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How Government Will Get Money For Food TAXES ON INCOMES AND LUXURY IMPORTS

WHEN the business of the House after the preliminaries were gone through at the meeting of Parliament on Tuesday last the Leader of the House Sir John Kotelawala moved that the following provisions shall have effect with respect to the Business of the day's sitting:—

- (a) That a Bill to provide for the levy of certain taxes for Food Subsidies may without notice be presented by a Minister of the Crown and forthwith considered and passed through all its stages on the same day;
- (b) That immediately after the Bill to which this order has been read a Second time, it shall be considered in Committee of the whole House."

"The need for this motion is very simple" he said. "There is provision made for emergencies like this, and this motion is in accordance with Standing Orders. If Hon. Members feel that this is a Bill of which they should have had notice I must say that I myself saw to it on Saturday last that this Bill left this office. So that it is probable every hon. Member had a copy of this Bill on Saturday afternoon. Therefore the question of notice does not arise.

The motion was passed 56 Ayes and 23 Noes on division.

When the Bill was presented by the Minister of Finance the Deputy Speaker who presided declared that the Bill had to be proceeded with that day in terms of the motion that was passed. The motion implied the suspension of Standing Orders. His ruling was that the Bill shall be considered and passed in all stages the same day and that it has to be completed that day even after 5.30 p.m. if necessary.

NEED FOR BILL EXPLAINED

In moving the second reading of the Bill the Minister of Finance said: Mr. Deputy Speaker, when the House was about to adjourn after the Budget Debate, it was the intention of the Government not to summon a meeting of Parliament till November. But since we felt that certain decisions affecting food should be taken, the Government announced that the House should meet today (September 23). We decided to meet today for this reason that certain issues of importance affecting food subsidies had to be decided before the 23rd and we felt it was correct that Members of the House should be given the opportunity of discussing and deciding on those issues. So there was no question that this Government was trying to do anything underhand or without the knowledge of the public. As a matter of fact it is not possible to cut the ration of rice or to increase the price of sugar without the pub-



The Prime Minister



Mr. J. R. Jayewardene

lic being aware of it; so there is no question that we attempted to do anything behind the back of the House or of the public. But I want to point out from speeches made by members of the Opposition particularly during the Budget Debate, that they were fully aware that some of the actions we have taken were a consequence of the food subsidy proposals included in the Estimates. I would begin by referring to the Hon. Leader of the Opposition who

in his speech on the Budget Debate stated:—

RS. 161,000,000 WANTED

"I know that Rs. 161,000,000 has been provided for the coming year and that it is likely to be Rs. 100,000,000 more. If you are going to keep foodstuffs subsidised, it has been pointed out that Rs. 250,000,000 is a fairly large slice of the Government anticipated revenue for the year. It may be so but this is a very serious step to take . . . I repeat that this is a very serious step to take and I appeal to my hon. friends opposite to consider that these are not issues of parties or sections. These are national issues on which the Hon. the Prime Minister very rightly stated we should join and I want to say that we are quite

prepared to give the necessary co-operation in the interests of this country. Any Government has a right to expect that from us."

Then further the hon. the Leader of the Opposition went on to say:—

"The position is grave and it requires certain improvements. Immediate steps should be taken, some of which we have indicated, if my hon. friends are willing to consider them, in order to meet the situation . . . The gravity of the situation is such that in any measures definitely calculated to meet this situation, which they are prepared to take and which we feel are justified, I repeat again that at this time irrespective of Party they can depend on our fullest co-operation."

(Continued on page 2)

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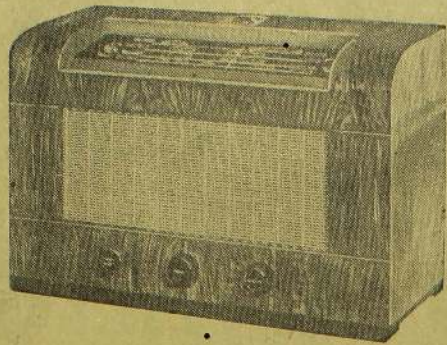
Party Sessions in Independence Week

The Working Committee of the United National Party, which met at "Temple Trees" decided that it would be appropriate to hold the annual general meeting of the Party during Independence Week in February next year.

A sub-committee was appointed to make necessary arrangements. It will meet for the first time on the second Friday in October.

The venue of the sessions has not been settled.

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How Government Will Get Money for Food

(Continued from page 1)

It was quite clear when the Budget Debate was concluded that the Government had fixed the food subsidy at Rs. 161,000,000. A few weeks before that we brought a Supplementary Estimate increasing the Food Supply bill for the current year which ends on September 30 by Rs. 94,000,000 making a total for 1951-52 of Rs. 255,000,000. It was further stated in the course of the Debate that if we did not fix a ceiling on food subsidies in the new year for which we were budgeting, the food subsidy would be in the region of almost Rs. 300,000,000 or more a year.

MISSION TO U.S.A.

At the time of the Budget Debate we were unable to make any more definite statement because the Minister in charge of Food and Agriculture was away in America on a food mission and it was clearly stated that we were awaiting his return to find out exactly what steps should be taken. Firstly we had to decide whether we were to make Rs. 161,000,000 the ceiling. Even that decision was not taken at that time. We had included Rs. 161,000,000 in the Budget for the current year. We had to bring in a Supplementary Estimate to make the total Rs. 255,000,000. We were unable to make any of these decisions until we were quite sure what the ceiling would have to be. It was not possible to say whether we could make the subsidy Rs. 161,000,000 by cutting the ration or by increasing the price of rice and sugar or by any one or more of these methods. The Government had not come to a decision.

NOTHING TO HIDE

There was nothing that the Government and the Cabinet had to hide from the House because the Government did not come to any decision at that time. But we knew that before September 24 or before the end of September, we had to come to a decision. We were thinking of the food subsidy for next year which begins on October 1. Before that we had to come to a decision. We wanted the House to be aware of that. That is why instead of adjourning till November this meeting has had to be held on September 23rd. With that background, let us consider the food subsidy of Rs. 161,000,000 which was passed by the House without a division.

We fixed Rs. 161,000,000 as the subsidy as that allowed us to draw on our reserves to the extent of Rs. 35 million and without any taxation to finance the works of the Government for the year to come namely 1952/53. Whether we can hold on to that position I do not know. If the price of rubber goes down further, if the price of tea goes down, if the price of coconut goes down we may have to come with further requests and proposals to this House but up to now the picture has not changed as far as my Budget is concerned.

SOARING PRICES

Then why am I coming to this House now? I am coming because we are seeking to implement the food subsidy ceiling at Rs. 161,000,000 that was passed by the House without a division. We now seek to fix it at Rs. 161,000,000. Many steps have to be taken. The price of rice today landed cost of Burma rice in Ceylon is 93 cents a measure. In 1947 it was 48 cents a measure, 1948 it was 53 cents a measure, 1951 it was 65 cents a measure and in 1952 it is 93 cents a measure. Before the war 8 million tons of rice were produced. Now only 5 million tons are produced as the exploratory surplus—not produced and consumed—in all the South-East Asian countries, whereas the need has grown up to 10 million tons. The price even during the early part of the war was £5 to £6 a ton while now it is £70 a ton. The subsidy bill in 1950/51 was Rs. 131.6 million in Ceylon. In 1952/53 it was Rs. 300 million, one-

third of our total revenue. Thirty three per cent. of our revenue I say without contradiction that no country in the world subsidises any article of consumer goods to the people at one-third of its revenue.

RS. 47,000,000 SAVING

The sugar price was increased because we felt that sugar is not so important an article as rice and because we have other things in Ceylon which we can make use of in its place, such as jaggery. In fact a little less sugar used would do no harm. So the price of sugar was raised by 15 cents a pound; that would bring in a saving of Rs. 47,000,000. We still have a distance to go and the Hon. Minister of Agriculture and Food is confident that we would be able to keep the food subsidy figure at Rs. 161,000,000. If we are unable to do so we will have to come to the House with further proposals. In order to encourage the production of subsidized food-stuffs which may be utilised in place of rice we thought we should increase the current price of paddy, maize and so on; those proposals are also before the House. I am speaking of the cut in the ration. As an incentive to produce more rice we took the decision to cut the ration by one-fourth of a measure. We felt there would be sufficient flour available for those who wish to supplement their cereal content with flour and we will be importing such a quantity of flour; nearly 40,000 tons more as will be necessary if anybody wishes to supplement the cut on the rice ration with flour. So there would be no hardship as one considers if the whole picture is taken as I have stated. I do not think it is possible to raise normal direct taxes to any higher level.

BURDEN SHARED

But we felt that in order, as is stated in this preamble that all persons should be required to make a special contribution proportionate to their means there should be this surcharge on Income Tax and since it is a ten per cent. surcharge—the income tax that we expect for this year is Rs. 150,000,000—we would be getting 10 per cent. of Rs. 150,000,000 that is Rs. 15,000,000. In the import duty section too we would get about Rs. 4,000,000 to Rs. 5,000,000 making Rs. 20,000,000 and the betting tax I think would be bringing about Rs. 3,000,000 or Rs. 2,000,000. It is difficult in an economy like ours to prophesy even beyond a month or two of reckoning. We have not been putting the burden on anybody. We have been elected to form the Government and we do feel that the decision we have taken is the best decision that can be taken without depending on theories or dogmas or propositions which have no proper backing when properly analysed and examined. Even if we tax to the limit, to the utmost should we and can we spend that money in financing food subsidies? I say no and I say we should not do that. We are a developing country. We have to spend as much as we can on development. If it is necessary that we should cut down unessential expenditure we are prepared to do that.

FURTHER STEPS

Already proposals are before the Cabinet to cut down unessential expenditure which need not be incurred today but may be postponed for better times, up to a maximum of Rs. 100,000,000. If we can we shall go even further. So the Hon. Prime Minister outlined in his statement to the public through the press the proposals we are making to meet the situation that has arisen. Firstly by fixing a ceiling on food subsidies at Rs. 161,000,000. The other action was the stiffening of the relaxed exchange and import controls, the imposition of the surcharge on taxes and on import duties; as well as the giving of guaranteed prices; and the proposals affecting food to the people are only the implementation, nothing new, of the decision passed by this House that the food subsidy should be Rs. 161,000,000 for the year 1952/53.

The Bill was finally passed, the voting being Ayes 55; Noes 21.

SALUTE TO ELDER STATESMEN

Mr. K. Balasingham and Sir Gerard Wijeyekoon

REFERENCE was made in Parliament last week to the passing away of two of Ceylon's Elder Statesmen, Mr. K. Balasingham and Sir Gerard Wijeyekoon which two events occurred almost within a fortnight of each other.

Sir John Kotelawala, Leader of the House, said that it was a great loss to the country that these two eminent persons who had been in the forefront of the reform movement of this country should have passed away within so brief a period of each other. "Not only were they politicians, they were able statesmen who were pioneers of our national movement" declared Sir John.

"They were both lawyers, Sir Gerard Wijeyekoon, as we all know, first entered the Legislative Council in the year 1921. Mr. Balasingham entered the Legislative Council as a Nominated Member. Both were members of the Executive Council of the day. They were in the forefront of all matters connected with the obtaining of self-government and independence for this country. The name of Mr. Balasingham will always be remembered in connection with the State Mortgage Bank and the progress of Ayurveda and Government's interest in it. Sir Gerard gave up politics after 1931, but since we achieved independence he was nominated a Senator, and he functioned as the first President of the Senate till his demise. We who are assembled here, feel the loss of these two gentlemen, and the only consolation is that they lived up to a ripe old age, having reached the "three score years and ten." Both had not been in the best of health for some considerable time. May I ask you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to direct the Clerk of this House to convey our heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved families?"

OPPOSITION SUPPORT

Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, Leader of the Opposition on behalf of the Opposition in supporting the request made to convey the regrets of the House to the relatives of the late Mr. K. Balasingham and of Sir Gerard Wijeyekoon, on the death of two very old and valued public servants who had served this country

in more ways than one over a long period said:—

"Mr. Balasingham was not only a politician. He was a member of the Legislative Council as my hon. friend the Leader of the House pointed out and of the Executive Council. But his interests did not cease there. He was also a very great jurist, and the name of Balasingham will be remembered as long as the legal system of this country exists. In addition to that he was one of the pioneers of the movement to obtain some recognition from Government for the ayurvedic system of medicine. He not only in the Legislative Council but also outside, along with people like the late Sir Baron Jayatilaka and the late Prime Minister, pressed for the establishment of the Ayurvedic College and Hospital, and Dispensary. From that time up to the date of his death he continued to be a member of the Board of Ayurvedic Medicine. When I was Chairman of the Board, and later Minister of Health, I came to know that Mr. Balasingham always displayed the keenest interest in the work of that body. In spite of failing health, he never failed to attend a meeting and make his valuable contribution to the discussions.

The late Sir Gerard Wijeyekoon was a public servant of similar calibre. He was also a lawyer and presided for a number of years over various Courts in the country. He was a member of the Legislative and Executive Councils of the day. Later he returned to political work when he entered the Senate and was elected its first President.

Both these gentlemen lived in a more spacious age, when contributions of eminence and value were made by prominent persons to the life of the country in more ways than one. They were scholars, cultured men with wide interests who lent their energy and industry to the various fields in which they were able to enrich the heritage of the country in matters of public importance.

"I have great pleasure in associating myself with the expression of regret at the death of these two gentlemen and with the suggestion that you convey that regret to the relations of the deceased.

The Deputy Speaker announced that an appropriate Minute would be made and the sentiments of the House would be conveyed to the relatives of the deceased.

NEW MEN IN UNIVERSITY COURT

IN response to a request of the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ceylon to secure the election of six Members of Parliament to the University Court to fill casual vacancies caused by the late dissolution of Parliament the Leader of the House, Sir John Kotelawala, moved in Parliament that the following Members be elected:—Mr. S. C. Shirley Corea, Mr. I. M. R. A. Iriyagolle, Mr. M. D. H. Jayawardene, Mr. Cyril E. S. Perera, Mr. E. L. Senanayake and Mr. V. Veerasingham, M.B.E.

When the question was proposed the Leader of the Opposition regretted that the Government had taken "the intransigent attitude" with regard to appointments to the University Court of members of the Government Party which he declared as "purely a partisan act."

Sir John explained the situation thus: "As was stated these vacancies are casual vacancies and have to be filled accordingly, but not necessarily on a party basis. When we were having a meeting this morning (23rd September) a message was received that the Opposition Members

would like to have two members on the University Court but would prefer if they could have three. We did not go into the question on a party basis but we thought of electing those whom we thought fit to serve on the University Court. We decided to ask the Member for Attanagalla to serve on the Court. We conveyed that decision to the Opposition and the return message was that if they were to be allowed only one representative they do not want any at all. We must not forget that it takes two to make a quarrel, and when that return message was received, that if they were not to get the number of representatives they wanted, they do not want any at all. It was felt that that was not, how one should treat anybody else. I met the hon. the Leader of the Opposition and explained the position, saying that I should like him to accept the proposal, but he said that he could not agree to it. It was under these circumstances that these six Members came to be elected. It has not been our intention to insult anybody.

The House divided: Ayes 56; Noes 22.



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The Meaning of F.A.O.

By Stanley Weerasinghe

WHEN the delegates left the hall of Hot Springs in Virginia the foundations of an international organization to deal with the problems of food and agriculture had been laid and an important step taken for a more effective and comprehensive attack on the three scourges of mankind: rural poverty, malnutrition and ill-health.

The problems of health and prevention of disease are closely linked with the problem of adequate nutrition and better education. They, in turn, have an important bearing on agricultural production. In many cases the basic condition is that of poverty.

Agricultural production and consumption are peculiarly dependent upon world-wide markets. It is therefore of prime importance that an international organization should exist to deal with those problems that in scope transcend national boundaries, and to assure that concerned and enlightened action will be taken by all the nations concerned.

The problems of health, nutrition and agricultural production must be attacked from several sides. Improved health facilities, education and provisions for more adequate housing for the rural population are important aspects. An overwhelming portion of the world suffers from malnutrition. Even in the so-called rich countries of the world a considerable portion of the population is ill-fed and has insufficient income to buy an adequate and healthful diet. As a first and important step in remedying this situation the conference recommended adequate nutritional measures for the peculiarly vulnerable groups including pregnant and nursing women, children, adolescent and low-income sections of the population.

Simultaneously with these measures important steps have been taken looking toward a more efficient and stable agricultural production. This involves in many countries diversification of production, the undertaking of large agricultural improvement projects, the development of natural resources, and improvements in the processing, distribution and marketing of agricultural products.

The Conference set up several working committees which considered the broad problems of food and agriculture. The topics assigned to them were: Consumption Levels and Requirements, Expansion of Production and Adaptation to Consumption Needs, Facilitation and Improvement of Distribution, and Recommendations for Continuing and Car-

rying Forward the work of the Conference. On the basis of reports made by the technical sections, several recommendations and resolutions were adopted looking toward a solution of the agricultural and food problems facing the world both in the immediate post-war period and in coming decades.

The international character of the Organization is stressed by absolving the staff from any responsibilities that is not of an exclusively international character and that is not based on instructions of the Organization. Diplomatic privileges and immunities will be accorded to the Director-General and members of his staff.

Provision has also been made for close co-operation and agreements where it appears desirable between the Organization and other public international organizations with related responsibilities. When a general international organization for world security is set up the Food and Agriculture Organization would be tied in, charged with responsibility in the special field of nutrition and agriculture.

The Conference at Hot Springs recognized that effective action taken by the States individually is the most important means of achieving the proposed goals, and several recommendations are directed to the States to that effect. In carrying out these recommendations, however, the States would be greatly benefited by an international organization which would be ready to give advice and assistance and be thus instrument for co-ordinated and joint action by the States, whenever that proved necessary or desirable.

The work of the Organization will not be confined to agricultural food products. It will also include fisheries, forestry and non-food agricultural products. Fisheries make up a considerable part of the world's food supply and will be particularly important in the immediate post-war years.

Non-food agricultural products are an important part of the world's agricultural production. Some of them are necessities of life, others contribute significantly to human health and well-being. In several countries these products contribute the most important part of agricultural production and agricultural exports. Consumption of many of these commodities is particularly dependent upon fluctuations in general prosperity. It will be part of the task of the organization not only to develop and secure more complete information on the consumption and effective demand for these products in different countries but also to help broaden their uses.

On this basis world trade would prosper and a wider distribution of agricultural products could be achieved. This involved a considerable measure of interdependence and this can only be safeguarded by an adequate international security organization.

.. CEYLON TODAY ..

Information Department Booklet

UNDER the above title a new publication has been issued by the Information Department. It is a monthly journal. The first issue contains interesting articles of an informative nature and most welcome to the general public. Sir Ivor Jennings, Vice-Chancellor of the Ceylon University, writes a descriptive account of the Seat of Learning in its own home, Peradeniya and the removal of two faculties from the "pocket handkerchief" site in Thurstan Road, Colombo, which was occupied temporarily.

Mr. A. G. Ranasingha has contributed an article on the formulation of the Budget and has succeeded in his endeavour to interest the general reader in the various steps that have been taken in the preparation of the plan for the financing of Government and its general pattern.

A new project—a comprehensive stock-taking of the population of Ceylon and their economic activities is explained in detail by the Deputy Director of the Department of Census and Statistics. This project consists of five clauses—a contribution which is to provide a wider range of statistical material than has been available hitherto, relating to the over-all economy of the Island.

Recommendations of the World Bank Mission; a contribution by the head of the Wild Life Department dealing with the present status of the elephant; the story of the Government Experimental Farm and the terms of the agreement under which economic aid is to be given to Ceylon by Canada under the C. Plan, compose the rest of the contents of this excellent publication.

This is one of the best publications the Government has issued in recent times.

BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN

By Benjamin E. West

MOSCOW has recently announced that the 19th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union will be held on October 5 in the Soviet capital.

The news had naturally aroused interest in the world since no such Congress has been held since 1939, although it is supposed to meet at least once every three years.

This year's congress will be attended by over 1,000 delegates representing some six million Communist Party members. The rest of the Soviet Union's 200 million people will not have any voice in the decisions which will nevertheless affect them directly. The Congress is ostensibly the supreme organ of the Communist party which, in fact, wields all power in the State.

In the 20's before the present Stalin regime had assumed full dictatorial powers, the Congress was at least allowed to discuss the major political issues facing the country. In preparation for the old congresses meetings were held throughout the Soviet Union paving the way for the deliberations in Moscow. Since 1934, however, the Congress has merely listened and perfunctorially approved the resolutions submitted to it by the small party elite.

There is no doubt that the 19th congresses will follow the same pattern. The late announcement of the meeting makes it entirely impossible to prepare for any effective regional discussions.

The proposed new statutes announced by the Kremlin even contain an open warning against free debate: "Extensive discussions, notably discussion on all all-union scale, of questions of party policy, must be organised in such a manner that it does not lead to attempts by an insignificant minority to impose its will on the party's majority, or to attempts at forming fractional groupings, destroying the unity of the party, to attempts at splitting which may shake the strength and stability of the Socialist system."

Thus, the Congress, faithful to the tradition of the Communist-type "democracy," will merely rubber-stamp the plans presented to it and already divulged to the world by Moscow's press and radio.....

On the agenda will be the abolition of the Politburo and Orgburo and the creation of a new body called the Presidium. The change in name from Politburo to Presidium should not confuse anyone. The dreaded Soviet secret police has successively been known as the Cheka, G.P.U., N.K.V.D., and M.G.B. The subversive organisation for promoting International Communism, originally known as the Comintern, is now called the Cominform. Except for omni-present Stalin, the Politburo has gone through more than two decades of turbulence marked by assassination, execution, mysterious suicide and disappearance. It had a nebulous beginning before the Bolshevik coup under the direction of Lenin and a handful of his accomplices. In 1919 it was formally established and consisted, in order of their importance, of Lenin, Trotsky, Kamenev, Bukharin and Stalin.

HANDPICKED CORPS

Soon it became the ruling body of the party and of the Soviet State. Theoretically, it was elected by and responsible to the much larger central committee, now composed of some 70 members, but since Lenin's death in 1924 and especially since Trotsky's banishment in 1928, Stalin as general secretary of the Central Committee, has maintained dictatorial power over it. Today, the Politburo is a handpicked corps of blindly loyal Communists who exercise total power and complete direction of Soviet affairs.

The important keynote address and the report of the Central Committee, given in the past by Stalin himself, will be delivered at the October Congress by Georgi Malenkov. Other reports, in particular the directives of the new 5-year plan, presented in 1939 by Molotov,

will be given this year by lesser personalities.

Malenkov, who was only 16 at the time of the Bolshevik coup of 1917, served as Stalin's secretary at the Congress of 1939 and is generally regarded as Stalin's protegee. He has climbed steadily to a leading position of influence within the ruling clique and is currently the strong man of the Orgburo of the party.

The 19th Congress will also hear and approve the directives for the fifth year plan and will undoubtedly salute them as a further step to increase Soviet industrial production. The plan covers the period from January 1, 1951, through 1955 and its present announcement, almost two years after it was supposedly put into operation, is a dramatic illustration of the secrecy which characterizes Soviet government operations.

The plan calls for an increase in industrial production of 12 per cent. for each year until 1955. However, the Soviet method of quoting percentages gives little indication of what output is actually to be expected.

LITTLE PROMISE OF BETTER LIFE

Without doubt the new plan will mean a further crackdown on already hard-pushed people. As in the past, the main emphasis is placed on items serving the interests of the power-hungry Communist leadership without regard for the urgent needs of the population. It can be safely assumed that the new plan will fail to remove the general apathy with which the Soviet worker submits to the reactionary system of increased norms, Stakhanovism and "socialistic competition." By tightening their controls on the workers and peasants, the Soviet rulers vainly hope to attain their selfish objectives. For the citizen who is called on to raise his norms, the new directive holds little promise of a better life.

Thus, the 19th Communist party congress will continue to adopt decrees automatically and delegate absolute power to an even tighter-knit clique of rulers. These, in turn will continue to impose new burdens on an unwilling people.—(U.S.I.S.).

France, Political Courage

THROUGH two empires, four republics, three major wars in 70 years and 14 post-war cabinets, the French have sat in suspicious judgment on their governments. Frequently they have shown their approval or disapproval not only by their ballots but by the way they behave when their government asks for money. They have become Europe's greatest gold hoarders. Since World War II, weak French governments have flooded the Fourth Republic with fancy-looking banknotes, which the public no longer trusts, and which steadily lose value. Result: an estimated \$4 billion worth of gold has disappeared from circulation, mostly into the stockings of wary French peasants.

To coax this gold out of hiding, Premier Antoine Pinay launched a savings-bond drive. He gave the French a choice between buying his gold-backed bonds or paying increased taxes. Last week the bond drive was over, and Pinay pronounced it a "healthy operation." French hoarders turned in 34 tons of gold, valued at \$42 million. In all, \$557 million came from what the government calls "fresh money," i.e., cash and gold not previously invested in bonds.

The final \$666 million came from investors cannily reconverting other bonds to the new Pinay bonds, which are not only gold-backed but in some cases pay higher interest. The drive was a measured success for France's commensurable Premier: though France is not yet out of the woods, it seems to be on the right path.

(Continued on page 9)



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Friday, October 3, 1952

HEALTH OF THE CITIZENS

The preservation and improvement of the health of its citizens is one of the most important functions of a Government. The policy of Government has been to increase the number of medical institutions in the rural areas so as to provide adequate medical facilities in the remotest village; to modernise the larger hospitals; to improve the number and quality of trained personnel; and to develop the preventive and curative services. Considerable progress has been made towards this achievement as disclosed in the Administration Report of the Director of Medical and Sanitary Services for last year.

Plague has been completely eradicated and malaria control has progressed considerably that that fell disease too will soon meet with a similar fate. The decrease in the mortality rates has been phenomenal as to evoke the description by the Division of International Health of the Federal Security Agency of the U.S.A. "as an event without precedent in the annals of world demography". A special effort is being made in the field of maternity and child welfare in order to afford individual care and expert attention to the mother and child in all aspects, namely ante-natal, natal, post-natal, infant and pre-school stages. For this purpose two local Nursing Sisters who have been trained in this special branch have been appointed.

Radical changes are visualised in the new Health Services Bill in which it is proposed to divide the Department into three Divisions namely, Medical, Public Health and Laboratory and also to decentralise the administration as far as possible so that the Divisional Superintendents (Medical and Public Health) will have more power and authority within the areas under their supervision. Thus the real function of the Government to achieve the aim set forth, namely, the preservation and improvement of the health of its citizens could be performed.

Public agitation in regard to overcrowding of existing hospitals and kindred institutions has been going on for ever so long, but it must be realised that it is not possible to satisfy all quarters from which com-

plaints emanate, nor could improvements be effected overnight. Not only are medical institutions in larger numbers required but also the necessary trained personnel, doctors, nurses, etc., to be in charge of those institutions and also the necessary equipment and ample supplies of drugs essential for the treatment of diseases.

An interesting point was recently raised in Parliament by an Appointed Member advocating the exemption from import duties of drugs for the treatment of tuberculosis, enteric and typhoid fever. This list may be even extended considering the great need for an ample supply needed and the extreme difficulty experienced in obtaining these most essential drugs. There is precedent for such a procedure for at the time when the ancylostomiasis or hookworm disease campaign was started and mass treatment was launched Government then in power realised the importance of this treatment and allowed all drugs that were required in that connection to be imported into this country free of duty. At a time when similar mass treatment and comprehensive preventive measures are being employed in connection with tuberculosis, similar concessions should be made for the free flow of the requisite drugs as an absolute necessity. There are vitally important items besides drugs, for instance blood plasma which is administered to the dying and in extreme cases of loss of blood on which Customs duty is payable, and which must indeed be exempt from duty.

The Cumpston Report has been acclaimed as a very sound report and a definite policy to be followed by the Department has received the consideration of the Cabinet. There is also the Health Act which endeavours to indicate further the lines of policy. It is the Government's desire to implement that policy as quickly as possible. The causes of overcrowding will be removed, admissions to hospitals will be regularised, more accommodation will be provided and the necessary additional trained personnel will be provided. The health policy of this country has been definitely and clearly laid down and the re-organization of Ceylon's medical services is being carried out on a planned basis, and the administrative set-up is being enlarged and strengthened to cope with the increasing work that it must handle. It is well to remember that there is perhaps no other Health Administration in the world which has to assume almost sole responsibility for the medical and public health services of the country as a whole.

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Carl Gustav Jung

CARL GUSTAV JUNG, of Zurich, is not only the most famous of living psychiatrists, he is one of the few practitioners of that craft who admit that man has a soul. And by soul, Jung means not just a psychiatric psyche but the old-fashioned kind that might even go to heaven. He is an unabashed user of the word "spiritual," and a strong believer in the practical utility of conceptions like God and the Devil. Unlike the orthodox followers of Sigmund Freud, who attribute most of mankind's mental troubles to the sexual conflicts of infancy, Jung maintains that the religious instinct is as strong as the sexual, and that man ignores it at his peril. Though his ideas cut freely into areas traditionally assigned to the mystic, the theologian and the philosopher, he maintains stoutly that he is a scientist. His methods, in his own view, are as empirical as those of Albert Einstein.

The ebullient state of Dr. Jung's own psyche is a striking argument for the soundness of his ideas. He is a massive 76-year-old man, who seems to row himself joyfully about his home in suburban Kusunacht with large, oarlike hands. He lives a happy domestic life with his wife, who is a practising psychiatrist; they have nineteen grandchildren. He speaks English with an American accent and vocabulary, explaining that he considers American English more emotional and directly influenced by the unconscious mind than English English is. His white hair usually looks as though he had just come in out of a high wind. His laughter often shakes the walls of the room, and he will discuss his ideas by the hour, sometimes humorously, with nearly anybody who happens to visit him. These discussions, accompanied by toothy grins and constant puffs from a pipe, are so lengthy and enthusiastic that they sometimes seduce him from more important work.

At the moment, the work consists of a three-volume treatise on alchemy—part of a veritable library of esoteric and clinical literature which Jung hopes to

leave behind as his testament to humanity. This may seem a somewhat bizarre occupation for a psychiatrist. But Jung explains that alchemy is one of those fantastic areas in which the mind has expressed itself unconsciously—a world of mysterious symbolism which can be interpreted psychologically, just as dreams are. There are times when Dr. Jung actually seems to resemble a sorcerer rather than a psychiatrist. He loves to sprinkle his writing with scholastic terms from the Middle Ages. His home is filled with strange Asiatic sculptures. He wears a curious ring, ornamented with an ancient effigy of a snake, the bearer of light in the pre-Christian Gnostic cult. When hard at work, he often disappears for days into a towered, castlelike hideaway across the Lake of Zurich, where he does his own cooking, and diverts himself by chopping wood and carving esoteric inscriptions on large blocks of granite. Jung has long since given up his psychiatric practice, and now devotes his working hours to exploring the dim boundaries where science meets the irrational.

How does one reduce the idea of God and the Devil to scientific terms? In Jung's view, they are manifestations of age-old archetypes present in the more obscure layers of the human mind since the earliest times. Jung's discovery of these archetypes dates from before 1912 when, as an associate of Freud, he noted that myths, fairy tales and religious visions were similar in many ways to dreams, and could, like dreams, be interpreted as emanations from the unconscious mind. Jung also noted that the myths and religious symbols of widely differing people and epochs had certain marked similarities, and were apt to include the same cast of characters. Among these characters he discerned a primordial image called "the shadow," which was usually embodied, i.e., the female component of the shadow, in figures like Satan. Others were the "anima" (the "woman in

the masculine psyche, represented concretely in images ranging from Helen of Troy to the modern pin-up girl), the "animus" (corresponding male image, in the female psyche), the "great earth mother" (representing the material aspects of nature); the "wise old man" (personification of the spiritual principle, i.e., God). If all mankind dreamed more or less alike in its legends and religious symbols, it was reasonable to suppose the existence of a universal unconscious mind—a vast reservoir of wisdom from which these dreams arose, Jung termed this reservoir the "collective unconscious," thereby adding a new dimension to the Freudian psyche. The goal of Jung's therapy, unlike that of Freud, lay in what he called "individuation," a process by which the archetypes and other disturbing elements of the unconscious were brought to full consciousness. It was essentially a religious experience, and a way of life.

The religious, esthetic and anthropological ramifications of Jung's ideas have tinged an astounding amount of contemporary thinking. Religious men, ranging from Hindu yogis to Christian theologians, have studied Jung, though the latter have found his dream world of primordial archetypes to be pagan rather than a strictly Christian one. Orthodox Freudians have denounced his ideas as pure mysticism. Artists, poets and dancers have found in them a new vein of poetic inspiration.

Jung himself is inclined to agree with both his admirers and his critics. His own conception of religion is so eclectic that it embraces everything from Catholicism to Hinduism, Taoism and Zen Buddhism,

and finds truth of some sort in nearly every form of dogma and ritual. "His principal weakness, aside from over-eating," a close associate recently remarked, "is his habit of seeing all points of view and agreeing with practically everybody." "The idea of an all-powerful being," says Jung himself, "is present everywhere, if not consciously recognized, then unconsciously accepted. . . . I consider it wiser to recognize the idea of God consciously; otherwise, something else becomes God, as a rule something quite inappropriate and stupid such as only an "enlightened" consciousness can devise."

When Jung is not pondering the relation of modern man to his soul, he is apt to be found sailing a small ketch on the Lake of Zurich, or reading an endless chain of violent detective stories, sometimes at the rate of one a day. Though his large, snow-peaked figure is a familiar sight in and around Zurich, very few of his fellow citizens have the slightest idea who he is, and most of them think of him vaguely as a pleasant old man who likes people and dogs. Dr. Jung, in approaching a dog, will pat its head and observe gravely that dogs dream, and therefore have some part in the collective unconscious, too. "Oh yes," he will continue, "certainly the higher animals participate in it. It is easy to communicate with them. Of course, with the lower forms it is more difficult. Personally, I have never been able to establish a satisfactory rapport with a snake. . . ." The closest rapport Jung has ever established is evidently the relationship he holds with scores of former women patients. Four-fifths of his patients have been women, and their ecstatic reaction to this experience has been so universal that Zurich wits have evolved a name for the type. They call it the Jungfrau. This slightly embarrasses the still rosy-cheeked Dr. Jung. "It's silly," he protests. "After all, I am an old man—much too old to have any vices."

TRADE MISSION TO CHINA

THE Ceylon Mission is visiting China on the invitation of the Government of China to discuss rice supplies for Ceylon. It is possible that matters affecting trade in general between the countries may also be discussed" said the Prime Minister in reply to a question in Parliament. "I shall not disclose what instructions I gave the Minister, but under those instructions it is possible to discuss those matters."

The next question was whether the Prime Minister was aware of the statement issued to the press by the Minister of Commerce and Trade that he will be discussing the question of general trade, to which the Prime Minister replied: "That is not contrary to my statement".

By way of a supplementary question another member inquired whether in the event of general discussions taking place the Government will be prepared to enter into direct trade agreements with the Government of China which evoked the reply "It depends on the proposals; otherwise, it would have been farcical on our part to have sent a Mission."

DIPLOMATIC INTERCHANGE?

To a suggestion to take immediate steps to raise with the Government of China the desirability of an interchange of diplomatic representatives between Ceylon and China the Prime Minister referred to a record of the reply to a similar question, given by his predecessor on August 1951.

On that occasion the question arose when the vote for salaries and expenses of the Consul-General for Ceylon in Indonesia came up for discussion during the Budget debate, when the following dialogue took place:

The Rt. Hon. D. S. Senanayake: As far as we are concerned I certainly feel that it is in our interest to have a representative there. The hon. member must remember that Indonesia is a country where their agriculture is very much like our own and so it is with the scientific development of agriculture. That country is advanced in this type of work and we have to be in contact with it. It is certainly to our advantage that we should be in closest with our people in Indonesia so that this country may benefit. From our contact with Indonesia, we are likely to have some benefit, but I am certain that if we are in contact with some other countries the hon. member wants us to be in contact with we would not get that benefit.

Mr. Keuneman: The first argument put forward by the right hon. Gentleman is that there is a community of interest. There is also, I should say, a community of interest with China. We grow rice and China grows rice. We grow tea and China also grows tea. Secondly the right hon. Gentleman said there is very important progress made in food schemes. In China they have solved their food problem in one year. Why should you not go to China therefore, and study that scheme?

The Right Hon. D. S. Senanayake: We have written to China on this matter but they are still considering the question of our having diplomatic relations with them.

It is pertinent to recall the observations made by the Commerce Minister when he left on this mission. "We are leaving with the intention of reviving a very old friendship

(Continued on page 11)



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FORESTRY RESEARCH IN CEYLON

"FORESTS are the supreme custodians of the soil and water resources of a country; therefore of the health and wealth of the land" says the Senior Assistant Conservator of Forests (Research and Education) in a contribution on the subject of Forestry Research and Education in Ceylon. Forests also provide recreational facilities and aesthetic amenities unobtainable anywhere else. Forests, viewed from the purely materialistic or economic standpoint are in fact the only naturally renewable capital asset which man will in the last resort, have to turn, when coal, oil and other mineral resources, including radio-active ores are exhausted. Forests serve other purposes, however, even of greater import than the materials of different kinds; it provides, viz., timber, fuel, fibre, bark, tannin barks and fruits, resins, gums and oils, cane, yams, edible fruits, medicinal materials, honey, venison, ivory, horns, etc. Forests are too often considered an undeveloped wilderness or jungle to be cleared and got rid of in the march of progress. Far from being undeveloped, high forest is actually the highest possible development of vast numbers and varieties of trees and plants built-up on a "permanent and self-sustaining basis in relation to and in harmony with the particular convictions of climate and soil of the site in which the forest is to be found."

"It is the highest form of Nature's own land-use and therefore ipso facto, the most important and enduring form of land-use possible on the face of the globe."

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

The question may be asked why either research or education is required to a forester, one, who according to popular conception, is no more than a man who exploits what nature has apparently bountifully and boundlessly provided in the forests, with profit to himself. It is indeed surprising that even among the large majority of the educated class the same idea prevails. Strange as it may seem the Forest Department of Ceylon is the only technical department in the Island in which a large proportion of the executive personnel was completely untrained. In 1948, only ten per cent. of the Forest Rangers in service had any kind of training whatever, and none of the Range Assistants, Head Forest Guards, overseers and forest guards. To meet this serious deficiency officers with suitable academic qualifications were sent abroad for training from time to time. It was on the 4th of July, 1951—a day that will remain a Red Letter Day in the history of the Department that marked the opening of the Forest Field Training School which was organized and the formal ceremony performed by the Hon. P. B. Billankula, Dissawa, the Minister for Lands and Land Development, in whose Ministry the Department is included. The School at present operates two parallel courses of mainly practical forestry training—one for Forest Rangers and Rangers and the other for Forest Guards—at two instruction camps. One camp is in the Indikade Forest Reserve near Waga in the Wet Zone and the other, the main camp is in the Nuwaragam Forest Reserve in the Dry Zone, near Anuradhapura. It is expected that it would take about 3 years to give this initial course of training to the whole of the executive staff in the Department.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM F. A. O.

Attention to the needs of Timber Utilization Research has been very considerably stepped up in the last two and a half years. A properly equipped and staffed centre for research into timber technology, wood working, wood bending, timber sea-

soning, timber preservation and wood polishing is being set up at the Research and Education Branch Headquarters in Kew Road, Colombo. The services of an expert wood working machinist have been obtained through the Expanded Technical Assistance Programme of the F.A.O. This expert is now training the Workshop Foreman and the Machinists and Mechanics of the newly-formed Wood Working Research Laboratory, in the proper use and maintenance of the different basic wood-working machines, techniques of carrying out standard wood working tests on timber and unknown quality and in saw doctoring. A young fully qualified Engineer has been selected to act as Timber Utilization Research Officer. He is at present undergoing a period of training on a F.A.O. Fellowship at the Forest Products Research Laboratory at Prince's Risborough, United Kingdom. After a twelve-month period of training there, this officer will proceed to the Forest Products Research Laboratory of the University of Madison, Wisconsin, for another six months' training before he returns to Ceylon and joins the Research and Education Branch.

BIYAR JAYO.

THE BABIES IN THE WOOD

WARILY a patrol of Philippine army soldiers sidled through the jungle in search of Huk guerrillas. In a clearing they saw something moving. It proved to be a scrawny eight-month-old baby crawling along the ground. Another patrol stumbled on a pair of year-old infants wandering through a coconut grove. A farmer out fishing heard a baby's wail, searched the bushes and came across two more babies.

Soon villagers arrived at the army billets with six more, ranging from eight months to 3½ years old. They too, had been found abandoned, ill and hungry, in the countryside.

Philippine army intelligence pieced together the story. A month before, the army had launched separate heavy attacks against the Communist Huks who had been spreading terror through the provinces of Bataan and Laguna. Taken by surprise, the local Huk commanders ordered the guerrillas to retreat along narrow jungle paths into the mountains. All excess baggage had to be discarded on the way; that included children.

By last week, 25 of the abandoned babies had been found. Officers guessed that another 25 lay dead somewhere in the jungle brush. To care for the survivors, the army converted a quonset hut at Camp Murphy into a hospital. Doctors and nurses went to work to treat festering skin sores and cure malnutrition—but the marks that did not show were harder to administer to. The blare of bugles blowing reveille scared the Huklings so that they clutched at nurses in fear. The first sight of soldiers in uniform made them duck; they were so disciplined to silence that the slightest shush from a nurse stopped their crying. The girls shrank from dolls, the boys were frightened by toy cars.

Scores of Filipino families wanted to adopt the abandoned babies, but the army would not let them, hoping instead to restore the children to their real parents; in fact, the army hoped that concern for the Huklings might lure parents out of the jungle. Last week the army at last gave the children names instead of numbers, at a mass christening ceremony. One godparent: the wife of Defence Secretary Ramon Magsaysay, who gave a two-year-old girl her own name of Luz (which means Light).

"They are now learning to play, and one or two are beginning to smile," reported one army welfare worker. "But I have yet to hear one of them laugh."—From "Time".

TRAINING IN SCIENTIFIC AGRICULTURE

For Village Lads and Lasses

THE idea of giving technical training in agriculture to women is an entirely new one in Ceylon. With the establishment of the School of Agriculture at Kundasale, near Kandy, the object of the first Prime Minister of Independent Ceylon, the late Rt. Hon. D. S. Senanayake, was to improve the standard of all agricultural pursuits and, incidentally, the standard of living particularly in the rural areas. At the school for boys at Peradeniya and the school for girls at Kundasale, the medium of instruction is English.

Now there are several practical farm schools in the Island for vernacular educated men and one for women at Walpita. This women's school at Walpita provides training in agriculture, including soil management and tillage, plantation and rotation crops, horticulture, including fruit and ornamental gardening, animal husbandry, including dairy-farming and poultry-keeping. Apart from the agricultural course the students are trained in rural house management, which includes studies in cookery, food preservation, needlework, dressmaking, household management, crafts, toy-making, etc. The medium of instruction is Sinhalese. Just as much as the English educated girls are trained at Kundasale to emerge completely fitted to take their place in spreading agricultural education in the towns and villages, many of them being absorbed in State schemes, the vernacular educated village lasses receive appropriate training which will enable them to play an unofficial part in the amelioration of living conditions in the neighbourhood of their own homes.

TRAINING OF VILLAGE LADS

The Wagolla Farm School, situated in the Kegalle district provides training in scientific agriculture for village youths, the course being of one year's duration, the students selected being between 17 and 21 years of age, who have obtained their Junior School Certificate in Sinhalese. The school farm is thirty acres in extent, three miles from the turn-off to Rambukkana at the 51st

mile-post on the Colombo-Kandy road. Situated on an elevation of 380 feet along the banks of the Maha Oya. There are thirty-five students now under training. They are trained in all aspects of agriculture—general agriculture, crops including all plantation crops, horticulture, animal husbandry and poultry-keeping; technical subjects like carpentry, brick and tile-making, rattan, and textile weaving are also included in the curriculum.

There are 30 head of cattle in the farm composing of cross-breds and Sindies. It is a significant fact that most of the cross-breds are being milkers averaging 16 pints a day and that these cows have originated from the Sinhala breed, which gives an indication of how the local breed could be improved. In the matter of milk production the Wagolla produces an average of 150 pints of milk per day, the bulk of which is supplied to milk feeding centres and the Rural Hospital at Rambukkana.

Wagolla with its happy band of students has produced extremely good results. Financially too the farm is on a sound footing. The revenue derived has stepped up considerably during 1950-51 and 1951-52. A fourfold increase in revenue was indicated during 1950-51 and the revenue for the current year has so far reached Rs. 30,000.

VEGETABLE PRODUCTION CENTRE

This farm is maintained chiefly for the training of students, particularly village lads of the Sabaragamuwa Province. It has also been the Centre for the production of vegetable seed of selected varieties for distribution and sale in the extension programmes, for the supply of budded fruit plants, fodder grass varieties, poultry and livestock. At the same time vegetables are sold in large quantities to the public. In fact the production of vegetables is Wagolla's forte. Since 1951, the farm has made very rapid progress and remarkable results have been achieved in the production mostly of local varieties of vegetables.

SUCCESSFUL SORGHUM YIELDS

With a view to popularising Sorghum as a substitute cereal for rice, some good varieties of the dry grain have been introduced from abroad and cultivated on a fairly large scale in departmental farms by the Department of Agriculture. The crop has been encouraged in colonization schemes and in villages where it has gained considerable popularity. Sorghum is rich in vitamins and the flour could be used in the preparation of practically all foods for which wheat flour is used. One of the most successful experiments in this farm has been the cultivation of Sorghum which was introduced in 1950-51. In Maha (1950-51) the yield was 33 bushels per acre; in Yala it was 44 bushels per acre. The following Maha yield was 53 bushels and in Yala 1952 the estimated yield is 64 bushels per acre. The crop is very easy to cultivate on wet highlands and gives a good return.

SENEX.

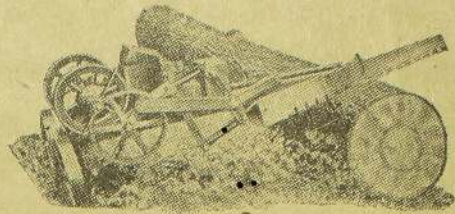
France, Political Courage

(Continued from page 5)

Pinay, in his own quiet way, went on proving that France's confidence is well placed. Last week, when France's No. 1 political pressure group, the peasant-farmer bloc, demanded an increase in the price of wheat, he bravely said no. If bread prices rise, he argued, the whole delicate mechanism controlling the cost of living will break down. Price hikes mean wage boosts, and France can afford neither. It was the first time since World War II that a French Premier has faced down the farmers—a rare act of political courage.—From "Time".

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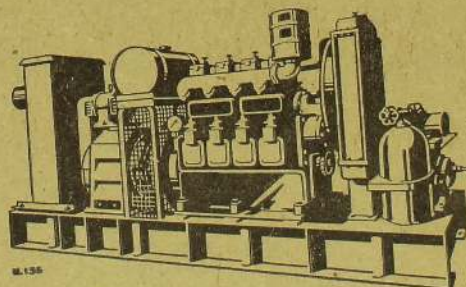
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CEYLON'S HEALTH SERVICES

Gov't's Important Function

THE Health Services Act which came into operation this year will change the title of the Department of Medical and Sanitary Services to that of the Department of Health.



The functions and responsibilities will continue to be the same. The radical changes visualised in the Health Services Bill are the three divisions into which the department is proposed to be divided—viz., Medical, Public Health and Laboratory—with authority delegated to the Deputy Directors in charge of these divisions.

DECENTRALIZATION

It is also proposed to decentralize the administration as far as possible so that the Divis. Superintendents (Medical) and Divisional Superintendents (Health) will have more power and authority within the areas covered by them. In order to make such decentralization effective it has been recommended by the various advisers to Government who have examined this question that the areas of operation of the Divisional Medical Superintendents on the Medical and Public Health sides should be co-terminous and that the two Divisional Officers of each division should work with a common administrative and accounting set-up. In view of the persistent demands of the public it is inevitable that the department must expand both in regard to its curative and preventive functions, and the administrative set-up has to be correspondingly enlarged and strengthened to cope with the increasing work that it must handle. It is well to remember that there is perhaps no other Health Administration in the world which has to assume almost sole responsibility for the medical and public health services of the country as a whole.

QUESTION OF OVERCROWDING

The question of overcrowding of hospitals has received a great deal of public comment. It is evident that the building programme of the department cannot keep pace with the public demand for medical treatment. In view of the persistent agitation the late Prime Minister obtained supplementary provision for a million rupees for the construction of Light Construction Wards to afford relief to the T.B. Hospitals as well as to the General Hospitals. These wards were distributed in the Western, Central and Southern Provinces where the overcrowding was greatest. Similar provision was obtained for additional wards and improvements to the Mental Hospital. It was observed that a great deal of overcrowding was generally due to the large number of maternity cases that were admitted to hospitals. A closer relationship between the hospitals and the domiciliary midwifery cases has been established and arrangements have been made for the free interchange of patients between District and General Hospitals on the one hand and Rural and Cottage Hospitals on the other. The ruling has been given by the Minister of Health with regard to the establishment of peripheral medical units and the consolidation and improvement of existing medical institutions will help considerably to develop medical institutions on proper lines.

EXPANSION OF MEDICAL SERVICES

With the expansion of the medical services as well as the number of medical institutions it has been found difficult to obtain the necessary staff to man those institutions. During last year 103 doctors were

newly appointed to the department. The specialized training of officers was carried out intensively. During last year 27 medical officers were sent to the United Kingdom and United States of America, one matron to the U.K., one Senior Tutor to U.S.A., and four Nursing Sisters to India. The special problems that received considerable attention, both in the curative and preventive fields were Tuberculosis, Venereal diseases, Leprosy, Cancer, Psychiatry, Radiology, Malaria, Filariasis and Rabies.

PUBLIC HEALTH WORK

An event of considerable importance in the Public Health Work not only of this country but of all Asian countries was the celebration last year of the 25th Silver Jubilee of the premier Health Unit at Kaltura. This Health Unit which was started on an experimental basis in 1926 proved so successful that after the great malaria epidemic of 1934-35 the then Minister of Health accepted the Health Unit pattern of work for application throughout the Island. In association with these celebrations, the foundation stone for an Institute of Hygiene for Ceylon was laid. The buildings estimated to cost over half a million rupees. This institution, together with the Institute of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene that is being developed in Kurunegala, will provide the necessary facilities for training of Public Health personnel in this Island. The Department co-operated fully with the international agencies and a full measure of assistance was received and given. The chief agencies were the World Health Organization, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, the Technical Co-operation Scheme—Colombo Plan and the Truman Point Four Programme. The last two are chiefly bilateral agencies which provide assistance on a bilateral basis and their activities began for the first time last year. Under the W.H.O. Fellowship Programme, seven fellowships were awarded to Ceylon for Hospital Administration, Medico-Social and Rehabilitation Work, Venereal Diseases, Maternity and Child Health, T.B. Bacteriology and a Travelling Fellowship in Malaria. For Maternity and Child Health two fellowships were offered but it was possible to select only one candidate owing to the dearth of suitable applicants.

ASSISTANCE UNDER C-PLAN

The first project for which the Ceylon Government received assistance under the Colombo Plan was the offer made by the Government of New Zealand to train six Dental Nurses in New Zealand. They are undergoing a period of two years' training in New Zealand and will be returning to Ceylon early next year. All their expenses are paid by the New Zealand Government. A further offer has been made to train six more nurses in dental nursing and the offer has been accepted. Three fellowships for post-graduate training in Public Health for medical

(Continued on page 11)

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"WAR" ON SALVINIA PLANT PEST

SALVINIA a free floating water fern, a native of India and Western Australia appears to have been introduced to Ceylon accidentally from India, and has spread to such an extent and assumed serious proportions as to be a pest affecting paddy cultivation. *Salvinia* made its first appearance in Colombo before 1940. On account of its rapid growth it had overrun the waterways along the sea coast from Negombo to far south as the Bolgoda Lake by 1943. At present it covers most of the waterways along the coast from Puttalam in the north, through the North-Western, Western and Southern Provinces as far south as Matara and inland as far as Kurunegala. It has appeared recently further inland, in the Matale district, and even on the eastern coast in the Batticaloa District. Perhaps it occurs in isolated patches elsewhere.

PLAN TO ERADICATE PEST

An Island-wide campaign has been launched by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and all-out efforts made to get this pernicious weed cleared from irrigation tanks, channels, rivers and paddy fields. All Government Departments interested in food production are taking part in this clearing campaign. The assistance of Rural Development Societies, Co-operative Societies, adult school children, scouts and Village Committees were obtained during the "Salvinia Week" (14th to 21st September) to clear the weed. Boats, rakes, baskets, and other equipment are being used in the process of eradication. The plant spreads to new localities in many ways. Tides and floods dispose it far and wide. Aquatic birds carry tender plants sticking to their feet or other parts of the body, to distant places. Buffaloes transport it to nearby fields and mud pools and other animals too have unwittingly helped in its dispersal. The rapid growth covers the water surface like a carpet so thick that they form into floating islands and in paddy fields prevent the paddy plants taking growth. It has helped in the spread of the disease—filariasis—which is caused by a mosquito whose larvae attach themselves to the roots under water and breathe through them. As a particular instance it has become a serious nuisance at the Stanley Power Station at Kolonnawa by

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blocking the water inlet for cooling machinery.

METHODS OF CONTROL

Means of controlling the plant with medicines are under investigation. The hormone type of weedicide appears particularly effective but the cost is said to be high and trials are being conducted to determine the most economic methods. Spread of the plant in large infestations could be prevented by laying bamboo or planks across the water and collecting the floating mass at the barrage or boom. The collected stuff may be shredded and ploughed into the land as a source of organic manure either fresh or after heaping it to dry. With the help of the naval authorities a concerted drive has been launched to eradicate *Salvinia* from Bolgoda Lake. Relief labour is being employed at Kotte to improve conditions there and steps are also being taken to free the Nilwala Ganga of this pernicious weed. Special nets made by the Fisheries Department are being used in the campaign. Where necessary, aerial surveys were first conducted and assessments made of the nature of work needed to clear the lakes of this weed. Several thousands of acres of cultivable lands that have gone waste or rendered uneconomic as a result of this plant creeping over the land will once more be brought into cultivation.

OMEGA.

Ceylon's Health Services

(Continued from page 10)

men were offered by the Australian Government and this too has been accepted and will materialize next year. Under this scheme of technical assistance a Thoracic Surgeon from the United Kingdom arrived in this country on the 29th December last year. He demonstrated to the surgeons in Ceylon Thoracic Surgical work and made a survey of the feasibility of the establishment of a Thoracic Surgical Unit in Ceylon. Several other requests were made under this scheme but they have not materialised as yet.

EXPENDITURE ON HEALTH SERVICES

The object of the Health Services Bill is to enact legislation for the re-organization of the department and for the introduction of a new policy with respect to the administration of Government hospitals. There will be a Consultative Council—the "Health Council" which will consist of the Director, three Deputy Directors and five other officers of the department, nominated by the Minister of Health, three of whom must be respectively officers of the Medical, Surgical and Obstetrical sections. There is provision for the constitution of Regional Hospital Boards for defined areas and for the constitution of Hospital Committees. The expenditure on Health Services during 1950-51 was Rs. 67,630,302 as against Rs. 62,364,132, spent during the preceding year. This represents about 7.43 per cent. of the total revenue and about 8.4 per cent. of the total actual expenditure of the Island. Provision has been made in the estimates for 1952-53 for a sum of Rs. 89,533,313 for Health Services. As stated by the Minister of Finance in his budget speech, "the preservation and improvement of the health of its citizens is one of the most important functions of a Government."

OMEGA.

Trade Mission to China

(Continued from page 7)

with the people of China and of re-establishing trade relations on a wider basis. Ceylon will like many other countries 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 distribution system. The principal object of the mission is to secure rice supplies and future supplies depended on the success of the forthcoming parleys.

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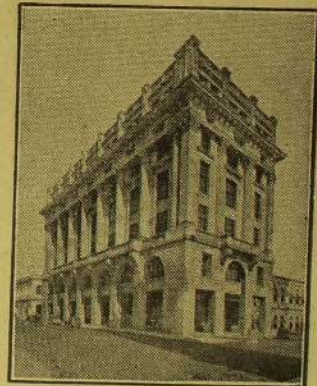
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