mean that air services to India and Ceylon and South-East Asia will not be able to fly over Persia, but will have to touch down at some point at the tip of Southern Arabia and then fly over the Indian Ocean to India and Ceylon. In the event of war, it means hostile submarines in the Indian Ocean using Basra as a base. It means hostile planes can range for thousands of miles over the Indian Ocean. It means that the whole of Western Pakistan and the province of Bombay will come within easy bombing range of planes based in East Persia. Bombing flights to Colombo will then be perfectly feasible with the latest types of planes.

And it is tragic to think that Persia is another Eastern country into which the U.S.A. has poured hundreds of millions of dollars in order to save her from the Reds. This vast expenditure amounts to a far bigger total than she has cared so far to spend in India, Pakistan, Ceylon and South East-Asia all of which are far more stable than Persia ever was. Once again the U. S. A. has miscalculated, as in the case of Chiang Kai-shek's China. Again the U. S. A. has been making the mistake of assisting a country where a series of incorrigibly corrupt governments has played ducks and drakes with the fortune of an unhappy people. And now the religious fanatics and the dialectical delusionists are taking it over.

Once Persia goes over to the Reds, what is left? India, Ceylon, Pakistan and South-East Asia and a few countries in the Far East, headed by Japan. Time is short. At present India, Pakistan and Ceylon have stable regimes. India under the aegis of Mr. Nehru is forging ahead. Corruption there is, but unlike in Chiang's China, it is not aided and abetted by the Government. Every Indian and even his political opponents admit that the Indian Prime Minister is the stern foe of corruption and that the American aid that now reaches that country is wisely and carefully spent. Speaking for Ceylon, I can say that the Prime Minister, Mr. Dudley Senanayake, is respected even by his bitterest political opponents as a man of unquestioned integrity and as one who has the best interests of the masses at heart. He proved it during his tenure of office as Minister of Agriculture.

There is no doubt, therefore, that the U.S.A. Government has, in these countries, a fair field for generous and well-planned economic and technical assistance and their money will not go waste. But it is necessary to repeat that time is running out. Conditions are deteriorating in the whole of this Indian Ocean area as a result of the economic crisis caused by the decline of the rubber prices. Rubber is the key to the prosperity of a great part of this region. The U.S.A.'s lack of a constructive rubber policy and the artificial injection of synthetic rubber into the U.S.A.'s internal economy has caused grave economic disturbance in Ceylon and South-East Asia. It has completely unbalanced Ceylon's economy and driven her to dire straits in the effort to make

her rice purchases from South-East Asia. It is the economic distress of the masses that has provided the fanatics in Persia with their opportunity to direct mass hatred against the West. A similar feeling is growing in Ceylon. It is useless trying to conceal the fact that the rubber crisis has enabled certain types of political opponents of the Government to attribute the blame for this crisis to the policy of the U.S.A. In Ceylon, as in India, a section of the weekly journalism is making the U.S.A. the target of xenophobic forces, which, however, are still latent, but can be fanned into a destructive flame, as in Persia.

In this crisis, Asia watches the great experiment in India of American aid, in the hope that it will provide a pattern for similar aid to the other stable countries in the Indian Ocean region. Every right-thinking person feels (by "right-thinking person" I mean people not under the influence of fanaticisms of any kind) that here, in India, at last, the U.S.A. has got hold of the right end of the stick and that the aid being given is of the right kind. However, India alone will not do. Ceylon can be the Achilles heel of India if Ceylon were to go Communist. And if the present economic crisis here were to develop, the Government of Ceylon would be placed in a grave predicament as regards the implementation of its electoral promises to the masses. The masses cannot be fed for long on unfulfilled promises. And anxious as the present Government is to fulfil those promises, it may not have the financial wherewithal with which to do it, if the economic situation were to deteriorate further. Even a government cannot make bricks without straw.

Therefore, the hopes of this vast region in the Indian Ocean area now depend on the conclusions that will be reached at the Commonwealth Conference to be held in November and on the extent to which the U.S.A. is willing to co-operate to implement the decisions reached at that conference. The U.S.A. holds the key to the economic prosperity of the whole of the Indian Ocean area. If she is willing to re-orientate her own economic policies so as to be helpful to this region, Communism can be stopped from invading what is left of Asia. If the U.S.A. fails to rise to the height of her responsibilities, all is lost and nothing can be retrieved, because recent years have proved that the despair of the masses is a terrible force against which no governments today can stand.

## Senator Demands Election Commission

(Continued from page 2)

sworn allegiance to their Queen and their country carry on certain responsibilities until others take over. It is not possible in one particular matter to depart from that inherent principle of all democratic constitutions. If the constitution could be amended in some way in which the independence of the Commissioner of Parliamentary Elections is secured, then certainly the proposal is worth examining. But my submission is that the independence of the Commissioner is more than secured. Nothing has happened during the last general election to disturb this honourable House as to the independence of the Commissioner of Parliamentary Elections. The Government is awaiting a very valuable document—the report of the Commissioner who conducted the Parliamentary Elections. He will indicate the defects in the law; the deficiencies in the administration; and he will indicate to what extent amendment should take place. On the point of amendments to the election laws, as I said earlier, valuable enquiries have already been made."

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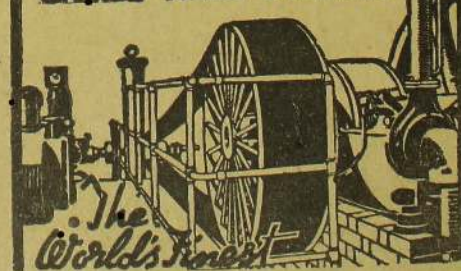
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Friday, September 5, 1952

## A GRACIOUS GESTURE

"Not since the time of Sinhalese kings has the village been honoured as today by the presence of Your Excellency," said the Chief Priest of the village of Ayagama in Alutnuwara, in welcoming Lord Soulbury who was paying a visit to the home of the artist who designed the National Pavilion at the Colombo Exhibition. The simple folk of that remote village were so gratified as to offer to carry the Governor-General in a palanquin—the highest form of courtesy extended to royalty and nobility, which honour was however declined.

It was certainly a memorable day for Mr. Singara, the artist who has preserved and maintained the thousand year decorative art and is now engaged in imparting the knowledge of Sinhalese traditional art—the precious heritage to the younger generation. Unaffected by modern influences, this craftsman has succeeded in preserving the particular technique undiminished, a sure indication that indigenous art has not perished. Lord Soulbury complimented one of the pupils on his skill in making pencil portraits and praised Mr. Singara on his successful efforts to revive and stimulate the traditional art.

This generous gesture on the part of Lord Soulbury recalls the ancient days when kings were great patronizers of the varied forms of art who en-

couraged craftsmen and thus stimulated the development of indigenous culture of the country. It will be remembered that when Lord Soulbury came to Ceylon—he, as is well known, is a great patron and lover of arts—felt that it might be useful if Ceylon evolved a system similar to the system existing in England so that there may be some State aid for the preservation and development of arts and crafts. He actually succeeded in inspiring the Minister of Education who takes a deep interest in this matter and summoning a conference of interested people eventually constituted the Arts Council of Ceylon. Specifying its functions and organisation, and committing the Government to an initial contribution of Rs. 250,000 towards the preliminary expenses of the Council and its working capital. The legislative framework is ready. It remains now for the Council to operate.

With the decline of private patronage of the arts here and in most countries, the support of the State is essential to the well being of the artists and craftsmen. The placing of the Arts Council Bill in the Statute Book and the establishment of the Arts Council of Ceylon as the medium of operation, we see most welcome evidence of the interest the Government is taking in the encouragement and development of traditional culture of the country. All the more welcome and heartening is the grand gesture of the Governor-General who honoured the artist-designer of the National Pavilion, by a visit to his home and offering his felicitations. Artists and craftsmen can now feel gratified and continue carefree their traditional art in their homes, assured of unstinted support and encouragement.

## Lord Soulbury Visits National Pavilion Artist

THE village of Ayagama, in Alutnuwara, was honoured last week by a visit by the Governor-General, Lord Soulbury, who had gone there to inspect the articles of value in the inner chamber of the Lankatilleke Vihare, an ancient shrine, which the public are rarely allowed to see. Lord Soulbury was accompanied by the Italian Ambassador and the High Commissioner for Pakistan. Among the articles was a 1,000-year-old statue of a Hindu deity presented by a Dravidian King. Fabrics and musical instruments which belonged to the temple were shown. The fabrics included a saree-like garment "Tuppottl," the gift of King Kirti Sri Mevan on a visit to the temple, and some beautifully designed cloth, hand-printed and woven in Ceylon.

The Chief Priest of the temple, in welcoming the distinguished visitor, said: "Not since the time of Sinhalese kings has this village been honoured as today by the presence of Your Excellency."

Lord Soulbury declined an offer to be carried in a palanquin. He next visited the art exhibition at the home of Mr. Singara, the artist who designed the National Pavilion at the Colombo Exhibition.

His Excellency complimented one of the pupils on his skill in making pencil portraits. He also praised

## Wellawatte North U. N. P. Youth League

A WORKING Committee meeting of the above league was held on Sunday, August 3, 1952, presided over by Mr. Hector R. Wijesinghe at No. 128, High Street, Wellawatte.

Mr. Wijesinghe, speaking at length thanked the members of committee for electing him as a vice-President. He would help the Youth League activities so that we could build a good generation.

The Hony. General Secretary, Mr. Jinadasa Niyathapala, speaking at length explained the position of the League from its formation and asked the members of the League to co-operate with him to make the League one of the best in the Island.

Mr. P. A. Wijesekera, the newly-elected Treasurer of the League, then proposed various ways and means in creating the Youth League Fund.

Messrs. G. U. D. Weerasooriya, T. Wilson Fernando and M. R. Rupesinghe were among the other speakers. At the end of the meeting refreshments were also provided to the members by Mr. R. A. Wijesekera.

the efforts of the artist, Mr. Singara, on his attempt to hand down his knowledge to the younger generation and said that the work of traditional Sinhalese artists should be encouraged.

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# Can Ayurveda System be Modernised?

## "Develop Ayurveda Purely on Ayurvedic Lines"

Says Minister of Health

"I HAVE been bred in a more conservative tradition in regard to ayurveda than most of the hon. members who referred to that system of medicine," said the Minister of Health during the debate in Parliament on the vote for indigenous medicine, the modernizing of which was urged by certain members of the Opposition Group. "It is because I have faith in the Ayurvedic system of medicine that I should like to develop purely on Ayurvedic lines. I think Ayurveda is strong enough to stand against the inroads that may be made into it by any other system and I want to give the people of this country the full effect of its beneficial results without it being mixed up with any other system of medicine. It is because I have such great faith in Ayurveda that I intend to act cautiously as far as the system is concerned. I have had a memorandum from the Principal of the Ayurveda Hospital which is very interesting. He also came to a conference which I held and told me that the Ayurvedic system was like a bullock cart as a means of modern transport as compared to Western medicine. I reminded him that there are people who still want the bullock cart and that if we tried to fit a

carburettor on to it, it would become a most inefficient vehicle."

### FUSION OF SYSTEMS?

It was argued by some members that what was required was a fusion of ayurvedic remedies, with what was called Western. They had to plan for a new generation of doctors, that is a new generation, enriched by a fusion of Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha.

Others expressed the opinion that as far as the general practitioner in Ayurveda was concerned it would definitely be helpful for him to make use of certain Western ideas and methods. For instance, there were the recognized Western methods of diagnosis which can be used with great advantage. Taking the drug quinine, for example, which is known throughout the world as being a specific for malaria, why should a Veda-mahatmaya not prescribe quinine if he knows a patient of his is suffering from malaria?

Still others described the views held by the Minister of Health as "an interesting anachronism." It would appear, as if the Minister was trying to make medicine a step backward in this country. Nobody could take any person seriously, who is not prepared to recognise certain drugs like the sulfa drug and many other drugs which any system of

medicine can use today. The sum total of the arguments seemed to be the creation of a new medical school with the fusion of the three sections of the Ayurvedic science.

### FAMOUS SPECIALISTS

The Minister referred to some famous Ayurvedic physicians most of whom were Buddhist priests. For instance, he recalled the cures of the priest at Neelammahara famous for mental diseases; the priest at Attanagalla who specialized in nervous disorders; the priest at Balana an expert in diseases of the eye; the priest at Labuduwa who treated people for intestinal complaints, besides the well-known Morawaka and Gurudeniya Ayurvedic physicians who were famous for bone-setting and curing fractures. Then there was the expert at curing dysentery, Madapatha.

Continuing, the Minister asserted that those physicians did not have any of the modern appliances and drugs to help them nor did they perform their work with stethoscopes round their necks. They possessed a science entirely of their own and

it is because he believed in that system that he felt he must be very careful when attempts were being made to introduce any Western methods and medicine into it. Although fundamentally they are the same, it must be remembered that diagnosis of disease according to the Ayurveda system was done purely by feeling the pulse alone and the very successful results achieved by that system are well-known in the country. The suggestion has been made that the introduction of Western methods into Ayurveda should not be confined to the question of diagnosis alone. How were they going to prevent further inroads being made into the system if they made a start with diagnosis? It was his intention to act most cautiously in the matter as he had faith in the system and he wanted to ensure that Ayurveda has a very live future. "When I go into the rural areas," added the Minister, "and see our Ayurvedic physicians dispensing aspirin and the sulfa drugs to their patients I felt that the end of Ayurveda was not far off. I am not inclined, therefore, to take a hasty step of the nature that has been indicated."

JURGEN.

## SRI LANKA TOWARDS PROGRESS & PROSPERITY

By K. Alahakkone

JUST nearly two months have elapsed, after the formation of a new Government. The confidence, which the people of this country had laid upon the new government proves to be worthy and praiseworthy as the new government function towards progress and prosperity of this country.

In each and every sphere this country is gradually developing. In the sphere of agriculture, it is gradually reaching its zenith once again after the great Parakrama Bahu's period. It is undeniable that the six-year plan has made a tremendous leap in the development of agriculture. As the Member for Vavuniya, himself said, that "it has been a great success. Vavuniya has progressed by leaps and bounds. This plan of success is due to the magnificent policy pursued by the Prime Minister. These statements made by an Opposition Member, shows clearly that the Opposition itself is admitting the progress that the government has been achieving.

The paddy land bill which was passed in the last Parliament by the present Prime Minister, to tackle the problem of "absentee landlordism" has been a success even to a certain extent. The Hon. Prime Minister made the following statement in introducing the Bill:—

"Now these are the three main purposes contemplated in this Bill. Firstly, to give a certain measure of security to the tenants; secondly to ensure that they get an adequate return either in the shape of money or in kind for their labours; thirdly, to empower the proper authority to take over in certain cases paddy fields that are not cultivated and to make provision for the cultivation of such fields."

Unemployment will not last for a long time as large-scale industrialisation will come into existence recently. According to the six-year plan State-owned factories are to be reorganised or to put up. For instance, iron and steel, sugar, textiles and cotton factories will provide employment for a good number.

It is not possible for any government to provide employment and food adequately, for all if the population increases rapidly. The perilous nature of the Island's economy is seen to greater relief when it is realised that Ceylon depends on imports for a great quantity of her food supply. It is worthy of notice that Ceylon's population of 7½ million is said to be increasing at the rate of 200,000 annually. Therefore the food bill is undoubtedly mounting higher year by year. Today the Government is trying every possibility of acquiring sufficient food for the people of this country. Now we see that the Food Minister searching for great quantities of rice on foreign lands. But a period of prosperity for the people of this country is nearer. Thus, we see the present Government on its way towards advancement economically.

A three-year Plan for the development of cottage industries is set-up by the present Government. This policy suggested by the Minister of Home Affairs, Hon. Mr. A. Ratnayake. Under this plan the three main cottage industries which are to be developed are textile, coir and pottery.

Apart from the industrial development, the new Government has begun new housing schemes in various parts of the Island, such as the Aruppola Scheme in Kandy. The Government is spending more than one million for this housing scheme.

These various steps taken by the new Government towards the progress of this country, economically marks the beginning of a new period in economic history of the Island.

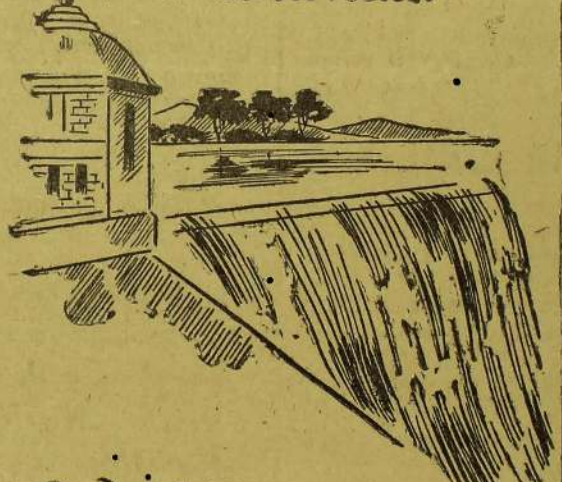
The Government Party fought hard for political freedom, and achieved it ultimately. Now it is struggling for economic freedom. The various schemes for the achievement of economic freedom so far undertaken by the new Government, have produced fruitful results, which the people of this country can enjoy.

We today live in a most interesting and important age in our country's history. When this country has attained self-sufficiency, economic freedom, being achieved, then Sri Lanka will become a bright flame in the midst of the darkness of the Eastern World.

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## RURAL UPLIFTMENT

By D. L. Perera

**BEGINNING** immediately after the last war all countries in the world directed attention towards the economic upliftment of the rural masses. In Japan, General MacArthur disturbed the feudal land tenure system to help the peasant soldier returned from the wars, to rehabilitate himself. In Russia, the kolkhoz enjoyed favourable conditions and the destruction caused by the German invasion was overcome by the introduction of improved methods of cultivation and large-scale use of tractors. In European countries peasant farmers generally got into stride but their standard of living compared to Japanese and Russian peasants was considerably poor. In Ceylon the lot of the peasant is no worse and the contributory causes which prevent his obtaining a fair standard of living merit close investigation.

The Ceylon peasant whose main occupation continues to be agriculture ekes out a poverty stricken existence. The income derived by a family of rural cultivators from their household plots is their only means of livelihood which does not fully satisfy the family needs. Thus we find some of them employed as domestics whilst the majority of others had nothing to look forward to but the toil of an agricultural labourer assigned to work the lands of an idle or absentee landlord.

The last few years have seen a partial change in their mode of living. Peasant women in certain parts of the country are engaged in working in tea and rubber estates and the total income earned helps the family to a life not entirely free from want. In certain other areas the State colonisation schemes have helped many. But life appears to be particularly hard in some other areas where the majority of the peasants are never out of debt. It is not unusual to find that after they had gathered in the harvest they had nothing to live on, for the entire crop had to go for paying debts. As in olden days the majority of our peasants are everlastingly in debt.

It is clear therefore that other means of income should be found to consider his well being. The keeping of cattle, raising poultry, rearing goats and hogs both for personal and commercial use would help a rural family to obtain an income several times more than he derives from his household cultivation plot. It is a lucrative employment during cultivation off seasons.

To achieve this a considerable amount of rural instruction is needed. He should be told that public funds will be made available to assist him to increase production. There would be many difficulties in telling him that to breed livestock is not a crime, to collect eggs is no sin and to sell livestock is to make his life prosperous. His ancient religious scruples and background needs a modern retouching.

Unlike the industrial countries of Europe where peasants obtain part-time employment in factories to replenish their meagre farm incomes. Ceylon is purely agricultural and any step taken to ameliorate the conditions of peasants here should be based on agricultural pursuits and increased production methods. Unless of course the State is prepared to open up industrial set-ups to benefit the increasing population.

It is very important to explain to the rural masses the advantages of developing their own land instead of abandoning them to seek employment in towns and workshops. They should be told that their agricultural produce would be collected by the State and paid for by the State. This would not only help him to secure a proper economic return for his produce but would be an incentive to increase production.

On the economic upliftment of the rural producer depends Ceylon's prosperity. There is no shortage of man-power and even the most backward villages could, if appropriate measures are adopted, be invariably

## EISENHOWER & STEVENSON BOTH FAVOUR. MIDDLE ROAD

WASHINGTON, AUG. 25

**G**OVERNOR Stevenson and General Eisenhower both favour a middle road between state socialism and unrestrained laissez faire as the best course for the United States in pursuing its national goals.

The two presidential candidates took similar positions this week in opposing continued concentration of power in the national government, and likewise in rejecting the concept that government should not concern itself with the welfare of the individual.

To a Western audience, Eisenhower expressed the view that the road to the left and the road to the right both lead to tyranny and disregard of human rights. He argued that government, by compulsion becomes inevitable in either case, with resultant resentment and distrust of government on the part of the people.

As his own comment on General Eisenhower's statement, Governor Stevenson said that he had always regarded himself as "something of a moderate," and added:

"I like the middle of the road between the two extremes, too. I think most everyone does. I think we understand it in this country as an intermediate, moderate position."

In these separate statements, the rival candidates for president again found themselves in substantial agreement that the private enterprise system must be preserved in the United States, and that the power and services of the national government should be definitely curtailed and controlled through the action of the people themselves.

Eisenhower put the primary responsibility for the country's progress on the individual citizen.

Stevenson had previously urged that the States and local governments accept an increasing responsibility for social progress at the local level instead of "looking to Washington" for all social services.

### IN ACCORD ON FOREIGN POLICY

New foreign policy expressions likewise found the two candidates in continued accord on fundamentals.

Stevenson reiterated that he regards foreign policy as the country's greatest problem, involving the destiny of the United States and the free world.

Eisenhower, already committed to the same viewpoint, said specifically to a Western audience that he approved the action taken by the United States in Korea. Although arguing that "terrible blunders" led to the Korean conflict, the Republican nominee conceded that once the Communists attacked in 1950, the U.S. had no choice but to intervene in Korea.

At the same time, Eisenhower said, in answering questions from partisan supporters in Kansas city, that he knows of no one "who has presented any feasible military plan for attacking China" as a means of ending the Korea conflict. To do so, he added, would amount to "starting another war far more difficult to stop than the one we are now in."

In taking this position Eisenhower supported the government's present course in Korea. (U.S.I.S.)

transformed into prosperous production centres.

Among the chief factors that determine the success of rural development is the power to organise the rural populace by selecting among the personnel, leaders who would be responsible for the development of the area. As they proceed the main thing should be to reduce the need for administrative measures for an exacting approach to the policy pursued, but State aid should be generously available when required. Our rural populace have been used to a way of living which is simple and easy to reform or organise for they make no complaints.

## Cabinet Responsibility

IN any state where the Parliamentary system of government obtains, we see the development of a Cabinet System. The Cabinet System of government is the most important organ of the British political system. The importance of the Cabinet can be judged by such descriptions of it as—"the keystone of the political arch"—Lowell—"the steering wheel of the ship of the state"—Ramsay Muer—"the solar orb round which the other bodies revolve"—Gladstone.

The Cabinet generally consists of a group of capable ministers headed by the Prime Minister. They are in charge of the important departments of public administration. They frame the policy of the government and control the general administration. The Cabinet has such vast powers over the various departments of government that with a suitable majority behind it, the Cabinet can almost wield dictatorial power.

The power of the Cabinet is derived from the legislature. (In England, the House of Commons. Here in Ceylon it is the House of Representatives), and therefore it is responsible to the legislature for every policy it embarks upon. It remains in office only as long as it commands the confidence of the legislature.

Cabinet responsibility may be of two kinds—individual and collective.

Individually every member of the Cabinet is responsible to the legislature for any kind of action he takes affecting the general public. Collectively the Cabinet is answerable to the House of Commons for any of the actions of any Minister as well as the Cabinet as a whole.

It is the duty of the Prime Minister to enforce this collective responsibility of the Cabinet. If there is no unanimity specially among Cabinet Ministers, they meet together and by a process of friendly discussion endeavour to reach agreement. If the Prime Minister fails to induce all Ministers to agree with the general policy of the Government he can ask that Minister who disagrees with the Cabinet to resign. In case a Minister refuses to resign the Prime Minister can advise the Crown to dismiss that particular Minister.

But a Cabinet is not bound to resign for the actions of a Minister which were carried out without the prior consent of the Cabinet and which are not in keeping with the general policies laid down by the Cabinet. In such a case only that particular Minister will have to resign.

D. M. DHARMARATNE.

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## OUR STREETS 500 YEARS AGO

THE Portuguese restricted particular classes. The Pereras then (except where the name had been assumed) amongst the Sinhalese was confined to high caste Sinhalese. The Portuguese made "nominal distinctions" which the Dutch localised by driving particular castes and classes of the population to particular streets. Thus we have Silversmith Street, Brassfounder Street, Lascroen Street, Moor Street, Chetty Street etc.

Not until the British occupation did a Moor man own property anywhere but in Moor Street and New Moor Street. Some of the older burgher residents so far clung to old traditions and regulations as to refuse to sell their houses in the Pettah to any but Burghers. But time levels all distinctions and before the advance of trade and its requirements in the Pettah 75% of the area had passed to hands other than that of Burghers.

Long before the Dutch started localising of castes and classes of the population to particular streets the Sinhalese Kings were resorting to this device. In Kandy Hetty Weede was part of the present Trincomalee Street nearest the lake where chetties whose business was to supply cloth from India for the use of the King of Kandy resided. Gold cloth, coloured jackets and other dresses worn by Headmen are still obtained from these Indian chetties who in Sinhalese times were also the King's bankers.

Swarna Kalyana Weede is the modern King's Street. The King gave his favourites houses here and whenever the King passed that way the street was artistically embellished with decorated work of gold.

Pedlars and traders who hawked about various goods for sale lived in Ommutti Weede. In Kavikara Weede now known as Castle Street lived the musicians and poets of the Royal Court.

A street constructed by the last King of Kandy called Alut Weede which ran along the back of Brownrigg Street cannot now be traced and another Street changed entirely beyond recognition is Maha Dewale Weede which led from what is now the Pavilion Gate to Hill Street through the Pavilion grounds.

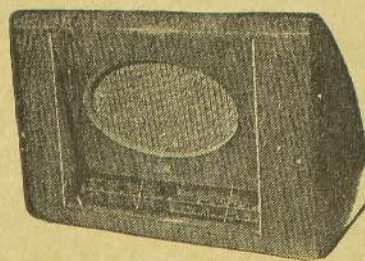
Nagaha Weede was continuation of Hetty Weede. It was so called from a Na tree which originally grew in Trincomalee Street. It was through Nagaha Weede that the funeral processions of the Kings of Kandy proceeded to Adahana Maluwa.

The British in Kandy imposed a penalty of one rix-dollar for each head of cattle found straying in Hetty Weede. Swarna Kalyana Weede Nagaha Weede and all the other important streets. Owners of pigs were forbidden from allowing them to run loose in the streets on penalty of two fanams for each pig so found. Any landholder was fined five rix-dollars or in default had an imprisonment of a term not exceeding 14 days imposed on him if he failed to repair the street or road opposite to his house or property. Every householder was bound to keep in good and proper repair the street or road opposite to his property.

Neglect to remove filth, rubbish and dirt within sight of the street in front of any premises was liable to a fine of one rix-dollar or in default imprisonment with hard labour not exceeding one week.

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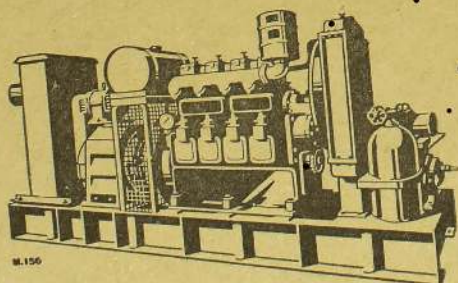
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## AID UNDER THE COLOMBO PLAN

THE Governments of Ceylon and Canada together with other Governments met in London in 1950 for the purpose of drawing up the Colombo Plan for Co-operative Economic Development in South and South-East Asia. The two Governments now desire to co-operate for their mutual benefit, and, in particular, for the achievement of the purposes of the Colombo Plan by promoting the economic development of Ceylon.

An agreement has accordingly been concluded between Ceylon and Canada, in the form of Notes exchanged between Sir Kanthiah Vaitianathan, Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of External Affairs on behalf of Ceylon, and Mr. Paul Sykes, Canadian Government Trade Commissioner, on behalf of Canada, establishing certain principles under which Canada will provide economic aid to Ceylon, and according to which supplementary agreements may be made to cover specific programmes. These principles are contained in Treaty Series No. 7 (1952).

2. In respect of the year 1952-53 the Government has (1) agreed to assist the development of fisheries in Ceylon by providing financial assistance by way of grant up to 1,000,000 dollars (Rs. 5,000,000) which will take the form of capital goods, equipment and technical personnel. It is expected that this aid will consist of one trawler, two fishing boats and equipment, one cold storage plant, one pilot fish cannery and one mechanical fish drier plant. Technical personnel will also be made available for the effective utilization of this contribution; (2) agreed in principle to aid rural electrification in the area developed so far in the Gal Oya valley in the light of a report to be received from a Canadian Engineer who will shortly visit Gal Oya and subject to subsequent approval by Canadian Government; (3) agreed in principle to aid a pilot project to rural development in a selected area containing 1,000 families after consideration of a specific scheme to be submitted by the Ceylon Government, and subject to the subsequent approval of the Canadian Government.

## The Peace Theme in the History of Soviet Communism

(Continued from page 4)

French Communist Deputies addressed a letter to the French President demanding the immediate cessation of the war. In Britain the Communist Party took up the demand for peace, and Mr. Pollitt, its Secretary, answering a question at a meeting on 5th November, declared that Britain and France were the aggressors in the war.

The United States Communist Party protested not only against the raising of the embargo on the sending of arms to the democracies, but also against the lend-lease enactment. In the middle of the battle of France, 22nd May, 1940, it organised a mass meeting in New York against Roosevelt's foreign policy.

The initial confusion among the French and British Communists was due to the fact that until the capitulation of Poland they had been the most violent agitators for war against the Nazis. The French Communist Deputies had voted with the Government on 2nd September, on the question of additional military credits, a step which had to be explained later due to "opportunistic" and "legalist" tendencies in the Central Committee. Mr. Pollitt had written as follows in July:

".....an end to this mealy-mouthed pacifism which would lie down humbly and let Fascism wipe its boots on our bodies as a preli-

## Modern Methods to Ensure Milk Supply

MODERN equipment and trained personnel are used by milk companies in the United States to receive, inspect and ship large quantities of milk rapidly. This ensures a fresh supply of milk each day for consumers living in cities.

One company, for example, handles 25,000 quarts of milk during three hours each day in one of its receiving plants. The plant, at Johnson, in the State of New York, is one of 48 such stations operated by the Borden Company to serve the metropolitan area of New York City. About 80 farmers within a radius of approximately six miles bring their milk to the Johnson receiving point. Beginning at 6.30 in the morning, farmers unload 40-quart milk cans on to a conveyor belt at the plant. As each can moves along the belt it is opened, and the milk is tested for temperature. A check is made to detect unusual odors. Next, a small sample is tested for butter-fat content. This determines the price paid to the farmer.

The can is then moved into a dumping area where it is automatically tilted and emptied. After being cooled to a temperature of 35 degrees Fahrenheit, the milk is piped into one of three 12,000-quart storage tanks. From the tanks it is pumped into trucks that rush it 70 miles to New York City for pasteurizing and bottling. After each milk can is emptied, it is rinsed and washed. Then, sterile and ready for use on the following day, it is moved to a loading platform where it is picked up by the farmer's truck.—(U.S.I.S.)

minary to trampling us down forever." (Pamphlet "Will it Be War?") and as late as September he was writing:

"The Communist Party supports the war, believing it to be a just war which should be supported by the whole working class and all friends of democracy in Britain....." (Pamphlet "How to Win the War").

In the months following the Nazi-Soviet Pact, the Moscow Press exerted itself to justify the new policy of the Soviet Government. The following two quotations are of particular interest. The words "Imperialist," "war" and "peace," so often used now in Soviet propaganda, here occur in a context which shows the extreme pliability of these words in Communist hands. The first is from issue of No. 19, of *Bolshevik*, the authoritative exponent of the Party line:—

"The (British) government makes full use of its emergency powers and smothers free thought and every protect against the unjust Imperialist war..... Alarmed and bewildered, the working classes in Britain and France ask, 'What next? In whose interest must we go into the trenches?'"

The second quotation is from *Izvestiya* of 9th October, 1939:

"The destruction of Hitlerism is now given as the basic demand..... This throws us back to the dark days of the Middle Ages, when all destroying religious wars were being waged in the name of the annihilation of heretics and infidels..... One may respect or detest Hitlerism, as any other system of political view; it is a matter of taste. But to instigate a war for the sake of 'destroying Hitlerism' is to introduce criminal stupidity into politics..... War or peace—that is the question."

In view of the use which has been made of peace propaganda by the Soviet regime, it is not surprising that the article published in the *Cominform Journal* of 8th December, 1950, and quoted on page 13, directing the Communist Press to support the activities of the Peace Movement, ended with the following reminder:

".....all these activities are indissolubly linked with stepping up propaganda of Marxism, Leninism, and the tireless struggle against reactionary ideology."

# 1952 GENERAL ELECTION IN CEYLON

By Hamilton Abeyewickrema

VARIOUS explanations to the victory of the U.N.P. at the last elections are being put forward, most of which are cross-currents of talk very fascinating and interesting, to those who voice them. Some try to explain the gains and losses by astrological calculations, others by myths and the others by baseless accusations regarding the conduct of the elections. Frustration at the General Elections by the Anti-U.N.P. Section is no ground for making up an "Arabian Night Story." The sequence of events clearly show the absurdity of the accusation.

The Party system is synonymous with Parliamentary Democracy and Democracy implies Majority Rule. Every party endeavours to capture the Government for the ensuing period. The success of a party depends on its organization, based primarily on its avowed principles, programme and policy. Therefore, ultimately the voters' decision is governed by these fundamental facts. It is also true that the past work of a party is equally important. Ceylon can be regarded to be in its infancy as regards the formation of parties. Before the present set up of Government, viz., Soulbury Constitution was installed, the success of an election depended on the personal qualities of the candidates. Viewing the present election results in this trend of thought, one finds a close resemblance to the previous methods employed at elections with slight modifications. With reference to voting, there has been some departure from the past in voters' discretion.

Although it can be argued that this is not totally correct, yet the true beam of light casts a reflection in this direction. Today there are nearly half a dozen parties in Ceylon, resembling French politics. In U.K. the working of the Party system of Government is made comparatively easy due to the existence of two parties. Our picture is quite different. The only party that is really organised and can in the true sense of the term be called a party

is the U.N.P. In the other parties, the organization is weak and there are no definite principles involved in their policy. This was vindicated at the last general elections, when each sank whatever differences there were to achieve the common object of defeating the U.N.P. Even here, they failed, as they could not properly execute their plan on a united basis to achieve their so called objective.

It was all due to the presumption that that party chief will grab power. Thus the problem of 'Power' entered the arena of politics and conflicting jealousies prevented a coherent and co-ordinated programme of election campaign. It was not quite apparent to the ordinary voter but an examination of the facts will illustrate this situation better.

Therefore the results of the elections were apparent many days before the polling actually started. It is rather surprising that the U.N.P. did not score more victories. Majority of the people declared that they were voting U.N.P. as they knew no better party. Wherever the U.N.P. chief attended public meetings thousands of enthusiastic voters were attracted to the scenes. The people emphasised the fact that the mandate given to the U.N.P. at the last General Election was well used in the interest of the country. The programme of work completed was well approved by the public.

In spite of these obvious facts, various rumours and cross-currents of talk have been invented by the Leftists to explain their defeat. We knew for certain that not a single U.N.P. nominee forfeited his or her deposit although many of the nominees of the Opposition Parties did so. The greatest scandalous story spread by them is the so-called "Ballot-Paper Racket." It is one thing to be defeated but another to accept defeat in the correct spirit. Politics is comparable to cricket, one side must win or lose (or be equal).

On a legal basis, one finds not an atom of truth in that allegation. The News Magazine called Trine started this wicked story which received its death blow by the categorical denial of such a racket by the then Minister of State, Mr. A. E. Goonesinha. (Former President of the Ceylon Labour Party.) Further the Commissioner of Elections has given his version and the people now know the truth. The whole affair was debated in the House of Representatives recently and the demand for a commission to inquire into this imaginary story was rejected by not less than two thirds of the House.

The question can now be put, How Can Ballot Papers be inserted when the agents of the candidates are present? After the close of the Polls the ballot boxes are sealed. Then how can fresh ballot papers be inserted?

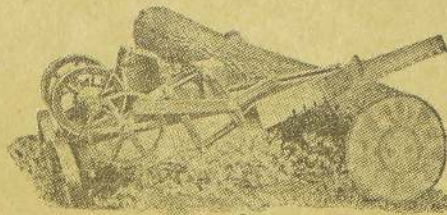
A certain amount of ballot papers are entrusted to each Presiding Officer and he is answerable to loss of any ballot paper. Hence the groundless charge that the presiding officers were partial is really untenable. Further they stated that the ballot papers might be inserted in transit. It is exactly to avoid such an occurrence that boxes are sealed with the aid of the seals of the candidates themselves before despatch. These are some of the issues raised.

The Trine gained publicity by the invention of this talk. The voters can now understand the value of the Opposition Parties who can resort to such tactics in order to undermine the victory of the opponent and also it is a direct challenge to the intelligence of the public.

The organization of the U.N.P. by the Propaganda Chief, Sir John Kotelawala, the Policy and Programme of the U. N. P. magnetic personality of the late Rt. Hon. D. S. Senanayake, the acceptance of the new Prime Minister, Mr. Dudley Senanayake, disunity of the leftist parties to put forward a united opposition are the main factors that assured the Triumph of Democracy in the country.

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