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# Public Services Must be Purified

Says

**Maha Amerasingha**

**T**HERE is plenty of talk in the country on bribery and corruption in the Public Services. Whilst it should be remembered that this is not a national

vice peculiar to this country alone and that in England, America and Russia public scandals have emerged from time to time as a result of corrupt officials batten on the people, we must not condone or ignore the existence of some measure of corrupt practices in our country.

As I pointed out on an earlier occasion any Government which defends a public officer against the public accepts the position that it ignores the mandate of the people who have voted them into power. That is not the attitude taken up by the United National Party. The U.N.P. believes firmly in democracy, and respects the wishes of the one million people who voted for its candidates at the recent elections and with whose mandate they have formed the Government.

Therefore it would seem obvious and reasonable to appoint a Commission to inquire into the allegations of bribery in various Departments. I do not wish to specify particular cases for I know, as anyone who has had the opportunity of investigating allegations will know, that in our country people do not hesitate before slandering others. Time after time one is faced with occasions when allegations of gross corruption have been investigated and found to be entirely groundless. But this should not deter us from cleaning up the great deal that has to be cleaned up in our administration. We must realise that the Government has not been returned to power to raise the salaries of various

public servants and to ignore the legitimate needs of millions of people who do not have direct influence with various departmental bosses.

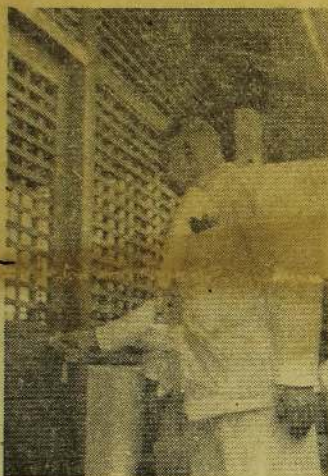
It would be impossible for a single Commission to produce a report within a reasonable length of time into the allegations that are being made generally against the entire administration. It would be wise, therefore, and would make for speedy action, to have simultaneous sittings of two or three Commissions each dealing with specific departments which may appear to the Government to need looking into earlier than others.

I REMEMBER that before Mr. Truman became President of the U.S.A. he was the Chairman of what came to be known as the Truman Commission whose duty it was to investigate all allegations of corruption in the administration of America. It is

on record that that Commission was able to unearth a series of scandals. I would suggest that the announcement of a Commission of Inquiry with respect to even a few departments of State would immediately have a salutary influence over all Departments of Government.

I am aware that a Commission was appointed by the then Minister for Labour, Mr. G. C. S. Corea to inquire into allegations of bribery in the Colombo Harbour and Mr. C. E. P. Jayasuriya was appointed Commissioner and actually conducted his inquiries for a period of nearly three months. What became of his findings nobody knows. As far as I am aware no report has been published up to date.

I strongly urge that, in the interests of public administration and in the interests of the development of a healthy public opinion in this country every such report should be published in future.



(Photo Studio Sun)

**Col. J. L. Kotelawela declares open the Maligawatte housing scheme for Railway Workers.**



(Photo Studio Sun)

**Col. Kotelawela lights the wick of an oil lamp at the housing scheme site. With him in the picture is Mr. D. Wickremasingha, President of the Running Shed Workers.**

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BEWARE OF IMITATIONS

# New Words in the National Vocabulary

By  
"Caliph"

IF you have been very observant you could not fail to notice that the vocabulary of the ordinary man-in-the-street has increased appreciably. There were three causes—the war, the Parliamentary elections and the attainment of Dominion Status. Most of these words are English, some are Sinhalese, but all of them are understood by the common man, whether he be Sinhalese, Muslim or Tamil.

The war showed the common man in Ceylon to be highly intelligent or judicious in seizing up a situation, whether it be on the battle front or home front. His caustic remarks and shrewd observations on current matters marked him out as the one who could not fail to catch a new word when it comes his way.

So now we have a splendid array of words, of which the pick is given in the appropriate order of their acquisition (on a rough estimate).

## WAR-TIME:

**"Blackmarket"**: This feature of the war made this word a byword in every home. In despair did they say: "We cannot afford to buy anything in the blackmarket," or "It is not available in the market." We must try the blackmarket. Of course, that will cost more.

The word has come to stay and even in the post-war world "blackmarket" is in use for anything smelling of high unfair prices.

Perhaps "profiteer" was too much of a mouthful to retain a hold. It is not popular. Even profiteers are merely referred to as "blackmarket."

**"Poll-in"**: Of course a corruption of the military term "fall in." The straight line made by disciplined troops when they fall in perhaps inspired this term for a queue. The queue was one of the benefits of the last war.

This excellent habit has spread not only to co-ops, and cinemas but to busstands and even to Government registration offices.

**"A.R.P."**: Was synonymous with emergency jobs. Many unemployed found easy jobs in the A.R.P. The period of enemy activity being small

compared to the emergency period, many of our A.R.P. had little to do, though uniformed and paid; which aroused the caustic comment on the A.R.P.: "Appe Rastladu Party" (Our idle party).

**"Military"**: Like the A.R.P. the military was also a refuge for the unemployed. They were enlisted, in large numbers. But being in the "military" was a social status much envied.

Many of our womenfolk, in war-time, preferred to marry a "military-karaya" than a civilian—with a keen eye to special rations and wives' allowances!

The menfolk, of course, remembered them as those who enjoyed rice and curry, fruits and vegetables, butter and jam, while the civilians struggle over bajri, wheat and onion sambol.

**"Military Lorry"**: Quite connected with the above but best remembered for killing thousands of our countrymen on the roads by negligent driving while the enemy air raids killed only a few hundreds of our people. Even now reckless drivers are called "military lorry drivers."

★ ● ★

## PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

**"Hora Vote"** Speaks for itself.

**"U.N.P."**: The Government of the day. Until the elections were over it was a favourite taunt of the Opposition that it stood for "Until Next Parliament."

But after the United National Party had won they knew it stood for "United National Progress."

★ ● ★

With the progress of Parliament, the words "Prime Minister," "Parliamentary Secretary," "Senator," "Budget" have been added to the list. But I have still to find a man-in-the-street who can define what a "dominion" is. He merely says "independence."

## Yes, A Re-incarnation of Parakrama Bahu

OUR Premier has often been mentioned as a re-incarnation of Parakrama Bahu—mainly due to his vast agricultural schemes, his restoration of tanks and waterways and his Herculean efforts to make Ceylon self-sufficient in rice supplies. But a comparison of Parakrama Bahu's religious activities with that of our Premier reveals a unique similarity in their objects and achievements.

One of his ambitions, like Parakrama Bahu, was to restore Buddhism as the national religion. But, like Parakrama, Mr. Senanayake found it an unenviable task, with the monks of Ceylon, at least a portion of them not leading good lives.

He appealed, almost in tears, for a sound Sangha. He was the champion of the reform movement among the priests.

At the prize-distribution of Sri Dharmaraja Pirivena, Matale, last year, Mr. Senanayake observed that it was a common sight to see Buddhist monks in the State Council and deplored the tendency on the part of the priesthood to go beyond its legitimate bounds in various matters.

"Those priests who do so degrade themselves and bring the faith to disrepute and the followers of the faith to shame," he said.

This aroused a great deal of controversy. But Mr. Senanayake made it clear, at a later meeting at the Jethawanaramaya, Colombo, that his greatest concern was to see that if there were any Bhikkus who had strayed from the path of the Dhamma, they should be made to become Buddhists before they tried to enter the State Council.

HE was deeply grieved by the doings of erratic Buddhist priests. "I am more than ever convinced," he said, "that it is far better for them to train themselves in the virtue of self-restraint than to indulge in belittling learned and venerable members of the Sangha."

He knew of Bhikkus who went to Colombo for their education and put up in all sorts of nooks and corners instead of in the "avasas" meant for them.

He preached and prayed at every meeting against the demoralisation of religious life.

It was Mr. Senanayake's appeal against such corruption that inspired

the historic conference of representative members of the Sangha and the Buddhist laity at the ancient Raja Maha Vihare, Kelaniya.

❖ ★ ❖

IT was in the lines of the conference held by Parakrama Bahu. During that great king's time, Buddhism had grown corrupt and the monks had split into three sections. There were no "political bhikkhus" as we call our erotic lot now. But there were definitely self-willed and obstinate bhikkus who preferred to stray away from the Dhamma and establish "isms" of their own.

Parakrama Bahu, by his wisdom and statesmanship, brought these three sects together in a Buddhist Conference to settle doubtful points. Differences of custom and doctrine were resolved and settled. Monks were advised not to be worldly and selfish.

A few monks were expelled for their corrupt influence, and the Sangha was restored to its ancient glory.

❖ ★ ❖

THE Kelaniya Conference of 1946 was the first since the British connection with Ceylon when such a distinguished and representative gathering of the Sangha had met for such a purpose. All questions of outstanding interest were discussed.

Some of the resolutions passed at the Conference were:

In no circumstances should a bhikkus seek election to or be a member of the State Council, Parliament, Senate, any Municipal Council, Urban Council, Village Council or any political organisation.

Where a bhikkus has been expelled from the Sangha Sabha of his Nikaya for acting in contravention of the resolutions of the Conference no Buddhist laymen should pay to such bhikkus the honour and respect due to a member of the Sangha.

That suitable legislation should be introduced providing for the enforcement of the Sangha Sabhas of the respective Nikayas.

❖ ★ ❖

LIKE Parakrama Bahu, Mr. Senanayake, in his zeal for Buddhism, is ever tolerant of other religions, as is evinced by his activities. It will be remembered that Parakrama Bahu built a temple for the Hindus in Polonnaruwa "to afford the comforts of religion even to his Tamil enemies."

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# Communist Offensive in Western Europe

DENVER (Colorado), DEC. 10

**A WARNING** that the lessons learned in Greece show that "time is of the essence" in the European Recovery Program was sounded here today by George C. McGhee, State Department Co-ordinator for Aid to Greece and Turkey, in an address before the local group of the American Association for the United Nations.

Reminding the audience that imperialist expansion no longer is signalled by marching armies, McGhee reviewed the developments of the last few years in Hungary, Greece, Bulgaria, Rumania, Yugoslavia and Albania as examples of the imperialistic technique currently being applied in Western European countries.

McGhee described the efforts of the U.S. mission administering the 300-million-dollar aid fund in Greece and said although there are favourable factors, "neither the insurrection nor the economic situation is under control."

"Our activities there," he said, "have not yet begun to pay off. In fact, during the months in which our mission has been laying the groundwork for effective action, the situation has deteriorated....."

"Whatever the cost and no matter how long it takes, it is imperative that the line be held in Greece.... As President Truman said, the survival and integrity of the Greek nation are of

importance in a much wider situation'."

South-east Europe and the Middle East, said McGhee, "are tempting prizes" which, in the possession of an outside power might well decide the destiny of at least three countries. They also are "peculiarly vulnerable to outside aggression."

## TECHNIQUE OF MODERN IMPERIALIST EXPANSION

McGHEE likened "imperialist expansion in the modern manner" to the "three stages of disease." He said: "In the first of these, Hungary, the process of conquest is nearly completed. In the second, Greece, armed rebellion supported from outside the nation's borders is in progress and the issue is not yet settled. In the third, the softening-up process is underway in certain countries of Western Europe..... What has happened in Hungary has also happened in Bulgaria, Rumania, Yugoslavia and Albania. What is happening in Greece, and what is happening in Western Europe may well happen elsewhere."

In Hungary, McGhee said, the Soviet army brought with it a "group of hardened Hungarian Communists trained in Moscow in the tricks of subversion and revolution."

When the Communist Party organization was believed sufficient strong, he continued, the Soviet army permitted free elections to be held in accordance with the Yalta Agreement. But when elections went against the Communists,

a reign of terror ensued, opposition was wiped out, and Communists seized power, making Hungary a "police state."

McGhee said Greece, ruined by Italian and German invasions and devastated by four years of enemy occupation, was "natural for Soviet expansion," although the Soviet army was not in occupation. Communist agents, he said, took over the leadership of armed bands in Northern Greece and organized the defiance of the authority of the Greek State.

## COMMUNIST STRATEGY IN WESTERN EUROPE

REVERTING to the Western European nations, McGhee said: "The circumstances are different and the techniques are different. There is no Red Army in occupation. There are no extensive borders with Communist-dominated countries, and economic conditions have not deteriorated

to the point where governments have lost authority.

"The strategy therefore is to use the instrument of strikes, riots and sabotage to disrupt economic life.....to cause a complete breakdown (so) Communists can in the general disorder take over the government.

"One of the most heartening aspects is the valiant resistance which has been shown in Western Europe in combatting these forces. There is, because of this, a certain urgency from the Communist point of view..... They know that if economic conditions improve their tactics will fail....."

"Fortunately, the disease is now clearly recognized in all stages. And those countries that are still able are taking all steps within their power to combat it..... (Our) failure in Greece would be especially grave in Western Europe, where democratic forces are bearing the brunt of the Communist offensive at the present moment.

(Continued on page 6)

# HUMAN RIGHTS PRINCIPLE OUTLINED

GENEVA, DEC. 8

**A WORKING** group of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights has completed a study of minorities and discrimination and has prepared a report for consideration by the full commission.

The sub-committee is one of three designed respectively by the commission to:

1. Draft a declaration on human rights;
2. Draft articles for inclusion in an international convention; and
3. Outline the problems of implementing such convention or conventions.

The sub-committee confined its recommendations to the British suggestion for a definition of the terms under which "prevention of discrimination" is taken to mean any action that would deny to groups or individuals the equality of treatment they may desire.

U.S. representative Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt headed the group studying minorities and discrimination, which included representatives from Byelorussia, France, Panama, the Philippines and the Soviet Union.

The working group on conventions included Chile, China, Egypt, Lebanon, the United Kingdom, and Yugoslavia. That on implementation consisted of representatives from Australia, Belgium, India, Iran, the Ukraine and Uruguay.

The minorities group made four specific recommendations, reserving judgment on a fifth dealing with equal status before the law, pending the report on the status of women. With the Soviet Union dissenting on each, the sub-committee recommended a substance:

1. A declaration that all are entitled to the described rights regardless of race, sex, religion, language, political or other opinion, property status or social origin;

2. A declaration of freedom of movement within a state, to emigrate and change nationality;
3. A declaration of the right to public employment subject to general, non-discriminatory examinations; and
4. A declaration of the rights of minorities to own schools and religious institutions.

A U.S. proposal for the appointment of small committees to investigate complaints of minorities or individuals was rejected as premature, but the sub-group adopted a resolution asking that it receive from the Secretary-General of the United Nations all petitions now sent only to the full commission. The Secretary-General also was requested to invite "by official letter" comment from the governments concerned on the petitions received.—(USIS).

## FARM LABOUR PRODUCTIVITY

WASHINGTON.

**ESTIMATED** production per farm worker this year in the United States is 33 per cent. above the 1935-39 average but slightly below the record level of 1945 and 1946. Labour costs per unit of product are higher this year than a year ago, but the increase in gross farm income per unit of product has risen faster than has the labour costs.—(USIS).

## WORLD POPULATION

WASHINGTON.

**THE** world's population has been rising by some 15,000,000 to 20,000,000 each year with the result that demand for food and other consumer items is everywhere higher than before the war. The U.S. Department of State estimates the world increase in population in the 10-year period preceding 1946 at 8 per cent. Sir John Boyd Orr, director-general of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, recently stated that world food production would need to be expanded by 110 per cent. in the next 25 years to provide sufficient food for the increasing world population.—(USIS).

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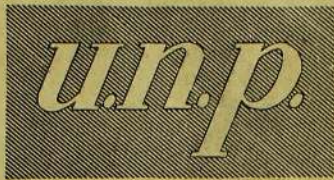
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### FREEDOM DAY • CELEBRATIONS

On the subject of Freedom Day Celebrations some sections of the Opposition and certain sections of the Press have taken the view that the country should not spend lavishly on such an event. This indicates nothing more than weakness of the anglicised section of the country of being unable to understand the importance of something great in the history of this country. We are amazed at the indifference with which some people consider the matter of Freedom Day Celebrations as an incidental detail in the normal affairs of the land. Such an indifference is the result of the anglicised civilization into which we have been propelled by the unhappy circumstance of having been slaves of foreign imperialism for nearly 130 years. Eighty per cent. of those who are literate in English have been educated in schools where the speaking of English with that degree of imitation of the Englishman or the Englishwoman which would pass them off as cultured or polished people was considered more important than the education of the student in the spirit of our civilization and the significance of human history. The result of that system was that we see all around us little Englishmen and Englishwomen whose secret ambition is to talk and behave as if they were just dumped here against their will from good old England. It is only the dark skin which they cannot shed which prevents them from being more English than the English themselves. Our society women appear to be fully possessed by this hallucination and the darker they are the more violent their expression of anti-national sentiments. Their total ignorance of any of the languages of this country is an indication of the depths to which they have sunk.

We do not wish to blame them, for they had no control over the circumstances which compelled them to study the wonders of European History and to ignore even the broad outlines of the story of Lanka.

There are millions of people in this country, however, to whom the history of their land is something dear and glorious. And there is an emotional value in freedom which they can enjoy and the anglicised intellectual half breed can never know. It may be that in this country those who speak and write the English language find themselves in positions from where their views on national affairs can be given

adequate expression and so they consider themselves the "public" whose opinion is the only factor that should weigh with a Government. But they must understand that culturally they are neither fish, flesh, nor fowl, and represent a fading, fast disappearing section of the country which will progressively lose its importance in the scheme of things. An indication of things to come will be available when the Speaker of the House of Representatives secures the necessary staff to take down speeches in the vernacular. For this purpose Sinhalese and Tamil shorthand writers are now being trained. When speeches are made in the national languages we shall be able to see this new era of National Government ushered in: and we hope this training will not take longer than February, 1948.

Those who now get away with pontifical statements will then find themselves in the background. What then would be their position?

We have to realise that the event we propose to celebrate cannot be compared to any other occasion that has arisen during the last century. We cannot have even in the future a greater event than Freedom Day. These two facts appear to have escaped the attention of those who criticise a vote of eight lakhs that is proposed to be spent. It would appear as if these critics imagine that freedom is an annual event like the budget. Our view on freedom, we submit, is far closer to the wishes of the people than to the wishes of those who have lost the capacity to feel jubilant about the advent of Independence. Those who have struggled consistently and those who have desired free-

dom and enthused over it are the millions who have flocked to mass meetings in this country in the rural constituencies. It is evident, therefore, that the Government should undertake the responsibility of making arrangements with a view to providing the fullest possible opportunities for the people to rejoice. We must have a national holiday. We must have banners and buntings and fire works. We must proclaim from our house tops that we are a free and sovereign nation. We must shake ourselves from the slumber that has overtaken us and wake to the new era which has come. The people must laugh. The people must join hands and dance in sheer joy. We must have pageantry and peraheras, for we have had to abandon such national festivals because we lost our kings and our empire to the foreign ruler.

That is the way to begin the new age. Those who cannot realise it must bury their heads in the bosom of ignominy and chatter away as in the good old days, of cabbages and kings. While the English-stuttering Ceylonese gossip in their petty drawing rooms and slander their neighbours as in the days of yore, the people must rise to the occasion of "Nithahasa" which is to be proclaimed on the appointed day. Let it be noted that the Lion Flag which was hauled down by a British grenadier in 1815 will once again be hoisted over our land and that the brother of the King of England will do the hoisting with his own hands. On such an occasion and for such celebrations as that event will justify who is the Ceylonese in whom a spark of patriotism can still be found who will murmur against the Government which proposes to spend eight lakhs of rupees?

## INDO-CEYLON TALKS

"THE time is propitious; the stage is set; the two Prime Ministers will solve the Indo-Ceylon problem, to the entire satisfaction of India and Ceylon, without the interference of a third party," said Mr. V. V. Giri, the Indian High Commissioner in Ceylon. Both the countries look upon the solution of this problem with great anxiety. Mr. Giri, it seems, is already gone and Mr. D. S. Senanayake will go on the 27th instant.

It is now two decades since the people of this country started to agitate for the control of immigrants from India. Many of us remember what happened in between at various periods up to the time the Bajpai-Senanayake agreement was signed and thereafter. Now there is no need to quote what Pandit Nehru said in 1939 or Mr. Senanayake said in 1941. It seems that it is the desire of both countries to liquidate the past and to build upon everlasting friendship between the two countries. This in itself is a pious hope on the part of the people concerned in solving this problem.

Now it seems that a third party also is on the way to New Delhi and they say that they want to assist the two Prime Ministers to solve the Indo-Ceylon problem. They are some of the big heads of the Ceylon Indian Congress, who seem to think that the two Prime Ministers concerned are not in a position to solve this problem without their

assistance. Of what assistance will these big heads be to the two bigger heads concerned? Perhaps these Indo-Ceylonese bosses may be hoping to persuade Pandit Nehru to solve the problem in their own favour, so as to enable them to have a free hand in everything good in Ceylon and also dual citizenship rights, at least to a greater extent than what the two Premiers will decide, and also to cause a breakdown in the talks.

Their assistance may most probably be to Pandit Nehru only. If so, is it not advisable that a body of patriotic and right-thinking batch of Ceylonese also go to New Delhi to assist our Premier, Mr. D. S. Senanayake? We for our part consider such kind of action as very narrow-minded, absurd and below our dignity and also an insult to the Premiers concerned and to Mr. Giri himself. We are sure that they will solve the problem to the entire satisfaction of both the countries as Mr. Giri has mentioned. We do not suspect anything under hand or anything in the form of foul play in solving it.

★ ★ ★  
WE Ceylonese need no dual citizenship. We have Ceylon, where we were born, bred, and where we hope to breathe our last. We have nowhere else to go to nor do we care to go elsewhere. We claim no rights in other people's lands even if we go there, for we know that we go there to earn our living and that that land is not ours. We also know that we want the goodwill and the courtesy of the people there to gain our ends. We never

(Continued on page 5)

## Art &amp; Letters

By Quintus Delil Khan

## Fr. Francis Thompson

GREAT writers have been influenced most deeply by their environment. They have not gone to strange places to discover what is strange as a preliminary to recognising that they are beautiful. Any patch of earth and sky has been enough for them because their vision is sharpened by their vital powers of imagination and sympathy. Francis Thompson, the greatest Catholic poet since Dante gives a very apt illustration of this point of view. He was one of the least travelled of poets. Most of his life was confined to walking the stony-hearted London streets but his imagery somehow possessed a cosmic character in which the universe was not

too large for his contemplation. Hence the richness of his poetry which has an Oriental display. He felt himself the brother of the sun, moon and stars though he did not know where he would obtain this next meal. The most magnificent of Oriental potentates had but a small part of the earth for their own, but this pitiful wreck of a man, a derelict of the London streets, was able at will to "swing the slow earth a trinket at his wrist," or even "sift in his hands the stars" and count them as gold-dust. The haunts of Thompson were the haunts of millions of other men, but they could see nothing of what pressed crowdingly on his vision. But to us there is a very considerable fascination in knowing the places which Francis Thompson visited, and hence we must be grateful to Fr. Terence L. Connolley who in his "FRANCIS THOMPSON: IN HIS PATHS"

(Colombo Book Centre) gives us glimpses of the kind of world which Thompson inhabited and which constituted the background of his poetic life. Fr. Connolley is an enthusiastic admirer of the genius of Francis Thompson and is known as the greatest authority on the poet in America. And it is undeniable that he has carried his enthusiasm to great lengths in this book. He has visited every place which is of importance to the student of the poet. He has literally followed in his footsteps. The result is that we feel our own hearts warm as if we were permitted to take part in this poetic pilgrimage with an excellent guide who knows not only what is important but why it is important, missing no link which can connect the poetry with the scene of its accidental inspiration, the real motive being the vivid impact of events and incidents and places upon so fertile and brooding a mind as Thompson's. Thompson was ever a conduit "running wins of song," and in the circumstances one can imagine that it is no idle adventure through we are carried in the pages of this fascinating book.

said Francis Thompson, his shyness replaced at once by an aridity that afterwards was one of the most familiar of his never-to-be-resented mannerisms, "that is precisely where the essay fails. I had no books by me at the time save Aeschylus and Blake." There was little to be done for him at that interview save the extraction of a promise to call again. He made none of the confidences characteristic of a man seeking sympathy and alms. He was secretive and with no eagerness for plans for his benefit, and refused the offer of a small weekly sum that would enable him to sleep on a bed and sit at a table."

SUCH was the man who had the raiment of the beggar but was possessed of riches of dream worthy of the covetousness of kings. The story of his life reads saddeningly. One can read it here in all its stark tragedy. This does not mean that the poet had a life which the prudent can condemn. He clung desperately to the moral values of existence. He had a majesty of vision which is unchallengeably unique. He had his own great compensations. But he had no root on the steadfast earth. His journeyings were perpetually between earth and the immense mysteries beyond. He had moral courage which gives him a claim to our respect as a man as well as in his more spectacular role as a poet. We are carried through Manchester, London, Storrington, Pantasaph and other places and get a wonderful glimpse of the actual surroundings which stimulated the genius of the poet. But ever the consciousness remains that the poet derived his strength from inward sources. He saw more within himself than outside himself, and therefore his poetry is for all time, for it is the universal element of great poetry drawn from thought that has the power to endure. Wilfred Meynell presented Fr. Connolly at their first meeting with two commonplace books and they were perhaps the last that Thompson filled in; and the last entry which Thompson made from Sir Thomas Browne's "Christian Morals," might fitly apply to Thompson himself: "Be substantially great in thyself, and more than thou appearest to others; and let the world be deceived in thee as in the lights of heaven." Thompson was even greater than his most generous contemporaries thought him to be, and his poetry will appeal to all those who even in distant ages can be stirred by the magniloquent breath of poetry playing around the mystery of life, and the eternal verities that transcend time and place.

## INDO-CEYLON TALKS

(Continued from page 4)

tell them that we go there to earn wealth for the natives there. We tell them the truth and get what we want. If we find ourselves unable to put up with the conditions there, we return home, instead of pressing the natives to treat us well for they ought to know it themselves.

On my visit to a friend of mind as his guest, I may be treated very hospitably. He may make me feel quite at home, give me the best of food and lodging but will he for a moment give me the keys of his safes, trunks, and almirahs, etc. merely because I am his guest? Is it right on my part to ask for them because I am his guest?

In applying this to Ceylon I have found that we have to give the Indians the keys also. We have already given them a part of the keys. We shall give them all if they seek to be permanent residents of Ceylon but the fact is that many of them want to live in Ceylon and in India also at the same time. They say they have their vested interests on either side of the Palk Strait. They also say that they earn wealth for us and supply us with the manual labour necessary. At the same time they overlook the fact that many of them have come here to carry away wealth from Ceylon to India by supplying the Europeans with cheap labour. The Europeans for their part carry away to Europe wealth many times more at the expense of the Indians in Ceylon. A minute fraction of it remains in Ceylon and is this the wealth the Indians earn for Ceylon?

Their cheap labour has produced for Ceylon hordes upon hordes of beggars, criminals, vagabonds among the Ceylonese, who have nothing else to do but to keep themselves going body and soul in this kind of ignominious methods. Yet for all, there are many people, even among our own selves who ask questions like: Whose fault is it? Why employ the Indians? Who import labour from India? and such like. But the fact remains that no Ceylonese imported labour from India.

They who argue, leaving the facts behind for some reason or other must realise that exploitation by Indians had been overlooked by the Ceylonese for nearly a century until the Ceylonese were compelled to find room for their own people in their little island, instead of finding room for the Indians, whose numbers were daily increasing.

★ ★ ★  
THE far-sighted British followed their "open door policy" in Ceylon for a double purpose. One was to obtain cheap labour and the other was to make the newcomers a power one day to the extent of outnumbering the Ceylonese, whereby the British could freely exercise their policy of "Divide and Rule" in Ceylon. The "white Dorais" Up-country were doing it for a long time until the time the Indians formed their own Congress and started their Hartals.

On visiting Ceylon, outspoken and impartial Indian leaders like Pandit Nehru, the late Sathyamoorthy and several others saw things clearly. In spite of the machinations of a handful of self-appointed leaders, who sought to earn a name at home, in India, they paved the way for the settlement which is to take place soon. The self-

appointed leaders who could not dupe the genuine patriots of India tried to impress upon the minds of their brethren at home that they were fighting a battle similar to what the Mahatma fought in South Africa in the early part of this century. They compared Ceylon with South Africa itself. They misrepresented matters to the leaders at home, and thereby poisoned their minds against the Sinhalese. They frightened Ceylon with India's might. They threatened Ceylon in the good names of Gandhi, Nehru, Bose, etc., and now they are on the way to mislead Pandit Nehru as a last resort, before Mr. Senanayake reaches India. I wonder what the outcome of this will be if Mr. Senanayake is not cautious of them!

★ ★ ★  
WE are not aware as to how many of the great leaders of India have already been misled by them by now, at this last moment of a settlement to be reached. Dr. Khare, who was one very badly misled by these people, was bold enough to threaten Ceylon. Until his threat Ceylon was so much in sympathy with India that she was willing to federate with India, but this learned Doctor's threat was such that Ceylon though it better to be free within the British Commonwealth of Nations, for she knows that a free Ceylon is an easy prey to a free India, however much she is pious in her foreign policy, for it is also evident that all Indians are not Gandhis and Nehrus. It is the South India that Ceylon fears more than the North. It is the North that is always in sympathy with Ceylon but they are nearly always the men from the South that poison the minds of their Northern brethren about Ceylon.

Now, it is also evident that the Tamil Congress hopes to federate North and East Ceylon with South India. The Ceylon Indian Congress is hand in glove with them. It is therefore strange as to why Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam did not join to accompany the Ceylon Indian Congress bosses to New Delhi, to assist the two Premiers.

The Jaffna Tamil and the Indians who live among the Sinhalese are quite contented to live in Ceylon. They like the Sinhalese and Muslims and also the Burghers with whom they live in amity but they are misled by self-appointed leaders from time to time. However it is left to our Indian brethren themselves to decide if they are to remain in Ceylon permanently or not. Those of them who are already Ceylonese may not think of re-Indianising themselves because the bosses of the Ceylon Indian Congress tell them to do so.

Is it not advisable on the part of these bosses to remain in India if they are not satisfied with the settlement but the fact remains that if they do so they will no more be leaders and Parliamentarians for the Indians know who and what they are in India. It is therefore wise on their part not to intervene but to return to Ceylon like good boys allowing the two Premiers to carry on their duties. The assistance of these may do more harm than good to a great cause that requires the attention of great men, Mr. Giri's assistance is quite ample.

A PATRIOT OF LANKA.

EXCEPT the poet himself, the most dominating figure in this book is the friend to whom Francis Thompson owed so much—Wilfred Meynell who is yet alive and the one man who could speak with the authority of personal contact. When Wilfred Meynell was editor of "Merry England," he received a manuscript of an essay called "Paganism—Old and New" by an unknown writer. There was no way of getting at the author, for Thompson had melted into the streets of London and the letter written to him had been returned as a dead letter by the post office. After some time, Wilfred Meynell published the poem "Passion of Mary" and heard from the poet but had to go in search of him at one of his haunts before he was able to get him to pay a visit at his office. This is how Everard Meynell describes the first meeting of the poet with his father.

"Then the door opened," he says, "and a strange hand was thrust in. The door closed but Thompson had not entered. Again it opened and again it shut. At the third attempt a waif of a man came in. No such figure had been looked for; more ragged and unkempt than the average beggar, with no shirt beneath his coat and bare feet in broken shoes, he found my father at a loss for words. You must have had access to many books when you wrote that essay," was what he said. "That,"

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WHEN Mr. W. Dahanayake ungraciously challenged Gate Mudaliyar M. S. Kariapper to a bout at the meeting of Parliament did he reckon on the fact that the Gate Mudaliyar was a massive wrestler?

I hear from a Batticaloa friend that the Gate Mudaliyar is an adept at "china-footing", a type of ju-jitsu at which the Ceylon Moors are adept. If the Gate Mudaliyar had accepted the challenge outside the Chamber it might have been just plain bullying—with a wiry, though fiery, opponent.

However I am glad the duel did not come off and that the two members concerned agreed to forgive and forget.

The wide space between benches, of course, does not necessitate the white lines seen at the Mother of Parliaments, which run parallel with the rows of seats, marking the limit beyond which an M.P. addressing the House from the front bench may not advance his foot.

He could be shouted back even if he inadvertently strays too far. The distance between the two lines across the floor of the Chamber was calculated to keep opposing members out of sword's reach.

#### Duels

THESE clashes or threats of clashes in Parliament—we experienced many in the old State Council—have one solution: the age-old custom of duelling with pistols or with

swords. This is considered a barbarous custom, of course, but it will do good if the antagonists are forced to go through a physical contest.

The dreadful consequences may knock sense into those who are rash enough to try to settle verbal quarrels in an ungentlemanly way.

It was only the day two Italian M.P.s fought a duel—"one of the fiercest sword duels of modern times." It originated in a clash between M. Treves (Socialist) and M. Emilio Patrissi (Rightist) during the recent debate on the Peace Treaty in the Italian Assembly. When heckled by M. Treves, M. Patrissi was touched to the quick.

Patrissi: I don't talk to a man who broadcast for a country fighting against Italy."

Treves: It is the pride of my life that I broadcast from London in the war against the abominable Fascist regime which you still defend.

The fight lasted one hour—18 rounds—until the doctor in attendance stopped it because of the duellists' exhaustion and their superficial wounds.

After their encounter the duellists refused to be reconciled.

#### Flew With Dead Man

AMONG those who passed through Colombo recently was a passenger, an excellent aviator, who was one of the thirty-two who last year flew with a dead man by their sides. They did not know it, of course. This story was told me by one of his friends who had entertained him ashore. The aviator wanted his name kept secret. I was told, if I was to publish his story.

Only four of the thirty-two passengers who flew the Atlantic knew that a corpse was in their company. The deceased had felt unwell and the doctor had given him a sedative. He fell asleep as the plane took off.

Halfway through a cousin of the deceased felt his hand. It was cold. The cousin called the pilot, who declared the man was dead. The four passengers nearest the body were told not to tell the others so that they would not be alarmed.

When the plane landed at the end of its journey, the corpse was left in its seat until all the passengers had disembarked before it was removed.

"I shivered," said the aviator, "it was an eerie experience."

#### Hajj Trials

THE Hajj pilgrims who returned to the Island recently had woeful tales to relate of their voyages to and from Mecca. Many complained that hundreds were packed into the dingy holds of the ships and they suffered untold privations.

The only room available for each family was ten feet square with their baggages serving as barriers and a cloth the ends of which were tied to two piles of baggage to serve as a screen. This space served as a kitchen, bedroom and prayer-room!

A pilgrim suggests that the Ceylon Hajj Committee should arrange for a fleet of ships specially for the purpose of carrying Hajj pilgrims.

"After all it is only once a year," says the pilgrim, "and any shipping line may oblige." The Ceylon Hajj Committee, headed by Mr. M. F. Ghany, Deputy Mayor of Colombo, has food for thought.

#### What They Said

HERE are cullings from speeches by our public men and women during the last week:

"With the grant of Dominion Status

our prime function is to ensure the introduction of a State scheme for Public Health and a National Insurance Scheme."—Dr. E. V. Rutnam.

"The greatest fear I have is that we will fall victims to the plague that is spreading all over the world from Russia.... I promise you I shall join you in fighting this enemy and destroying it altogether until the freedom for which we have worked so hard is safe and sure."—Premier Senanayake.

"I plead for priority of consideration from Government for the improvement of the commerce and trade of the country, which really form the lungs of any stable government."—Senator A. R. A. Razik.

"On the question of a mere emblem there should be no quarrel. Agitation for the Lion Flag has degenerated into a vulgar display of jingoism."—W. Dahanayake.

"In Ceylon we have a peculiar phenomenon of capitalists in private becoming Communists in public."—Mr. C. Suntheralingam.

#### Hard Luck

WHEN the Premier and his Cabinet Ministers went on a triumphal drive through Dematagoda Road for a popular reception to them, a few bands of "Reds" intended to surprise them. As it was to be a "surprise" even an inquisitive columnist like my poor self was not told even though I asked many questions.

"They cannot ride roughshod through Dematagoda. This is our stronghold," they were heard to say.

But came the procession. Came the surging crowds that cheered the Premier to the echo. Came the rain too. "Thank the rain, they escaped us," was the Leftist aside as the chorus of cheers mounted to a crescendo.

It was hard luck. Even the weather did not help the poor "Reds."

#### Tail-Piece

HEADLINE in local newspaper: "Hercules Refloats the Pundit." Is it another case of the triumph of brawn over brain?

### COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE IN WESTERN EUROPE

(Continued from page 3)

#### LESSON OF GREECE

WE have learned an important lesson in Greece which we would do well to keep in mind as we plan aid to Europe and other areas. That lesson is the heavy cost of delay in getting effective aid flowing.....

"I realize the necessity under our democratic process for thorough Congressional investigation and debate.... But at the same time it must be emphasized that the situation in Europe is deteriorating daily and that the cost of reconstruction will increase with the passage of each day before effective aid arrives.

"Communist and Communist expansion feeds on want, misery and despair. It is repelled by growing plenty, by economic and political progress, by faith in the future.

"But if these happy conditions return to this earth during our lifetime it will be because we in the United States are determined that they shall return. It will be because we Americans in the years immediately ahead wisely apply our capital, our goods, and our brains to the task of world reconstruction."—(USIS).

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# SPORTS

## Commentary

### COVER-POINT

**T**HE Second Test at Sydney provides the lead story of this week's review, even though the elements contrived to rob the game of the exciting finish, which the penultimate day's exchanges had brought into prospect. I think it must be admitted that, when the Umpires decided on the Thursday to call it a day owing to incessant rain, the honours of the match were definitely India's. While it is true that negative batting on an easy wicket on the first day neutralised India's advantage of winning the toss, the fact that the powerful Australian team was out for a paltry 107 showed not only that the Aussies are not the super-men they were thought to be after their victories over England but also that India has bowlers capable of exploiting a sticky dogs. Even though Mankad must have found the wicket too slow for him, Phadkar and Hazare proved equal to the occasion and brought about a sensational collapse of the Australians. India, in turn, found even heavier weather when they batted a second time and at close of play on the last day but one, had lost 6 wickets for 71. Poor as this score is on paper, the tourists did have a lead of 142 runs and may, quite conceivably, have added a few more runs before their innings terminated. With overnight rain in the offing, that lead might have given India an invaluable advantage if Australia had to play the fourth innings on a wicket which was two-paced. Still, the fate decreed otherwise and an interesting finish degenerated into a tame draw.

It might be of interest to mention here some of the comments which were made by Jack Fingleton on India's batting on the first day of the match. He said:

No excuse can be made for India's poor showing today. Both Hazare and Amarnath were bowled by balls which they made no attempt to play, the ball in Amarnath's case going to the stumps off his leg. This was, indeed, poor judgment on the part of both batsmen, but the Indians were not at ease, with the exception of Phadkar, who was the hero of the innings, and Kishenchand, who was the sheet anchor. It seemed to me that the Indians were expecting the pitch to play tricks, which it certainly did not. I cannot praise Phadkar too highly. He plays fast bowling better than any of his comrades and must surely now have proved to Amarnath that he is the opening batsman for whom the skipper is so keenly searching.

Opinion is hotly divided on Mankad's action in running out Brown. It happened as it happened before in Sydney—only this time Mankad went through the action of bowling but held the ball as his left-arm swept through in his round-the-wicket action. He carried the ball on to his stumps and Brown, in backing up, was out of his crease.

The first reaction, of course, is that a seasoned player such as Brown should not have been caught napping again. Mankad warned him in Sydney before he ran him out and he warned him again in Brisbane. Brown must thus feel very foolish in being out in such a manner again, but on reflection, I

think that a wary bowler could dismiss about eight out of eleven batsmen in such a manner if he tried for it. Perhaps a batsman does take an advantage in backing up, but as the bowler runs to deliver the ball the batsman naturally expects him to deliver it, and not to hold it. It is a great arguing case. Tongues are wagging in Australia over the incident but I will wager that no batsman will push off, until he sees the ball leave Mankad's fingers in future.

**A**FTER a month of racing inactivity in the Island, Boosa comes along this week to provide Christmas fare of the highest order. By the time these notes appear in print, the Meet would have advanced into its second day but the Editor's fiat has gone forth that my article must be in his hands before the holidays. Consequently my comments on the racing itself must wait for my next review.

All the horses who are due to run in Boosa are now there and a friend of mine, who drove down there to watch them at work, tells me that most of them are in splendid condition, thus ensuring the provision of excellent racing. The new Secretary, Mr. Stephen de Silva, who served a long apprenticeship under his predecessor, has completed all arrangements to his entire satisfaction—and, if I know anything, that means that racegoers will have all their needs catered for, in ample measure. I understand that the track is rather on the hard side as there has been no rain at all in Galle but the course is being watered daily.

While we are yet on the eve of the resumption of racing down south, racing at the three principal Indian centres is well under way and Saturday before last the King's Cup was run at Calcutta. More details are now to hand as to the way in which Ocean Way won this classic. The favourite Combined Operations streaked out into an early lead but two furlongs out Ocean Way swept past him under a wet sail and beat him pointlessly. I have always felt that a mile is just a trifle too long for Combined Operations, who will, probably, atone for this defeat by winning the Metropolitan which, I think, is on Boxing Day. By the way, Ocean Way is not a son of Fairway as I thought he was, but is by Tiberius, who won the Ascot Gold Cup.

At Bombay week before last Ceylon was put on the map by Mr. W. D. Fernando's The Eagle, a 5-year-old son of Panerama, who had useful form in England before he was bought and brought out by Sir Oliver Goonetilleke. The Eagle was sent out again last Saturday in a 7-furlong cup race and one of his opponents was the wonder filly of India, Her Majesty, whose first race it was this season. It is now a matter of history that the Indian-bred beat the Ceylon horse into second place. The success of the Indian horses during the war years was discounted by the fact that the thoroughbreds racing in India were well past their prime but Her Majesty's victory indicates that the filly is a real cham-

plion. It is quite on the cards that she will soon come up against our own champion, Kunj Lata, and their first battle, as well as all subsequent ones, will be worth going a long way to witness.

At Madras last Saturday a winner turned up at odds of over 100 to 1. This was the former Bombay pony, Young Krush, who won over a mile and paid something over Rs. 1,100 rupees for a Rs. 10 win.

**S**OME of you might remember that I mentioned in my last review that the Ceylon Lawn Tennis Association had been invited by its India counterpart to send a team of three to compete in the All-India championships next month. The C.L.T.A. have accepted the invitation and the two champions of Ceylon, Koo de Saram and Sheila Roberts, have been selected. The third place has been kept open and it is likely that it will be filled either by F. C. de Saram or H. C. Sansoni, who will pair off with Koo de Saram in the Doubles.

**T**HE Bacon Cup Hockey Tournament was wound up last week

when the Havelocks "A" team met the University in the final. I must admit that I did not see this match but I was told by a friend who did go to it that I did not miss very much. For the better part of the game, play was scrappy with the forwards failing to combine. With ten minutes to go the exchanges livened up and a cross shot to the far corner of the net beat the Varsity goal-keeper and gave Havelocks the holding of the trophy.

**T**HE Government Service Cricket Competition is fast drawing to a close and last week the "B" Division champions were found in Rubber Control. In a low scoring match against the Customs, Rubber Control got home with just 23 runs to spare but they had a very close call indeed, as the Customs needed only 131 runs for victory and, with the former All-Ceylon batsman, H. S. Roberts, to assist them had a good chance of taking the major spoils. Of the Rubber Control bowlers K. Balakrishnan and A. Mylvaganam did signal service in both innings.

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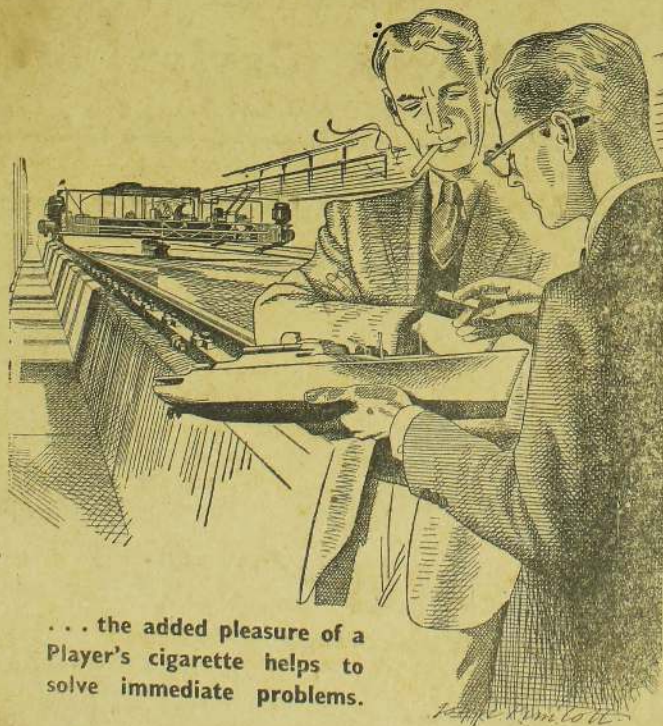
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