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Commerce Minister's Mission TRADE PARLEYS WITH CHINA

Seventh Century Embassy Recalled

THE mission in quest of rice for Ceylon led by Mr. R. G. Senanayake, Minister of Commerce and Trade, left by the B.O.A.C. plane on Sunday. The other members who accompanied him were Mr. M. F. de S. Jayaratne, Permanent Secretary, and Mr. E. Martensteyn, Official Secretary to the Mission.

The first batch of members, Messrs. Kumaraswamy, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture and Food, Mr. E. S. de Silva, Assistant Secretary, and Mr. Y. Doraiswamy of the External Affairs Ministry, who awaited the arrival of the Minister for Commerce at Hong Kong.

They were to begin discussions with the representatives of the Chinese Government as soon as the Mission reaches Peking which should be about Monday, the 22nd instant.

be about Monday, the 22nd instant.

"We are leaving with the intention of reviewing a very old friendship with the people of China and of re-establishing trade relations on a wider basis," said Mr. R. G. Senanayake, before he boarded the plane. He emphasized the fact that the principal object of the mission was to secure rice supplies and that the future rice supply position depended on the success of the forthcoming parleys.

ceylon would, he added, like many other countries in the region, stake her claim for a portion of China's exportable supplies of rice. Ceylon needs substantial quantities of rice if she is to maintain the present system of distribution in the Island. He expressed confidence that the Chinese Government would help Ceylon in her hour of need, and thus assure a friendly Asian neighbour of adequate supplies of her staple diet.

At Hong Kong the first batch of members will meet the Minister of Commerce and proceed to Canton and then embark on a four-day journey by railway to the Chinese capital, Peking.

The large gathering assembled at the Ratmalana Airport included the Prime Minister, Mr. Dudley Senana-yake and Sir John Kotelawala, Minister of Transport and Works.

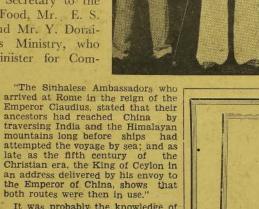
Minister of Transport and Works.

Mr. Susanta de Fonseka who was also to join the mission at Hong Kong has, it is understood, postponed his departure from Rangoon, indicating the prospects of obtaining rice from Burma, in respect of which Ceylon has tendered for an allocation of 27,000 tons. He has since joined the Mission.

CEYLON AS KNOWN TO THE CHINESE

That there has been at an early period, an intimate knowledge of Ceylon acquired by the Chinese, not distinctly promoted by community of religion alone is recorded. There is traditional, if not historical evidence that its origin may be traced to the love of gain and their eagerness for the extension of commerce.

Emerson Tennent in his book on Ceylon has this interesting note:-



It was probably the knowledge the overland route that led the Chinese to establish their military colonies in Kashgar, Yarkand and the countries lying between their own frontier and the north-east boundary of India. dary of India.

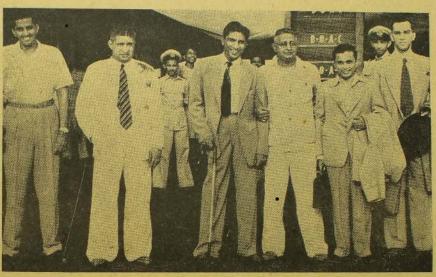
AN EARLY EMBASSY

AN EARLY EMBASSY

An Embassy from China to Ceylon, A.D. 607, led by Chang Tsuen, is on record. It is not, however, till the third century of the Christian era that authentic records of journeys are found in the literature of China. The Buddhist pligrims who at the time visited Ceylon had published on their return, itineraries and descriptions of the countries they visited, for the information of the government and the guidance of commerce. The country they admired for its fertility and singular beauty. The climate they compared to that of Siam. The names by which Ceylon was known to them were either adapted from the Sinhalese, as merely as the Chinese characters would supply equivalents for the Sanskrit and Pall letters. Thus Sinhalese was either rendered SENG-KIA-LO or SZE-TSEV-KWO. the latter name as well as the original, meaning "the kingdom of lions." The classical Lanka is preserved in the Chinese Lang-kea and Lang-ya-seu. The most noted Chinese monk and traveller who visited Ceylon and published a record of his itinerary is Fa-Hien, and in recent times there arrived the Rev. Fa-Feng who came to study Southern Buddhism, and was sent by the Chinese National Government. He was a disciple of His Holiness Tail Hsu who visited Ceylon in 1940.

The Arab traveller, Ibn Batuta, in his narrative relating to Ceylon.

The Arab traveller. Ibn Batuta, in his narrative relating to Ceylon, mentions there were Chinese traders in Dondra and Galle who had settled down, and evidence of considerable trade between China, and Ceylon in gems, pearls and medicinal plants.





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Asiatic Neutralism and Communist Imperialism

By Quintus Delilkhan

MR. JOHN ALLISON, Assistant Secretary State for the Far East, reported in the Press as saying that Americans must 'expect 'neutralism" in Asia for some time. His whole reading of the position, from the many sources from which he could have obtained information which is not open to the general public in most countries, looks reasonable and conopen to the general public in most countries, looks reasonable and convincing. At present the whole of Asia outside the sphere of the red influence is most deeply concerned with the problem of how to raise the living standards of the people. Other progressive and industrialized countries of the world have enjoyed a long spell of prosperity on a level which is inconceivable in the East for many generations to come. Their first consideration is therefore their own internal development. In the circumstances, whilst resisting the inroads of Communism, as far as possible, the countries of South and South-East Asia are in no position to undertake large responsibilities in the manner that the United States and perhaps England can, without straining their resources to the breaking point.

without straining their resources to the breaking point.

Even in the working of development schemes, with aid from outside sources, the impression made on the economies of the countries of South and South-East Asia would be comparatively slow and small in results. These countries have been exploited for the benefit of the ruling classes for many centuries, and having been under colonial forms of government, the interests of the people have suffered very considerably. The old story need not be repeated, but it has left scars on the economy of every country which has had such an unfortunate position to face. The wealth of the East has been drained by the West. Of course, incidental advantages have been gained. Production of some commodities would never have been so large but for Western enterprise and the practical though selfish genius of the rulers. In assessing the assets and liabilities of the past, we must feel conscious of the fact that the countries of South and South-East Asia have been opened up by the energy and hard work of sturdier countries. We have accordingly a good foundation in many respects to build upon. For a people to arm to the teeth in its own defence requires large resources. In due course, this will happen in the countries of South and South-East Asia. When internal problems are

solved, automatically these countries will realise the responsibility of self-defence against aggression by those who would wish to upturn their prosperity and deprive them of the blessings of liberty and peace.

How ill-fitted countries with weak and unproductive economies are for the task of abandoning their neutrality can be seen from the fact that even countries which have great prosperity comparatively are reluctant to think of the idea of war and are to some extent under the dominion of fear. It is impossible to make a heroic gesture on the part of those who have no means to defend their liberty on their own initiative and with their own resources, even though collectively brought together. All the countries in South and South-East Asia cannot of themselves, however much they desire it, and without looking absurd, think of pitting their power against the forces of powerful aggressors who cause concern for the future amongst the great democratic nations of the world which by their combined action have already won two great world wars, under the most dreadful conditions of modern destructiveness and colossal expenditure.

But, of course, for the present,

most dreadful conditions of modern destructiveness and colossal expenditure.

But, of course, for the present, there is an urgent obligation which cannot by any means be overlooked. It is not enough to look after internal economies when there is so much danger ahead. It is not enough to go only endeavouring to raise the standard of living of the people in various countries of South and South-East Asia. We must also see that as far as possible a check is put upon subversive influences within each country. We are hoping to build for the preservation and continuance of democratic freedom, and are not wishing by any means to make a gift of developed countries to the Communist block of the world. It is necessary that every possible step should be taken to see that the forces of Communism do not sap the foundation of the State, and that legitimate checks be imposed with a firm and vigorous hand in all instances when it oversteps its bounds. Russia is fighting the democracies not with weapons of war only. Our own propaganda, which cannot effectively reach Communist countries on the same scale as theirs reach ours, should be on lines that will defeat the internal disruption which Communism threatens in all the democratic countries of the world. This kind of influence, which is a dangerous form of Communst imperialism, should be at all times and in all places ruthlessly opposed.

PROTECTING PLANTS FROM PESTS

WASHINGTON

A MERICAN scientists are using new phosphorus compounds to help plants protect themselves against insects.

Some plants are able to protect themselves naturally. The flowers, leaves or roots of others are used to manufacture insecticides. Still other plants, like the Venus flytrap, snap shut on flies, spiders, beetles and onto

ants.

New scientists are devising a new attack on insect pests. They feed the new phosphorus compounds into the stems and leaves of plants. This enables the plants to kill insects feeding on them. For example, roses and crysanthemums by taking these new insecticides into their sap streams protect themselves against such sucking insects as sphids and mites. The pests, after ingesting juice from the plants, are killed by "systemic" polsoning.

Such insecticides, scientists feel, may be selective because they kill injurious chewing and sucking insects, but do not harm beneficial bugs. In recent experiments, some

of the new phosphorus compounds have killed a high percentage of aphids, but few of the ladybugs that feed on the aphids.

SYSTOX AND METACIDE

The new phosphorus compounds, Systox and Metacide, already are available for experimental purposes. In tests they have controlled greenbugs on small grains. One application protects plants for several weeks. As little as a pound per acre gives excellent results. The chemicals are sprayed on the foliage or applied directly to the roots.

British scientists have demon-

age or applied directly to the roots. British scientists have demonstrated that phosphorus compounds are absorbed better from the under surfaces of the leaves than from the upper sides. Light is also essential. Plants take up little of the insecticide if kept in the dark.

Research with radioactive compounds at the U.S. Department of Agriculture has shown that systemic insecticides enter the sap stream of the plant and move up the stem from the roots or lower leaves to the upper

(Continued on page 5)

TASK BEFORE THE NATION-II

In the circumstances in which the Government now finds itself the whole economic future of the country is at stake. Food subsidies or national development? That is the dilemma confronting the Government. In this crisis the present Cabinet is under the obligation of making some unpopular decisions. It requires courage to make unpopular decisions, even if those decisions are, in the long run, going to be of real benefit to the country. The easier course is to bow to the uninstructed wishes of the people and to provide them with bread and circuses, which, being interpreted, means two meals of imported rice a day at heavily subsidised prices—prices which are really a subsidy to the rice-growing countries, which are exploiting the world rice shortage.

Nobody can deny that the masses are today really having a hard time as regards food. But is the deprivation of the normal two meals of rice a day such a hardship? Is this imported rice really as nutritious as bread made from wheat flour or kurakkan? Is it really necessary for the Government to import such vast quantities of mere starch in the shape of polished rice from abroad in order to maintain proper standards of nutrition among the Ceylonese people? I, for one, am prepared to say: No. I personally think it will be a very good thing if, by adequate propaganda and culinary demonstrations, the Government were to get the people of this country accustomed to eating less imported rice and far more of the kind of alternative foods which can

BY STANLEY MORRISON

be grown here in much bigger quantities than are produced at present. And when I say this I say so as the father of a family which is larger than the average and with an income which leaves no room whatever for luxuries. I am, therefore, not a man of the privileged classes talking through my hat.

What the people of this fortunate country forget is that rice is unknown in the diet of those magnificent physical specimens who constitute the human inhabitants of the thousands of little Pacific Islands. Those extremely vigorous peoples live on a diet mainly of casava or manioc, breadfruit, sweet potato, fruits (chiefly papaw) andon milk. And they are among the healthiest peoples in the world. And on what diet do the superb West Indian cricketers Ceylon had the privilege of seeing, live? Not rice, but breadfruit (which is a staple food in the West Indies), fruits and milk products. The Ceylonese taste, therefore, for imported polished rice is a perverted taste. What is nourishing about the average local meal or rice and curry is the curry and not the rice. The only nourishing rice eaten in Ceylon is the unpolished or half-polished country rice. Compared with this, the imported rice is only starch with all the valuable vitamins removed. Is it worthwhile for the people of this country to expect the Government to expend vast sums of money in order to continue to obtain these supplies of starch from foreign countries, thus bartering away the very independence of this little land?

It is the duty of the Government, therefore, to do all it can to grow every kind of food substitutes and to train the people to get used to eating these more nourishing—substitutes rather than pander—to—the perverted taste for imported polished rice. The country is blessed—with liberal, natural water supplies and a more than adequate—rainfall. Is sufficient use being made of—both these resources? Obviously—not. Apart from the long-term provision of more reservoirs and tanks, a good deal could be done to use existing supplies of water in our lagoons and rivers to irrigate low-lying or—flat lands in the Wet Zone. Take, for instance, the great belt of low-land all round the coasts—of—Ceylon. Everywhere along this coastal belt water is found within a few feet of the surface. Is adequate use being made of these water sources? Clearly not.—I believe it is perfectly feasible to cultivate a huge extent—of this land by the digging of a great chain of wells and pumping—the water into fields by means of wind-mills.

It is not necessary to wait for great reservoirs to be built to provide water for these low-lands in order to turn them into baddy fields. In this respect, the hardy "Jaffna farmer has shown the lazy South what can be done with mere well water to irrigate fields. Cannot the more fertile Southern cultivator do the same with new fields in the low-lying coastal belt, where water is far more freely available than in the dry and sandy North? The use of windmills to irrigate lands where

reservoirs are non-existent was tried out as far back as fifty years ago in the United States of America with gratifying success. In Australia, too, this practice is spreading. Perhaps windmills are the quickest answer to Ceylon's problem of finding water to irrigate the vast acreages of low-land in the Wet Zone, which, I believe, could without much difficulty or expense, be converted into paddy fields. Is not the experiment worth trying in the present predicament in which the country finds itself, with an increasing population and a virtually static internal food supply?

Meanwhile, until such a scheme is tried out, there is scope for the intensive cultivation of other foods such as maize, kurakkan, sorghum, manioc, sweet potato, gingelly, potatoes and even soya bean in certain Up-country districts.

Up-country districts.

And last, but not least, nothing would so conduce to improve the health of the younger generation than the development all over the country of a dairy industry. Buffaloes, improved strains of country cattle, and goats can all be made to contribute towards the milk supply of the country, while, with proper organisation, supplies of locally made curd, cheese and butter could, in a few years, constitute a substantial addition to the people's diet. The organisation of a huge network of co-operative dairy farms throughout the island should be one of the chief aims of the new Six-Year Plan with the threefold object of: (1) making milk and other dairy products contribute substantially to the people's diet; (2) providing new avenues of employment both for the middle class, the working class and ladndless peasants, and (3) materially assisting in raising the standard of health of the people (milk and dairy products being rich in protein, calcium, and phosphorus while curd is a well-known prescription for longevity and intestinal health).

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RELIEVING CONGESTION AT HULFTSDORP

As long ago as 1934 the question of the congestion in Hulftsdorp had been taken up and there were various pro-posals mooted for shifting because of the congestion, and that something must be done that something must be done to relieve the congestion was admitted by all sections of the community. The present state of affairs is far from satisfactory. There was hardly any room for the proper administration of law and the conducting of the affairs of all the courts concentrated at Hultisdorp. That fact being admitted the question arises whether it is possible either to find more room there itself or move to a more suitable spot. Various proposals were put up by

Various proposals were put up by ne Bar Council and General Counthe Bar Council and General Council of Advocates with the object of creating additional buildings on the present site. These proposals were examined by the Minister of Justice who is no technical expert, but were passed over to the technical experts of the Government whose considered opinion of these experts and architects was that the proposals were undesirable.

REPORT BY EXPERTS

The following are extracts from the Blue Book on the subject:

"The Government engineers and "The Government engineers and architects who have carefully examined the scheme outlined in the Bar Council's memorandum and the plan attached to it have submitted a very detailed report in the course of which they have expressed the view that the scheme is not a suitable one and they cannot recommend its acceptance by the Government.

"According to the Government Architect the scheme is no more than an enlarged mutation of those preliminary schemes which were prepared by Government years ago and turned down because of their unsuitability."

"Although the plan has been put forward as a permanent solution to the problem of congestion at Hulftsdorp a scrutiny of it shows that what is proposed is nothing but a makeshift arrangement without much regard for convenience. It provides for a medley of buildings on the available empty spaces,"

BENOVAL OF SUPREME

One proposal is that the guadrangle in the District Court where there is a banyan tree be made use of to put up a structure. The proposal was to erect a three-storeyed building there. The proposals were examined and turned down as unsatisfactory. There was this question, therefore, of having to find additional space either in Hulftsdorp area or elsewhere and it was decided that instead of shifting all the Courts from Hulftsdorp, that the Supreme Court alone be shifted to Bambalapitiya together with departments under the Ministry of Justice such as the Legal Draffsman's Department, Attorney-General's Department and various other offices.

By Jurgen

OBJECTION AND COMPROMISE

Then the objection of the Bar Council was that there will be a separation of the District Court and the Appeal Courts and there would be a great deal of inconvenience as a result. That was the position taken up on that proposal. The original proposal was to shift all the Courts to Bambalapitiya. The present decision is a compromise After taken up on that proposal. The original proposal was to shift all the Courts to Bambalapitiya. The present decision is a compromise. After representations were made and the late Prime Minister considered the representations, the decision was to give effect to the present compromise. A deputation of the Bar Council interviewed the present Prime Minister to get over the difficulty and it was suggested that the Civil Appeal Courts should remain at Hulftsdorp, that the departments of the Minister of Justice and also the Courts of Oriminal Appeal. The Elections Courts and Assize Courts be shifted to Bambalapitiya. Whether the members of the Bar are in complete agreement is not known but certainly their objection as regards the separation of the Appeal Courts is to a great extent obviated by the present proposal.

Any one conversant with the layout at Hulftsdorp will appreciate the position. It is admitted that there must be relief from the congestion at Hulftsdorp, and further accommodation cannot be found by the erection of extra buildings there.

Physiotherapy Is Old As Civilization

By Kamal Wijesinghe

IT is surprising to note that massage and medical gymnastic exer-cise have only gained popularity as therapeutic agents in comparatively recent times.

Massage in its primitive form is as old as civilization itself. It is be-lieved that the word massage is derived from the Arabic mass or mash which means to press softly; some attribute to the Greek word massein-to knead.

Today more than ever before phy-slotherapy has a prominent place in the treatment of disease, injury and deformity in the medical world. History records that in the ancient scripts of Kung Fu, three thousand years before Christ, the Chinese had a system of manupulation and movements of gymnastics and massage. Reference has been traced to ancient Persians. Japanese and Hindu books that massage was practised in those countries: further light is forward on the application. light is focussed on the subject in ancient Greece about a thousand years before Christ. Homer relates in Odyssey that beautiful women rubbed and anointed war-warn soldiers to refresh them. The Greeks practised gymnastics regularly for the development of physical and mental health. Other than massage they had a further knowledge of the therapeutic values of air and sunshine upon the human body, in curing disease.

Around the period 400 B.C., there were gymnasia in every large city of ancient Greece where people exerthere remain the ruins of those architectural beauties that many a son of Greece.

It was necessary even in those days for philosophers like Hipp crates (380 B.C.) to mention that physician must be experienced in many things that have the same name but have not always the same effect. For rubbing can bind a joint that is loose and loosen a joint that is too light. Rubbing can bind and loosen: can make flesh, and cause parts to waste." cause parts to waste.'

The great advances in during this period is quite clear in the writings of Hippocrates. In those days circulation of blood was not understood but Hippocrates uses the term "Anatripsis"—the art of rubbing up. Through careful and persistent observations he had concluded that rubbing the limbs upwards had more beneficial effects.

(Continued on page 5)

SUGAR PRODUCTION IN CEYLON

A Lost Opportunity Remembered

WITH the increase in the price of sugar, the question of cultivation of sugarcane proposed to be done under the Gal Oya Scheme has come into prominence. According to Dr. C. van Willewign, Sugar-cane Expert of the Food and Agricultural Organisation, one of the specialised agencies of the specialised agencies of United Nations Organization, whose technical assistance was secured by Government, the prospects of establishing a sugar industry in Ceylon are bright. Ceylon has the cli-mate, says this expert, being located within the belt of the earth's surface, stretching between 40 degrees N. and 40 degrees S. latitude, right in the centre of the cane-producing countries of the world. It has been found that the soil is just suited for the purpose. Proposals based on the findings of the expert and the the purpose. Proposals based on the findings of the expert and the careful surveys and experiments carried out by the Agricultural De-partment have been submitted to the Cabinet for the establishment of a sugar factory at Polonnaruwa, and have received the approval of the Cabinet. There are 350 agrees under have received the approval of the Cabinet. There are 350 acres under cultivation at Polonnaruwa after various types of cane from Java and India had been tried and a suitable type selected. It has been ascertained that sugar-cane can be grown on a commercial scale in the Dry Zone, the results of the tests being most encouraging. It is surprising that this possibility has not being most encouraging. It is sur-prising that this possibility has not been exploited long ago.

A LOST OPPORTUNITY

During the debate on the Appropriation Bill, 1952-53 in the Senate, this question of the cultivation of sugar-cane on a commercial scale was brought up by Senator Peri Sundaram. In 1932 or 1933 during the old State Council days, there was a company known as the Suchar Process Company which was prepared to develop about 40,000 acres of land south of the Mahavell in the Eastern Province. The company gave an undertaking that this land would be developed on an experimental basis, promised to fell the trees on the land, provide means of transport and grow sugar-cane and also agreed to allow peasants to colonize the land at the company's expense. All that the Covernment should not impose a duty on locally manufactured sugar for a period of ten years to begin with, after which the company was prepared to accept the imposition of the same duty as for imported sugar. The Board of Ministers accepted the offer and submitted the scheme for the ap-

proval of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, but failed to obtain the required sanction. The reason given was that we were under a moral obligation to the World Conference of International Sugar Producers not to open new areas in sugar-cane, On that plea the proposal was rejected!

By Omega.

WHEN SUGAR WAS 10 CTS. A POUND

At that time sugar was being sold at 10 cents a pound. Even then the Suchar Process Co. was willing to undertake the project. They went in deputation to the Secretary of State to obtain approval but without success, the international convention being the snag. This was, however, a moral convention which did not legally bind the Ceylon Government, but then it was the Colonial regime and the last word rests with the Colonial Office in London. Had the Government accepted the offer, 40,000 acres of land under sugar-cane would certainly have produced all the sugar to meet the requirements of Ceylon and yet have a surplus for export, but it was not to be. The present scheme under the Gal Oya Project is to open up some 6,000 acres. In regard to this project the World Bank Mission makes this observation—Go slow policy.

"Sugar cultivation offers sufficiently promising prospects to justify the proposed construction of a sugar mill and development of some 6,000 acres in sugarcane"

The proposal of the Suchar Process Co. was to develop 40,000 acres. This company offered 51 per cent, of the shares to Ceylonese. The Mission warns that more extensive development should await experience with this scheme.

When a proposal was made by a gentleman from Mauritius to establish a sugar factory on lines similar to the proposal put forward earlier, the Government officials would not agree. There is a report by the Director of Agriculture, Mr. Edmund Rodrigo, with regard to the planting of sugar-cane and the establishment of a sugar factory. That report was made ten years ago containing many practical suggestions. Had the Government embarked on such an enterprise a decade ago, it would have been a working concern today and enough sugar would have been available at a reasonable price today.

Protecting Plants from Pests

(Continued from page 2)

leaves and buds. They do not move down the stem from upper to lower leaves or from the leaves to the roots.

While highly effective as insect killers, the new chemicals are dangerous to handle. Therefore care will be used in releasing the systemic insecticides to the public.

At first the new insecticides will be used on garden flowers and non-food crops, Department of Agriculture scientists say. There use may later extend to cotton, which is both a food and a fibre crop.—(USIS).

Physiotherapy Is Old as Civilization

Continued from page 4)

Today its importance is of a national character, for the primary aim is to restore usefulness, women and children who are disabled in varying degrees through disease and creating opportunities for servicemen injured in war.

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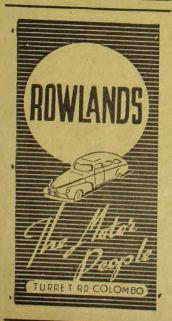
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Friday, September 19, 1952

CEYLON AS AID-GIVER

The decision of the .Ceylon Government to offer trainee scholarships to officers from member countries who are within the ambit of the Colombo Plan Technical Cooperation Scheme is an indication of the willingness of the youngest Dominion in Commonwealth to contribute her share in a tangible form towards the development of the countries in South and South-East Asia. Ceylon has, from the launching of the scheme in December, 1950, been an aidreceiving country but now she is in a position to change her role into an aid-giving country.

The scholarships offered are for training in Co-operative work, under two heads-Inspector Grade and Assistant Registrar Grade. Invitation has been extended to thirty-two officers from Indía, Pakistan, Burma, Thailand, Indonesia. Cambodia, Vietnam, Nepal and British territories in South and South-East Asia. According to the terms of the Colombo Plan Technical Co-operation Scheme, the Ceylon Govern-ment will meet the cost of the officers' passages, both ways and subsistence, lodging and travelling costs while in Cey-The same privileges are extended by the other Governments to Ceylonese training under them. The spirit is reciprocal and that is the underlying principle of the entire

The selection of the type of training which is available in Ceylon is a happy one for the Co-operative Movement has in recent years gone from strength to strength and the critics who argued that its growth would only be a temporary phenomenon have been refuted. The forecasts of people who determined the fate of the movement, from their armchairs have gone astray. A movement started during an emergency-the war periodhas been a real success and has come to stay. A co-operative movement is of "great significance as a truly democratic form of economic organization." In Ceylon it has been thoroughly absorbed and improved so that, in the field of co-operative work Ceylon has become a model. Even before the offer of trainee scholarships, many visitors from abroad who had heard of the success of the movement in Ceylon, have come here and studied the technique.

It is also interesting to note that in another direction, namely the Rural Development Scheme, Ceylon has progressed considerably. Aid from Canada under the C-Plan has enabled the establishment of a large number of centres for Rural Development in different parts of the country.

In this line of activity too it is proposed to offer scholar-ships to other member coun-Ceylon can modestly claim to be in a position to be an aid-giver country and be proud of her achievement despite pessimistic forecasts "the smaller natures and meaner minds."

Methods.of Increasing State Revenue

SUGGESTIONS offered as to the manner in which the revenue of the country could be increased, by Senator Sir Chittampalam Gardiner, during the debate in the Senate on the debate in the Senate of Appropriation Bill, included legalizing book-making and organizing State lotteries. Although certain religious bodies and persons religious bodies and persons who may be called extreme purists, are opposed to it, he said, Government should seriously consider the question of legalizing betting in this country by issuing licences to the now "walking totes" who are otherwise known as "bucket-shop" business.

"BUCKET-SHOPS"

"BUCKET-SHOPS"

It would appear that persons engaged in this business are legitimately taxed. As a matter of fact, the income tax authorities are aware that according to the returns sent to them, there is a special business known as the "bucket-shop" business. In the column where they are asked to state what their business is, they openly say, "bucket-shop" business. What actually happens is that the income-tax authorities tax these people on incomes derived illegally.

"I do not know why the Government has not decided to legalise book-making in this country and thereby increase the revenue as is done practically all over the world," added Sir Chittampalam who suggested another method of increasing revenue, namely, organise State lotteries.

STATE EOTTERIES

• State lotteries will create capitalists out of the so-called Communists, he said, and people who are down and out by suddenly placing considerable sums of money in their hands. One such lottery was very successfully carried out during the recent Colombo Exhibition. There is no doubt that there is a shortage of capital in the country today, but by having such lotteries frequently the Government could easily create more capitalists.

In Ireland the sween is a regular

easily create more capitalists.

In Ireland the sweep is a regular source of income while a large number of hospitals in that country are maintained entirely on the revenue derived by the running of the Irish Sweepstakes, to which some people in Ceylon have also contributed when the transmission of money abroad was easy. At the moment the Galle Gymkhana Club carries out lotteries regularly and very efficiently and properly conducted.

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Technical Training Under C-Plan CEYLON ASSUMES AID-GIVER ROLE

SINCE the Colombo Plan Technical Co-operation Scheme was launched in December, 1950, the Ceylon Government which was an aidrecipient, has changed into the role of aid-giver and has now offered training facilities to officers of member countries in the South and South-East Asia region whose improvement and wel-fare come within the Colombo Plan as well as the non-Commonwealth

The Government of Ceylon has despatched to Governments of member countries a memorandum offer-ing trainee scholarships in co-qpe-rative work. Training will be pro-vided under two heads:—

- (1) The Inspectorate Grade,
- (2) The Assistant Registrar Grade.

Altogether Ceylon has invited 32 officers from India, Pakistan, Burma, Thailand, Indonesia, Cambodia Vietnam, Nepal and British territo-Cambodia, ries in South and South-East Asia.

The Ceylon Government under the terms of the Colombo
Plan Technical Co-operation
Scheme, meet the cost of the officers' passages both ways, and subsistence, lodging and travelling costs
while in Ceylon while in Ceylon.

These same privileges are extended by the other Governments to Cey-lonese training under them. Further, when foreign experts come here under Colombo Plan auspices, all their expenses are met by the country providing that assistance.

COURSE COMMENCES JANY., 1953

The first training course in co-operative work which Ceylon is to provide will commence in January, 1953. The training will include instruction in co-operation (principles and practice). General and Co-opeand practice), General and Co-operative Law, Accounts, Economics, Banking and Currency, Agriculture, Business and Salesmanship, Geography and Statistics, courses in practical training and study tours.

The expenses incurred by the Gov-The expenses incurred by the Government of Ceylon in providing the technical assistance will be debited to the amount of Rs. 1,772,000 which has been this year's Ceylon contribution so far to the £8,000,000 Technical Company The Scheme The nical Co-operation Scheme. total contribution is now extended over a period of seven years and coincides with other economic development plans. Seventy per cent, of the total is contributed by the the total is contributed by the United Kingdom and Australia; ten per cent, by India, and the balance twenty per cent, among the countries in the Colombo Plan, Ceylon's share comes to about three or four million rupees and the Rs. 1,772,000 voted in the current estimates is this year's contribution. Not one cent of that money is spent outside this country.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRES

The money was passed firstly by a Supplementary Estimate to be spent on the building of rural officers' training centres; a large number of them have been started. If trainees from other countries wish to have the benefit of our knowledge they come here at our expense, are trained at our expense at these centres and that expenditure is met out of this money.

The Ceylon Government hopes to be able to offer training facilities in Rural Development work at Kela-niya. Rural development activities

in the several Provinces have made good progress. These Societies have been responsible for utility works such as roads, bridges, meeting halls, school buildings, drinking wells, latrines, bathing spouts constructed on a self-help basis. Government allo-cates financial assistance to encates financial assistance to en-courage such undertakings. These societies have also been responsible for much useful work in connection with the running of Milk Feeding Centres, Reading Rooms, Libraries and Adult Education Centres. At the request of these societies provision has been made for First Ald Posts, Maternity and Child Welfare Clipics and Dispensaries.

AID RECEIVED BY CEYLON

Ceylon has so far received twentyfive experts and arrangements have been made for training 121 Ceylonese abroad. Negotiations are now proceeding for a further 32 experts and training facilities for a further 171 Ceylonese. There are a large number of our people in Canada, in the United Kingdom, in India, in Australia and in New Zealand, who Australia and in New Zealand, who are being trained free of charge. Their passages to and from our country are paid; their allowances are paid; they receive full training like our dental nurses in New Zealand or the large number of educational officers who have gone to Australia or our Customs Officers who have gone to Burne or the street of the stre who have gone to Burma, or our Fisheries Officials who have gone to Canada. It is heartening to learn that it is not only the Governments are willing to render aid, but also private engineering firms in the United Kingdom who are offering opportunities to our young men to be trained there in various scienti-fic work at the expense of the Commonwealth Technical Co-operation Scheme. The value of any particular expert is very difficult to estimate. It may be that an expert like Mr. Exter will help to save us millions of rupees or an expert at Gal Oya may render similar service and save as many millions.

MONETARY GIFTS RECEIVED

In addition to the training scheme we have received monetary gifts. The Australian Government has given a gift of £50,000 worth of has given a gift of £50,000 worth of equipment for schools, for agriculture, for factories and so on and their goods are coming in the order of priorities as listed by us. For 1951-52 Australia has given us £300,000 worth of flour, converted into money, which is being used to establish T.B. clinics in every Province. New Zealand has given us £250,000 for the first year and it is £250,000 for the first year and it is being utilized to finance the Dry Farming Scheme at Maha Illuppa-Dry America is giving us money under the Mutual Security Act for Colombo Plan purposes. She is not giving aid under the Colombo Plan. itself, like the other countries in the Colombo Plan, although she is a full member of the C.-Plan Organi-sation. She has a Mutual Security Act under which she has allocated large sums of money for distribution to various parts of the world. South and South-East Asia get the money for Colombo Plan develowork. India and Pakistan development been promised or received one hundred million dollars. Sir Oliver Goonetilleke had discussions with the American Government and the results will be made known soon.

ANTI-T.B. AND OTHER SERVICES

Apart from these $_{\bullet}$ contributions which are only the beginning of contributions from the aid-giving countributions tries, action has been taken to deve

lop the anti-T.B., orthopaedic, car-diological and radiological services in Ceylon by establishing centres in each of the provincial capitals. All this is being done under the Colombo Plan. In addition to these institutions Ceylon has been invited to send some officers to the United Kingdom. Some of them have already gone to discuss and prepare schemes for development, as well as to arrange for the training of Ceylonese personnel who will be needed. this is being done under the Colombo lonese personnel who will be needed. Equipment for these centres will also be made available under the C-Plan Action is being taken to increase the output in Ceylon of lower grade skilled personnel to enable further acceleration of development in both the private and public sectors.

EXTENDING TECHNICAL COLLEGES

Equipment will be made available for extending the scope of existing technical colleges and institutions as well as for establishing new inas well as for establishing new in-stitutions in various parts of the country. A significant development in the Technical Co-operation Scheme under the C-Plan is extending the scope of aid to include the provision of firms of consultants for development projects. The United Kingdom has already agreed to provide the services of a firm of con-sulting engineers for the first stage the Walawe Multi-purpose Scheme.

The procedure regarding the selection of experts is through the Tech-

By Senex

nical Co-operative Bureau in Colombo. They have lists of experts in various countries in various categories of work. If a particular country wants an expert of a certain type—say a chemist or an engineer—application is made to the Bureau and the Bureau will go through the Co-operative —application is made to the Bureau and the Bureau will go through their list and say there are such engineers or chemists available in the United Kingdom or Canada or Australia. Then the two countries get in touch with each other and the Bureau ceases to exist as far as the two countries are concerned. Arrangements are made between the two countries. The Bureau brings together the country which needs an expert with the country that has one to offer. The Bureau is purely a collecting agency or a forum where various countries all keep statistics of experts who are available. of experts who are available

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WORLD BANK REPORT ON TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

IN the development gramme recommended by the Mission organized by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the allocation for the next . allocation for the next six years amounts to Rs. 430,000,000 or over 25 per cent. of the total expenditure proposed. Better transport is thus an underlying need of agriculture, industry and indeed of all development. Hence the total amount which has to be spent on communications of all kinds is large.

The mission reports that Ceylon as a fair basic system of internal The mission reports that Ceylon has a fair basic system of internal transport and good sea and air connections with other countries. Colombo is a main port of call for the shipping lines to the Far East and Australia. There is also a very fine harbour at Trincomalee. The Island has three-or four other small ports handling mainly local trade. There are regular international air services to Europe, India, Singapore, and Australia as well as domestic services to Europe, India, Singapore, and Australia as well as domestic flights. Internally a government railway connects all the larger towns and centres of population and there is a good system of roads, bringing any townships of any size within 24 hours of the capital, besides telegraph and telephone connections. Much remains to be done in extending transport facilities into the Dry Zone. Every agricultural settlement scheme needs new roads and communication. As more things are produced they must be moved to market.

SEA PORTS

SEA PORTS

Almost all external trade flows through the port of Colombo. Today the facilities are inadequate to handle the volume of traffic efficiently and the consequent delays have led the shipping lines to impose a freight surcharge at the port suffers from congestion. Trincomalee on the north-east coast is a first-class natural harbour, at present undeveloped commercially. Its large area of deep water is almost entirely landlocked, yet open to shipping at all seasons. Today its surrounding country is undeveloped but as settlement of the area proceeds this port will be the obvious channel for much of the resultant trade. There are also proposals for development of some of the lesser ports. At Galle (once Ceylon's main port) major development at this time the Mission feels would be premature. In the north additional port facilities may be needed eventually on the Jaffna Peninsula and an engineering survey at Kankesantural is suggested but no port construction work should be contemplated during the six-year period, as development of Trincomalee should come first. On the organisation side the Mission believes it would be desirable to create an independent Ceylon Ports Authority, replacing the Colombo Port Commission and having charge of all Ceylon's ports.

RAHLWAYS

RAILWAYS

RAILWAYS

Built and operated by the government, Ceylon's railway, system serves most of the major areas and today includes 809 route miles of broad gauge together with one section of 86 route miles of narrow gauge. At one time the railway earned large working surpluses. Since 1930, however, the growing competition of road transport and other factors have caused losses which the government has made up from general revenue. A contributing cause has been the badly neglected maintenance of both track and rolling stock, beginning with the depression of the thirties and aggravated by supply difficulties in some later years. Some lines have been abandoned since 1937. The deficit on current operation is a heavy charge on general revenue. While recognising that subsidisation of an indispensable railway may be unavoidable if its users clearly cannot pay rates high chough to cover costs, the Mission is not satisfied that this is true in Ceylon. Fares and freight rates have risen much less than other

prices since 1939. The Mission re-commends increases at least to balance operating expenses,

ALLOCATION OF RS. 150,000,000

For railway capital works as a whole the Mission proposes a sixyear allocation of Rs. 150,000,000. First call should be for the current rehabilitation of facilities. For the balance certain key construction projects are recommended. A section from Bangadeniya to Puttalam should be relaid; the Panadura-Alutgama section should be double-tracked. A new extension should be built from Eravur to Amparai to serve the Gal Oya development. Another new line between Vavuniya and Trincomalee should tap the land to be openedup in the north. The Kelani Valley line (narrow gauge) should be converted into a special motor road, on which the railway could operate a faster and cheaper bus and truck service. Much of the old track and roiling stock could be used in various contemplated industrial projects as in the transport of cane to the sugar factory.

Electrification of at least the Colombo—suburban rail services has been much discussed. If cheap hydro-electric power were plentiful it is probable that this would be sound, although the traffic density is still on the low side for economic electric operation. It might be considered towards the end of the six-year period, 1953-59, if warranted by the growth of traffic and the power outlook at that time.

Although nominally Ceylon has 30,000 miles of roads, about 60 per cent. are mere trails and bridle paths. The major and minor roads maintained by the P.W.D. total 11,000 miles and village committees control another 8,000 miles. Nevertheless the net work of motorable roads covers the present populated areas fairly well. Only a few sections, mainly in and near Colombo, approach modern trunk highway standards. The majority are narrow and surfaced only for a single line of traffic. Several new main links are needed to remedy gaps in the primary network and various additional minor roads will be required either now or later. Because the timing of these developments depend upon the progress of other schemes, the Mission has not attempted a detailed schedule of road construction, but has proposed an annual allocation of Rs. 17,500,000 for all such extensions and improvements. This would be in addition to the maintenance costs of about Rs. 20,000,000 per year.

AIRWAYS

Ceylon has one international airport at Ratmalana near Colombo and various airfields and landing strips for internal services. A national air service has been promised by the government to supplement the international lines and to provide internal service. Commencing in December, 1947 with a Colombo-Kankesanturai-Madras route Air Ceylon now runs daily to Madras and Trichinopoly, weekly to London via Bombay. Cairo and Rome and fortnightly to Sydney via Singapore and Djakarta. It was first organized as a wholly government undertaking, but the services to London and Sydney are now operated on behalf of the Government by Australian National Airways, under a ten-year agreement. Internal services apart from the Colombo-Kankesanturai run at present operate somewhat irregularly to Minnerlya, Trincomalee, Amparai (for Gal Oya) and Galle.

For the moment it is not intended to have any large developments in civil aviation field. It is believed that Ceylon would do well to encourage other foreign air lines to include a stop at Ratmalana. In this way she would capitalize on her geographic position on the natural

(Continued on page 11)

The Marxian Agrarian Theory Has Its Defects

Says Eardley Gunasekera

MARX has been hailed from many quarters as one of the foremost political thinkers the world has seen. His theories have been many but in most of them there has been a flaw. Marxism, however, has a peculiar intellectual attraction because it explodes liberal fallacies which really are fallacies. There has been a distinguishing feature of Marx from his Utopian predecessors because, he like most economists, considered the agrarian problem from the angle of production was the primary requisite for a decent standard of living. Marx envisaged that what happened in the Industrial Revolution was bound to take place in the field of agriculture too. The change in industry prepared the soll for large scale capitalist agriculture. But Marx was of opinion that this process was already in action in his time. Capitalist farming was already in existence in England and Germany but for various reasons France was an exception and Marx put to his own advantage this exception by stating that the late of peasant farming was sealed.

The encroachment of industrial technique into the province of peasant farming was depriving the peasant of a supplementary income. Furthermore he had buried his small capital into the purchase of land he was compelled to borrow for cultivation. In the open markets he was unable to compete with the large-scale producer. Most of all there was the natural superiority of capitalist production. These factors were to have a disastrous effect on the future of the peasant.

Thus, if the peasant, despite all these adversities, was able to hold his own against capitalist farming it was due to his peculiar economic position. He was in virtual fact a trinity because he was capitalist owner and worker at the same time thereby satisfying himself with only wages for all that he will put into the soil. In simpler terms it meant that he was in a position to dispose of his produce at the mere cost of production which accounts for low prices in peasant farming countries. The low price was the result of the producer's poverty rather than economical methods of production.

These arguments proved to be the core of Marx's theory of value. For their assimilation it is important to revert our minds back into the time in which he was writing. His survey of the agricultural situation was based on the conditions of life by the ordinary English labourer and of the lessons he learnt from the Irish peasantry. Marx also stated that the appropriation of land on a large scale was the initial step in creating a field for the consolidation of mass agriculture. He was also of opinion that peasants produced means of subsistence and raw materials which they mostly consumed themselves, but that expropriation and industrialisation had ruined the domestic industry of peasants. But neither of these arguments were applicable to Eastern Europe because here subsistence farming was still the rule and with a few exceptions the large estates continued to be cultivated by the peasants.

The glut of Socialist literature illustrates how completely Marx dominated the movement of the time. Scientific inquiry into agra-

rian problems had not yet begun and his plausible parallelism between agriculture and industry seemed incontrovertible. The German census of 1895 showed that the peasant was still a potent factor. This was also evident in Holland and the U.S.A. The coup-de-grace to the concentration theory was rendered by the German census of 1907. It clearly showed us that despite the many favours which capitalist agriculture had derived from the State large-scale farming was slowly but surely giving way. This feature struck the heart of the Marxist system. Even Kautsky had to concede that if the capitalists were on the increase, then the Socialist system was only a political hallucination. Kautsky now adopted a different course of action by holding that if in agriculture concentration was not visible in the form of production yet it was active in the form of ownership.

In the form of ownership.

That was clever side-tracking, and even proved the mainstay of Marxists who had to counteract the logic of facts. Harry Laidler advanced this theory by showing that many functions as spinning, cheese making, etc., were becoming concentrated. This was another improvement on Kautsky's theory. For if the peasants were in debt so were the large owners as in the case of Prussia. Thus if Kautsky's discourse on the concentration of ownership as apart from production was valid for agriculture then its result must be to prove the contrary—a quick deconcentration in industry where many large undertakings were owned by a great number of snareholders. Laidler by candidly dropping Marx's untenable premise of concentration in agriculture and contending that some of its functions were being deconcentrated was in a position to circumvent the severest reprisal of Marx's agrarian theory.

The intrinsic value of Marx's agrarian

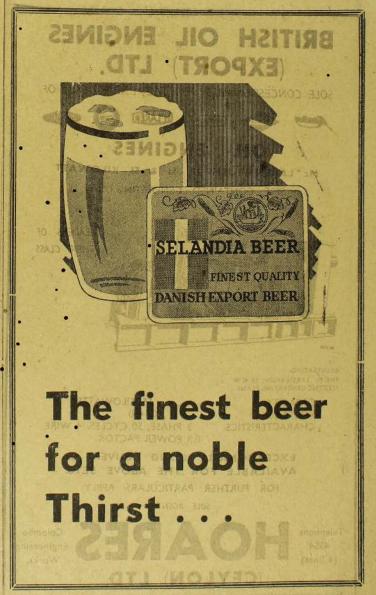
The intrinsic value of Marx's economic analysis was a natural belief in the superiority in large, scale producton. In relation to industry this application was perfectly true. This part of Marx's economic analysis was unsuspectingly accepted by many. The development and invention of mechanical devices had played a major role in the life of the time. Even those who doubted the Marxian views on the concentration of property adapted their criticism to his view on the indispensable concentration of property. The 18th and 19th centuries saw the increase of large scale farming at the expense of small owners. That change had been accompanied by a fall in the rural population which meant that farming on a large scale had enhanced the productivity of agricultural labour.

It must be remembered that the

large scale had enhanced the productivity of agricultural labour.

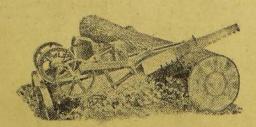
It must be remembered that the increase in large estates was accomplished by political and social pressure and it did not merely depict the more efficient system (large scale or small scale) in free competition. Concentration declined in the seventies. Small farms became sufficiently paying concerns with the fall in corn prices and would have reaped a relatively higher price than the large farms. The Marxists also stated that it was the fertility of the soil which determined results, and concluded that land must in due course become social property. The use of machinery had only a small share which contributed towards the development of the productivity of the soil. The character of agricultural production goes to prove that it is intensive labour which in a large way helps in the increase in output. Intensive cultivation is in turn dependant on a greater application of human effort which has aided the small cultivator as hired labour is inexpensive. Past events will show that it is the small-holder and certainly not the capitalist farmer who could best satisfy the Marxist demand for scientific cultivation.





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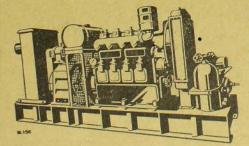






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LOOKING AHEAD FIFTY YEARS

UNDER the above title a book published in the United States contains a chapter headed "Will Present Government Spending Continue?" The following therefrom is intriguing:—

therefrom is intriguing:—

"When people talk about the national budget, they are likely to fall into one or the other of the two following mistakes. Both should be considered when discussing what will happen during the next fifty years. The first mistake assumes that the government is a kind of financial magician, immune to natural laws, unaffected by economic principles and able to make something from nothing. This school of thought cares little about ways and means, public finances, and fiscal policies. They are indifferent whether government deficits are debts swell into millions, billions or astronomical figures beyond computation. The government, according to this faith, in some mysterious way make possible the impossible.

"The second school of thought is equally unsophisticated, but goes astray in the opposite direction. According to this philosophy, there is no difference or distinction between public finance and private finance. It is assumed that every rule and policy appropriate to individual and corporate enterprise can be taken over bodily and applied unchanged to government operations. The government is viewed as just another big business with similar balance sheets and income statements that should be interpreted according to every precept and practice of private management. Those who fall into this view are correct, of course, in urging that both state and private administration should avoid waste, insist upon accurate accounting and strive for efficiency. The mistake is in failing to realize that whereas the private enterprise must seek a prosperous nation." — "This was quoted by Sir John Tarbat in the Senate." quoted by Sir John Tarbat in the Senate."

ELECTRICAL DEVICE TELLS WHEN TO IRRIGATE

A NEW electrical device that will serve as a scientific A NEW electrical device that will serve as a scientific guide in irrigation was described by Dr. George J. Bouyoucos, research professor of soil science at Michigan State College, at the 26th National Colloid Symposium of the American Chemical Society held on the University of Southern California campus in June, 1952. The device, Professor Bouyoucos said, will enable farmers, fruit-growers and managers

pus in June, 1952. The device, Professor Bouyoucos said, will enable
farmers, fruit-growers and managers
of sugar beet and pineapple plantations, green houses and golf courses
to determine when irrigation is
necessary, how much water should
be applied and how deeply the irrigation water penetrates.

According to Dr. Bouyoucos the device has already proved its worth by
revealing that more irrigation water
than necessary frequently is by
farmers and that the same yield of
crops could be obtained with "considerably less water, bringing about
large savings" in regions where irrigation water is scarce and expensive.

gation water is scarce and expensive.

The new moisture-measuring equipment consists of a water-absorbent block of Plaster of Paris or nylon containing two electrical terminals. The block is buried in the soil at any desired depth, a continuous record of moisture content (of the soil) can be made by means of resistence-measuring electrical instruments connected to the block with wires. The soil scientist said that use of the porous block eliminates or minimizes any errors in moisture measurements which might otherwise be caused by differences in compaction, texture, structure, type of salt content of the soil.

Advantages of the Method

Advantages of the Method

"Such a block, when buried in the soil, absorbs moisture from the soil

and gives it up to the soil very readily," Dr. Bouyoucos said, "so that its (the block's) moisture content tends to stay in constant equilibrium with the moisture content of the soil. The electrical resistance of the block varies its moisture variation. Therefore, by calibration, the moisture content of the soil may be determined by measuring the electrical resistance of the absorbent block."

One of the important advantages of this new method of gauging when and how much to irrigate is that the block can be permanently installed in a field or orchard and the farmer can read the surface instruments without making test diggings.

ments without making test diggings.

The soil scientist also reported that the irrigation device had proved successful and practical in a study of the capillary rise of moisture from the water table in soils under field conditions. This study showed that unless rainfall was so excessive that moisture in the surface layers of soil was brought into close proximity with the water table, there was practically no capillary rise from the water table to the upper layers of soil in a field or orchard even when these layers were moist.

when these layers were moist.

It was concluded, therefore, that capillary movement of water from the water table supplies little, if any, water to plants during their short season of growth. The roots of plants, accordingly, have to grow down to the water, which they accomplish with greater ease and rapidity than capillarity can bring water to them. Capillarity is of importance in supplying plants with water only if the distance from the plant to the ground water is very short.—(U.S.I.S.).

UNITED NATIONS DAY, OCTOBER 24

WASHINGTON, SEPT. 1

PEOPLE of every race, nationality, and religion will join in observing the first international holiday dedicated to world peace on United Nations Day, October 24.

Highlighting this seventh anniversary of the birth of the United Nations will be worldwide birthday parties. Gifts and greetings cards will be exchanged among as many people as possible.

people as possible.

In the United States, President Truman has called upon all American citizens to observe United Nations Day "by sending greetings to friends, relatives and associates in other countries which are members of the United Nations, and by expressing their confidence in the United Nations, their friendship for other peoples, and their faith in the ultimate demonstration throughout the world of the brotherhood of man."

He pointed out that "the United Nations continues to be the only existing international organ which offers mankind a hope for ultimate demonstration throughout the world of the brotherhood of man."

of the brotherhood of man."

He pointed out that "the United Nations continues to be the only existing international organ which offers mankind a hope for ultimate world peace."

The most colourful observances of U.N. day in the United States will be the large balls planned for the nation's biggest cities. Sponsored by local committees in such cities as New York and New Orleans, the net proceeds from the affair will be used to send gifts to children of U.N. countries in Europe, Asia and the Near East.

Members of the diplomatic corps.

Members of the diplomatic corps are among those who have already received invitations to attend the U.N. Day ball here in the nation's

(Continued on page 11)

THE BICYCLE IN COLOMBO

T. M. G. Samat

The bicycle came to Colombo soon after it was familiar in England. It should have come to these shores with the Dutch in whom the cult of cycling is so deeply rooted. They were, however, too busy preventing the pouring of boiling water on Cinnamon plants or otherwise engaged in safeguarding the Government monopoly on cinnamon to be bothered about initiating the population to the mysteries of riding boneshakers on Colombo roads or rather jungle paths of those times.

Since the time the bicycle was a means of emancipating Daisy not necessarily on a contraption meant for two it has not only been a benefit to this Island for some 150 years and taken too strong a hold ever to be broken but has also added to the Island's vocabulary with words as bell, brake, dust-cap, tyre and what not.

dust-cap, tyre and what not.

Contemporary writings do not reveal whether Colonel Stuart's Expeditionary force of August 1795 brought any boneshakers when within 3 months they captured Trincomalee. Point Pedro, Jaffna and Calpentyn. It can however be safely assumed that our roads then would have deterred Col. Stuart from bringing boneshakers. Still by the time civil Government in Colombo was 6 years old under the British it had become necessary to control "triacle traffic." Published in the Government Gazette dated 1st January 1806 the first notice retaining to control of traffic ran thus:—

hus:—

"Whereas the drivers of bullock bandies, as likewise horsmen and those who ride on triacles and carry palankeens do occasionally mistake the side of the road on which they ought to go in meeting others of the above description in the streets it is strictly enjoined to all such persons as much for their convenience as for the general safety to keep to the left hand side of the road when they meet and pass.

Sed T. J. TWISLETON.

Sgd. T. J. TWISLETON. Sitting Magistrate.

The bicycle since then has only gained national importance through a Cycle Marathon but has also come to be looked down on by Policemen as something short of a curse. Nevertheless, most parts of the Island still look up at the cycle as an essential constituent of the Island's transport system,

Island's transport system.

Cyclists of all colours and creeds predominate Colonbo's streets on any week day and any visitors, whether an admirer of bicycles or not, cannot fall to notice the various turn-outs. It is not rare to see machines of questionable breeds, uncared for and as shabbily turned out as mangy dogs. But nearly always cycles look well and are obviously a scource of pride to their owners. Each cycle is arrayed after the particular taste of the owner with reflectors.

lamp, revolving bells, and lion flag in front giving quite a sporting flavour in appearance. In most cases unnecessary gadgets are absent and the machine looks "strictly business" and all the better for it.

Cycles are maintained by firms of every class and every type of business, some of these belonging to the smallest concerns like "Tip Top" tooth powder rivalling with machines of firms in Fort carrying various marks. Nor are our powers-that-be any less cycle conscious. These Government machines are typified by their soundness but the lack of personal pride and care of most private owners of cycles.

An hour down Colombo streets is sufficient to introduced.

hines are typified by their soundness but the lack of personal pride and care of most private owners of cycles.

An hour down Colombo streets is sufficent to introduce you to the various styles of cycling vogue. There is the dignified ride often associated with the ladies. The ride in which "there is no time to stand and stare" is associated with school boys and meal carriers. Then there is the postman's ride with loud clanging of tell and the bootlegger's ride. The baker favours the "commercial ride." There are a few black sheep who, when they get on a bicycle try to exterminate themselves in attemping to display "cyclemanship" Mercifully these menaces are few."

Quite early each day with the exodus of cyclists from the outlying suburbs converging on the city the policeman's troubles begin. These cyclists are arrayed after their professions—messengers, peons, clerks, girl typists and male typists beside innumerable others, Every conceivable kind of iemale and male headwear from felt hats and peak caps to Kalutara hats perched at different angles on heads of as many different males and females at different stages of perspiration pass at various speeds. In very many instances you will be able to say that at a particular time a particular female cyclist lovely to look at or rather stare at on a bicycle would pass a particular point in the city. Sunday cycling is one of the pastimes of Colombo's cycle population. Fathers, mothers, sons daughters and others might sometimes be seen setting off together on quiet roads on a sabbath morning to come back after a 10 mile ride often a depleted force. Tired and perspiring they eventually arrive home safe but not too sound with knees bruised and dresses torn vowing to avoid rutty unknown lanes in the future.

There is another aspect of cycle life in which we seldom fail to see bath powder and Snow White soap

lanes in the future.

There is another aspect of cycle life in which we seldom fail to see bath powder and Snow White soap dry fish and rationed rice baby's rattle and a large pine apple all held together with strings and twine on the luggage carrier. In fact supplies required from a pin for my lady's boudoir to most things in the larder comes home for the suburban man and his wife on the back of a bicycle. The old school tie tradition in Ceylon may fade like the pukka sahib but the bicycle will ever remain as a reminder of the British.

World Bank Report on Transport and Communications

(Continued from page 8)

route from the Eastern Mediterranean to Australia and the Far East, building air traffic and tourist trade. Effective Ceylonese participating in international air transport will be best secured by concentrating first on inter-regional services to India and Pakistan with possible extensions to Burma and Thaliand and on the development of internal lines, when these establish a popular reputation, longer extensions will be easter.

TELECOMMUNICATION

A six-year programme of exten-

A six-year programme of extension and improvement to cost about Rs, 90,000,000 has been prepared and is supported on principle by the Mission which recommends spreading the programme over ten to

twelve years with an investment of only Rs. 35,000,000 during 1953-59. In any event additional technical assistance from outside will be needed

United Nations Day, October 24

(Continued from page 10)

capital. The Washington Committee wants them to join with the city's leading citizens in helping "establish an international column" which will "promote understanding and friendship among the peoples of the world."

The sponsors of the campaign to promote the international exchange of greetings and effect in the actions.

The sponsors of the campaign to promote the international exchange of greetings and gifts in the national citizens' committee for United Nations Day, composed of more than 100 civic, religious, veteran, youth, labour, business, women's and service organisations in the U.S.—(U.S.I.S.)





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