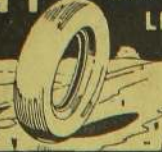


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# Speeding Up Unemployment Relief Schemes

## Labour Minister's Successful Defence of Govt. Action

THAT steps should be taken to adopt more unemployment relief measures as would result in some permanent benefit to the country, was the gist of a motion introduced in Parliament by a Labour Member during the recent session when private members' motions were discussed. Reference was made to large-scale retrenchment of labour and consequent increase of workless folk, low and inadequate wages and another phenomenon—"men having to work in water in the blazing sun, bareheaded and when they come out have become completely black, that even their wives will not be able to recognize them, because of the discoloration!"

It was also alleged that over ninety per cent. of the 7,000 employed in the harbour, work for over 16 hours a day. Had an eight-hour-day system been introduced, it was argued that employment might be found for an additional four thousand more.

### FOOD LOOTING

Mention was made of an incident in the harbour when a number of unemployed retrenched labourers from the labour pool and contract labour, who had been going day after day in search of work and not offered any, had set upon a double bullock cart carrying cooked food for other workers. They pounced upon the cart, ate the rice and curries and removed the balance home!, which showed that "the hungry man has no conscience and he is not going to consider the niceties of these things, whether the food belongs to somebody else". Stories of the French Revolution when people who had no food acted in an unreasonable manner were recalled. It was suggested, therefore, that the problem of unemployment should be studied from all angles and measures taken to afford relief on some definite plan. Working-class people in Colombo who were asked to go to Gal Oya declined the offer because the wages paid there were lower than the wages paid to labourers in Colombo, and most of them were famished men.

The mover presented a poser when he averred that "if it was possible during the war, during an emergency, for the Government to pay workers and people in uniform a separation allowance for doing no work, what is the difficulty now for the Government to pay a separation allowance to those labourers who have to go to Gal Oya or to any other particular scheme which they work to produce rice for the use of the country?"

### MINISTER CLARIFIES POSITION

Evidently the mover has tried to make out a case for increased unemployment relief and increased rates of pay and additional schemes

for helping the unemployed, said the Minister of Labour. "If it is suggested that the schemes adopted by the Labour Government are of no permanent value, I disagree. Some critics of Government say that most of these schemes are useless—merely cutting earth from one place and dumping it on another, or removing salvinia in certain areas—work that does not benefit the country. We have carefully studied the work given to these unemployed. Most of the schemes are not of immediate benefit, perhaps, but they will benefit the country in the long run. In many cases the work may consist of filling up marshy land with earth removed from hilly land not suitable for cultivation, but this work will ultimately, when the marshes have been filled up, be of benefit when housing schemes have to be started, when parks and playgrounds have to be laid out for the use of town dwellers. Then there is the removal of salvinia. The pest may reappear again, but the work is useful as a continuous unemployment relief measure. The work would be continued till the pest is eradicated and the area would be filled up and made suitable for cultivation. . . .

### NO UNRECOGNIZABLE HUSBANDS!

We are not getting enough men for this work in the areas and we have employed some people from Colombo, as well, people who are not used to working in marshy land. When they emerge from the marsh they probably look discoloured, but it is not a permanent affliction! A good bath with plenty of soap and water will remove the "discolouration". I have not heard of a single case where the wife and family of a worker so "discoloured" failed to recognize him on his return home! The mover referred to people employed by the military authorities during wartime, people who were paid, according to him, for merely putting on uniform and doing no work.

The Government is not prepared to follow that example,

said the Minister. We cannot afford it. We want people to be employed on work that would be of permanent benefit to the country. The Government—more than some of the Opposition critics—sympathises with the large number of the unemployed in this country, and we are doing everything possible to start schemes and to employ labour on works that would ultimately benefit both the workers and the country. We have not completed all the work. We have got a great deal to do to implement the recommendations of the Jennings Commission on social services."

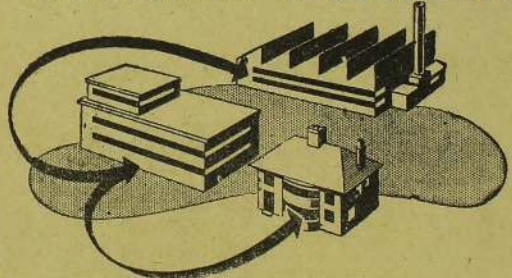
### MAN-POWER SURVEY

I would like to tell the mover that we are having all these schemes worked out. We are getting down experts for this purpose and we are studying carefully the recommendations that they make.

The Man-Power expert gave us an idea of what has got to be done and how this country can benefit by the complete study that he has made of the man-power of this Island. It is true that we have not been able to find work for everyone of the unemployed because the type of work that would suit certain people is not

(Continued on page 2)

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# Speeding Up Unemployment Relief Schemes

(Continued from page 1)

available. Now the large majority of unemployed people want work in the harbour. The harbour is employing about 7,000 men, people who are doing full-time work. We have also got a harbour pool where a reserve of labour is maintained so that at any moment, when a large demand is made for labour, as in the case of two or three large ships coming in at one time, we can draw upon this pool and carry on with the work available.

## THAT CONTINUOUS WORK

As regards to the reference to continuous work for long periods, the Minister said that he personally was in agreement that these labourers should not be made to work for long periods like sixteen hours or more. "I called some of these labourers", added the Minister and said: "Look here, it is not good for your health to work such long hours. Take it easy; take a shift of 8 hours' work at a time and give others a chance. But none of them were willing to do it. They said 'it is' far better for us, far more advantageous for us to do a continuous period of work without a break—day and night—and then take our wages and have a rest. None of them was willing to do a controlled period like 8 hours, giving a chance to the others. Some of them told me that they earn Rs. 8 or Rs. 10 a day if they do a continuous stretch of work."

## RELIEF WORKS UNDERTAKEN

Some of the schemes that the unemployed relief works have undertaken have certainly done useful work in many cases where they have been properly supervised. They have intervals of work and rest. The work is much lighter than that given

to people either by the P.W.D. or contractors, who employ unskilled labour. There is the Narahenpita-Kirillapone Scheme filling up marshy land. A building scheme has been started by the Municipal Council of Colombo and a large number of houses for the working-classes have been put up and many occupied.

Then there is the Kolonnawa Scheme for excavating and levelling up 20 acres of high land at Pansal-hena in order to provide 11½ acres for building purposes and make use of the soil to fill 45 acres of adjoining marshy land for the purpose of playing fields; that is for parks and playgrounds for children of the area.

Then there is the Muthurajawela Scheme started for the purpose of excluding salt water from the canals to be cut for the irrigation of a vast area for paddy growing. We are doing this work as an unemployment relief measure. Once the area is drained and the sea water is sent out, the land will be used for agricultural purposes. Reference was made to the Kalapaluwawa Scheme by a member. I can tell him that in that scheme which was one for strengthening the bund, the workmen were paid at the rate of Rs. 3.25 or Rs. 3.50 a day and the loss to Government was Rs. 500,000. When the Government has done so much, for the workers to come here and say that they are under-paid and starving, I think is wrong. It does not in any way make us feel that these unemployed people appreciate the good work that we are doing for their benefit.

## COLOMBO NORTH DEVELOPMENT

There is also the Maligawatte Scheme which commenced after the

acquisition of 160 acres of marshy land. It was originally intended to develop it by filling it up to a height of five feet above mean sea level; that was for the purpose of drainage. Later it was decided to construct a lighter dock and a canal and have parallel canals by filling up intervening spaces for construction of warehouses. Then there is the development of Colombo North. The idea is to have large canals from the harbour right into the heart of the City, upto Maligawatte, where warehouses will be built and boats and even ships can go right in and unload their wares. That is a scheme that is going to be of lasting benefit to the country. Until major schemes are taken up we are carrying out these unemployment relief measures so that at least the ground will be ready. Then the Urugodawatte Scheme consists of 20 acres of marshy land adjoining the new Kelaniya bridge approach road. The land reclaimed will be used for building purposes.

## OUTSTATION SCHEMES

The Minister next dealt with the outstation schemes for the relief of unemployment. The Mahara Scheme is one for laying and sluicing trolley track, cutting and removing overburden in quarry. A lot of work was being done in the Dehiwela Zoo. There are four schemes in the Kandy district such as regrading and aligning of roads like Lady Havelock Drive, removing silt from Kandy Lake and the Reservoir; building of a road across a number of estates leading to the new Home for the Aged. Then there is the Nawalapitiya U.C. Scheme to construct playing fields, flood protection bunds, drains etc.; construction of new roads in the Central Province, the Godamuduna-Wewatenne road and the Morahanagama-Kalugala road. Sites are being prepared for

the construction of various buildings for creches, homes for the aged, a girls' senior school in Kandy, police barracks in Kandy.

## MORE USEFUL SCHEMES

"What I am trying to show is that all these are useful schemes. They may not be useful immediately but they will be in time to come. You cannot keep on cutting a mass of earth for twenty years. Once that work is finished people have to take on work on other schemes; perhaps some of them may not be prepared to go to another area. There are a number of other schemes that we have adopted and some of them are in the making yet. There is one scheme which is being prepared by my department which is to absorb about 2,000 workers."

In Colombo South in Cotta Road they are filling up all the marshy land and water-logged areas where houses can be built. That is at least some measure of relief till they are able to find proper work.

## A TRAINING SCHOOL

"Give us a thousand masons and we will provide them with work", said the Minister, "but they must be trained men. I cannot take a man who has been all his life a peon and ask him to start work on a building."

It is for that purpose we are starting a school to train men for those works for which we require masons. This is in the Budget. We will train men as masons, carpenters and various other skilled workers. They will be absorbed into the school, given a proper training and while they are being trained they will be paid. At the end of their training they will even be supplied with the necessary tools for their work. That scheme is being prepared by the Government. All the schemes I have mentioned have been started; there are others yet to be started. We will do everything possible to see that the unemployed are provided with work."

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# TASK BEFORE THE NATION—V

By Stanley Morrison.

AS the population continues to grow at the rate of 200,000 a year, the most urgent task that faces the Government and the nation, after the food problem, is the need to increase the national income by building up fresh industries and expanding the existing staple industries. The plain and uncomfortable fact is that a population of over seven and a half millions is today trying to make a living on the self-same tea, rubber and coconut industries on which five millions lived some thirty years ago. If this situation continues for another five years, it simply means that the standard of living of the whole population must decline to disastrous levels and the Government will be hard put to it to find the revenue with which to maintain the social services which it at present maintains.

When the masses understand the full implications of this situation, they will realise the great value of enterprising capital as opposed to the kind of capital which is content to find an outlet in loans on mortgages and other passive forms of investment which actually contribute nothing to the increase of the national wealth. What Ceylon, therefore, badly needs in the future is active, enterprising capital which will seek out new avenues of investment by way of developing every available natural resource of the country and thus increase the national income and provide employment for its increasing population.

Is the Government doing anything concrete to encourage this kind of capital? Apparently not, since there is no differentiation still between the rate of taxation of passive capital and enterprising capital. The incentives at present offered to enterprising capital are

obviously inadequate since they have not encouraged capital to flow into new enterprises in anything but a trickle. What is needed is a new taxation policy which will increase the tax on idle and passive capital so that the capitalist who ventures out on the development of new resources in this country might be relieved completely of income tax for a period of at least seven years to enable him to consolidate his position and cover up any losses he may have incurred at the beginning of his enterprise. If our taxation policy is designed to discourage the unenterprising capitalist and to furnish the capitalist who is prepared to risk his capital on untired ventures, then many moneyed men would prefer to embark on new ventures rather than pay a large proportion of their income as taxes to the Government. This would create a dynamic situation throughout the country in that the people would begin to feel that things were really happening and they would partake of that spirit of national enthusiasm which has been produced in some parts of India and China as a result of the people there seeing great enterprises launched with the blessing of the Government. Such a spirit is now evident in India after the Indian Prime Minister, Mr. Nehru, recently inaugurated a great Village Community Scheme for the development of 400 villages benefiting some four lakhs of people—the first of any other scheme to be launched upon in the near future.

There is no doubt that, except for the great schemes started by Mr. Dudley Senanayake, when he was Minister of Agriculture, in the N.C.P. and the Gal Oya Valley, and for the extraordinary Port Development Scheme inaugurated by Sir John Kotelawala, Minister of Transport and Works,—as I said, there is no doubt that the masses in this country still do not have that upsurge of national feeling which arises from their seeing industrial

and social transformations designed to translate the new-won independence into a permanent freedom from want and fear. It is unfortunate but it is a fact that the present Government is not really to blame for the failure to embark upon those transformations at the present time, because soon after it was elected a depression set in in full force in the island's staple industries. The Government's resources have, therefore, been severely strained in the mere effort to purchase food for the people and capital resources are thus restricted to the unproductive purpose of feeding the people with imported food.

However, in this predicament, it would be timely if the Government proceeded to levy a much heavier

tax on unproductive private capital while relieving the really enterprising capitalist of income tax completely for a period guaranteed for at least seven years. Such a measure would automatically increase revenue, while at the same time set in motion forces that will lead to the development of the still untapped resources of this country. Together with this policy should go the creation of fresh incentives for foreign capital to enter Ceylon, on the condition that this capital is devoted to the opening up of new avenues of industrial and agricultural enterprise. It is worth nothing that even in Communist China the capitalist is still not suppressed where he is found, to be engaged in productive pursuits highly beneficial to the whole national economy.

## MALAYA, NO MURDERS TODAY

IN a Malacca jungle last week, Acting Police Corporal Roslan Bin Haji Mohammed waited three nights for his quarry. Someone had "whispered", i.e., informed, against noisy, hunchbacked Cheung Kit Ming, better known as "the Ape of Malacca". A top Communist guerrilla, a veteran killer and terrorist, Cheung had a \$25,000 price on his head. On the third night of the ambush, the Ape appeared and the police corporal shot him dead.

General Sir Gerald Templer, Britain's crisp, aggressive High Commissioner for Malaya, is slowly gaining ground in his war with the Red guerrillas. He has some 400,000 troops, police and home guards against about 5,000 Communists. Malaya is laced with barbed wire, crisscrossed with searchlights, web-

bed with interlocking patrols. More and more Malays and Chinese are whispering against the bandits, although many fear Red reprisals. Templer recently uprooted 66 men, women and children from one village and put them in a detention camp for failing to inform against Communist assassins.

In the past month, 101 guerrillas were killed (including 13 party bigwigs), 18 were captured and 24 surrendered. In the same period, the Communists killed 14 police and two British civilians. But one day last week, a Singapore paper was able to print this terse report: "Yesterday was one of the quietest days of the emergency for many months. No battles were reported. There were no murders."—(From "Time").



TWO-WAY ATLANTIC CROSSING IN ONE DAY

A Canberra jet bomber, piloted by the English Electric Company's Chief Test Pilot, Wing-Commander R. P. Beaumont, recently left Aldergrove R.A.F. Station in N. Ireland at 6.34 a.m., reached Gander by 11.15 a.m., and was back in Aldergrove by 4.43 p.m. A new record was set up for the west to east flight, which was completed in 3 hours 25 minutes at an average speed of 606 m.p.h. This picture shows Wing-Commander Beaumont (centre), checking watches with Flt/Lt. Hillwood (left) and Sq/Ldr. D. A. Watson (right).



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**Media of Instruction  
in Schools****"Effective Bi-Lingualism Should  
be the Aim"****Says Warden de Saram**

AT the Prize-Giving of St. Thomas' College at which the Prime Minister presided, the Warden submitted his report in the course of which he touched upon the Government's policy of education. Schools were being asked to provide all instruction in the sixth standard in the medium of the mother-tongue from next year and the intention was that in the year following the same shall be done in the seventh standard so that by 1955 all instruction up to the 8th standard will be in the mother-tongue.



Warden R. S. de Saram

"We shall of course, loyally attempt to carry out whatever is the Government's policy in this matter", declared the Warden who continuing said:—I would, however, suggest consideration of another approach to it. The old solution of English, more English and no Sinhalese or Tamil at all was bad and has long been given up. There followed a period when it was English with Sinhalese or Tamil as a second language; then a period with Sinhalese or Tamil very much the first language in the Primary School and English second. What is now contemplated is that Sinhalese or Tamil shall continue to be the first language in the Junior School stage and English the second. I suggest that this is not the best approach and does not take account of the facts of our situation. The facts simply are that a person to be educated for present day conditions, at any rate in a small country like Ceylon, must have at his command not only his own language but also a world language. I say 'at his command' and I mean that. A good knowledge of the one and a smattering of the other is not enough. Both should be effective means of communicating and receiving ideas and of acquiring and imparting knowledge. Briefly, effective bi-lingualism should be our aim for every child. If that is so and is recognised to be so our whole system from the Primary School upwards should be designed to that end. It is not.

**THE AIM BEFORE US**

What is the aim before us? It is important that we should know. Part of it is perfectly clear and no one will disagree with it. It is that every citizen of Ceylon should have a good knowledge of one of the national languages. But what is the intention about English? Is a good knowledge of that to be the possession of the few, who because they have the means can secure it privately outside the school curriculum or by prolonging their education after they have left school at private tutorials? For even when the national languages become the languages of administration the importance of English as a world language will remain. Is it to be the possession of a few or may all have equal access to it? If the latter is the aim then it should be made possible within the school curriculum. And the way to do that is, as I have said to make effective bi-lingualism the aim for every child. The present system and the extension of it which is contemplated will not secure it. It is

generally admitted that the standard of English has already fallen. It will fall still further if what is intended is carried out. Only those few who can afford special teaching outside the school curriculum will have a good knowledge of English in addition to the good knowledge of a national language which they will get at school. Only those will be fully educated for the modern situation. The bulk of us will be shut up to the language and literature of four million people. It is best that we should face the facts. There is no point in thinking that somehow it will be avoided.

**COMMUNALISM?**

There is another aspect of this matter to which insufficient attention has been paid though it has been mentioned from time to time by thoughtful people. It is the stressing of communal differences in the school organisation so that those of one community are separated from those of another for the greater part of their time in school; and this just at a time when every effort is being made by our leaders to make us one people. It is true that already in most schools in the country districts pupils belong to one community only. It is also true that even in some of the big schools even in towns the problem does not arise. For one reason or another these schools draw only or mainly on one community. The Schools which take in pupils of all communities and weld them into one school are comparatively few in number but they are rendering extremely valuable service just by doing that. There is scarcely any greater service a school can render to Ceylon at this stage in her political development. The policy contemplated is a hindrance to this service. If bi-lingualism were our aim the hindrance would largely disappear.

Whatever the policy may be we will continue as we have always done to take in pupils of every community. We will take no short cut about this and so endeavour to simplify our task. And it would be further our endeavour to see that the general standard of educational achievement will not fall and that every boy passing through this school has the opportunity to acquire a good knowledge both of a national language and of English. How this is possible—indeed whether it is possible at all under the system that is to be put into operation—only time and trial will show.

(Continued on page 5)



# THE NATIONAL LANGUAGES QUESTION

## Minister on the Value of English

A QUESTION that had arisen was how soon the use of the national languages contemplated by the Government in the administration could be effected, said Mr. M. D. Banda, Minister of Education, presiding at a meeting of the Kandy District Government Sinhalese Assistant Teachers' Association held recently. There was a large number of Government Servants who were not proficient in the use of Sinhalese or Tamil. As regards the media of instruction in schools, in many of them the vernaculars were in use up to the 8th standard, but schools teaching in English were affected by the change. Some people including educationists, experienced teachers and parents of children thought that the envisaged change was too sudden. They argued that there was an insufficiency of teachers and inadequate supply of textbooks for the purpose. Others like the Swabasha teachers were of the opinion that the tempo was too slow.

Continuing, the Minister said: "In a democratic state preferential treatment could not be given to any one section. It was the Government's responsibility to see that no harm was done in bringing about the change. Government expected to effect this change as soon as possible and without infringing upon the democratic rights of anybody."

The Tamils, though a minority in Ceylon, said Mr. Banda, were a numerous people living in India and elsewhere. There were accordingly more books in Tamil than in Sinhalese and the language itself was more developed than Sinhalese.

### VALUE OF ENGLISH

"Only six per cent. of the population in Ceylon spoke English", said Mr. Banda, "but English was a world language and a most useful language. In science and other spheres of knowledge, its utility was

great. Of Sinhalese-speaking people there were not more than four or five million in the entire world and the language had been in a state of neglect for several centuries."

### By Senex

English was necessary to develop Sinhalese and as a means of infusing new ideas and knowledge into Sinhalese. It was therefore essential that English should be taught as a second language in Swabasha schools."

### INDIA'S ATTITUDE

It is interesting to recall India's attitude to this problem of national languages. The Minister of Education, Maulana Abul Azad, recently explained new India's attitude towards the language problem within her borders. Speaking in Hindi, he said the Central Government in consultation with the Governments of the States had decided that education in the early stages should always be in the local mother-tongue. For inter-provincial communication, however, they require a national language and it had been decided that this should be Hindi, which language would therefore, be compulsory for all going into the secondary stage of education. Maulana Azad added that in the last 150 years the English language had attained a position which had helped to create uniformity of outlook throughout India. While it was imperative that Hindi must replace English and become the national language, they did not want English to disappear.

That was why they had made provision for the teaching of English at the secondary stage of education. At present English was compulsory. In future it would be compulsory too, but only the language, not the literature.

Maulana Azad further declared "English is an international language and belongs to the world. The advantages we have achieved from English are great that we would not want to lose them."

## Media of Instruction in Schools

(Continued from page 4)

It would be less than honest to deny that there is a grave risk of a fall in the general standard of educational achievement.

I urge therefore that this matter be given the fullest consideration. Apart from what has been said by me above we need books and we need men to put what is contemplated into even moderately efficient operation. Those needs, no doubt, in the phrase we know so well, are receiving attention but there remains some ground for uneasiness as to whether the attention will bear fruit in time.

If bilingualism be a necessity for us in Ceylon there is not the slightest reason to deplore it. As so often happens by bowing to the necessity and using it intelligently and willingly we shall be the more enriched. A study of two languages side by side provides the best of mental trainings and enhances the understanding of both. Indeed a crying need in our teaching is books which co-ordinate the teaching of Sinhalese or Tamil on the one hand with English on the other. A person who produces a series of carefully graded books of this sort for use in the Pri-

mary and Middle Schools would render a signal service.

### DUTY OF SCHOOLS

A part of the duty of schools is to prepare students for University Education either at our own University or abroad. The medium of instruction at the University as far as one can see must continue for many years to be English. Students with an imperfect knowledge of English will be seriously handicapped at the University as compared with those who have either been instructed in English or have been able by private tuition to maintain a good standard of English. The contemplated system therefore, while giving the appearance of being favourable to the masses of our people will in fact confine the advantages of higher education to a few.

These are sober facts, which the clamour of a few, who are most of them in a position to see that their own children at any rate will not suffer, should not be allowed to obscure. Any system of education which does not set up to give every child an opportunity to know both a national language and English well will not be truly democratic and it will not be long before the country awakens to the truth of this.

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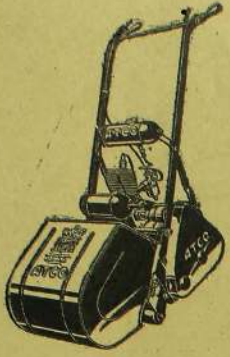
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Friday, October 17, 1952

### "COURTESY" COPS

SIR RICHARD ALUVIHARE and the senior officers of the Police Force in Ceylon have done much to change, in spirit, the word 'Force' into 'Service'. In many respects the Police are a "Service" to the public. This is a great achievement and is in marked contrast to the Dowbiggin-Banks days of spit, polish and braggadocio. There are, unfortunately, a few minor cops here and there who are an impertinence in a democratic, free country. They are not merely rude but positively impudent. They forget not only that they are paid servants of the people and therefore that the humblest citizen is their master, but they behave as if they own the roads and street junctions of our provincial towns.

Sir Richard's arduous duties are many and we do not wish to add to them, but we believe he would welcome co-operation with him in pointing out these defects. Stern action, adequately publicised, against such martinet behaviour, as may yet reflect badly on the Police Service, is the only remedy. To use a commercial phrase of tried and tested

wintage, the "customer is always right", and in relation to the Police, the customer is the Public. Whenever a member of the public complains of discourtesy, even when the policeman is within official rights, there should be prompt and unrelenting punishment. The most effective would be a personal apology from the wrongdoer to the injured party, for merely official reprimand on a personal file of a man will not subdue that vanity of office which often produces incivility to the public.

Time was when senior police officers were seen "ordering" motorists to "get out". The lower ranks used to say the same thing in the vernacular, making the choice of words more racy and memorable. That stage is now happily past, and we may rightly call the Ceylon Police Force "The Ceylon Police Service". In such changed times the strictest adherence to courtesy should be insisted upon. Inspectors and A.S.P.'s who may wish to "stand by" their men when public complaints are made are to be admired for their humanity and sense of leadership, but they must remember that each such condonation and white-washing will create the conditions under which discourtesy will thrive. We urge Sir Richard and the senior officers of the Police to give the highest priority to public complaints of discourtesy so that the fullest public co-operation and goodwill may be won from a public which is thus accorded the respect that is its due.

## "Ceylon Number" of Indian Medical Journal

THE Indian Journal of Malariology, a quarterly publication issued under the authority of the Indian Council of Medical Research, has named its March issue the first for the year "Ceylon Number" containing as it does a comprehensive account of the anti-malaria campaign in Ceylon. It is a sizeable volume of about 200 pages the Editorial Board being composed of the leading authorities on Tropical Medicine and allied subjects.

The contributors to the "Ceylon Number" are Dr. S. Rajendram, Superintendent, Anti-Malaria Campaign, Ceylon, and Mr. S. H. Jayawickreme, Entomologist, Medical Research Institute, Colombo. One part deals with the physiography of the Island and climate, distribution and prevalence of malaria, history of malaria control, the anopheline mosquito of Ceylon and vital statistics (1901-49). The other part contains an account of the prevalence and seasonal variation of the malaria vector, malarial morbidity, spleen and para-

site rates. Explanatory charts and maps illustrate the articles.

This is not the first occasion when prominence was given to Ceylon in reputable Indian publications. In February this year, the Illustrated Weekly of India published a "Special Ceylon issue" containing articles on the late Prime Minister, the Gal Oya Project, the University of Ceylon, the Colombo Plan, the Exhibition in Colombo, Ratnapura City of Gems, Literary Glimpses of Ceylon, Yala Jungle Trails, Sigiriya, etc., including a galaxy of pictures of the Lion Rock, murals at the Gotami Vihare in colour and a number of portrait types, incidentally advertising Ceylon and the progress made since the country achieved independence.

This kindly gesture on the part of India will be greatly appreciated and the wish that India could be friendly on a neighbourhood basis with Ceylon, instead of a State basis will be definitely realised.

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# FIRST CEYLONese GOVT. PRINTER

## A PEEP INTO THE PAST

SINCE the inception of the Government Press 119 years ago, the first Ceylonese Government Printer has just been appointed. Mr. Bernard de Silva who joined the Government Press two years ago as Additional Works Manager received his training in England whither he was sent by the Managing Director of the Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd., where he was employed for more than fifteen years. Mr. de Silva during his training won the coveted Gold Medal of the London School of Printing. He is an old boy of St. John's School, Panadura, and since joining the Govt. Press has been responsible for a large share of its reorganization. He has also been responsible for the printing of 89 electoral registers for the Parliamentary Elections which was done for the first time in Ceylon. Many of the publications for the Government Departments and in connection with the Colombo Exhibition including colour work were carried out under his supervision.

### ORIGIN OF THE GOVT. PRESS

The origin of the Government Press goes back to the early period of British occupation when it was known as the Government Printing Office and was in charge of Head Printers, usually the senior compositors, up to the year 1833. The business was conducted from 1833 to 1849 by non-professional superintendents from whom the printers received instructions. The first Superintendent was Mr. G. Lee, afterwards Postmaster-General who held office from 1833 to 1835 and was succeeded by Lt.-Col. Gray who held the appointment one year only previous to joining his Regiment. Afterwards the office was filled by clerks from the Colonial Secretary's office. Mr. P. L. de Vos was Superintendent from 1836 to 1844. Mr. A. Joseph from 1845 to 1849 when the office of Gov-

ernment Printer was created by the Secretary of State and the appointment was conferred on Mr. William Skeen, the first professional Superintendent. With the close of the year 1899, fifty years of professional management was completed.

### PEEP INTO THE PAST

The records of the period form most entertaining reading. The office was "wholly destitute of a large class of materials without which no printer could believe it possible for a business to be carried out." Knowing the practical ignorance of the superintendents, the workmen had "tyrannised" over them, doing just what they pleased themselves and resorting even to threats in order to silence any complaints of interference. Speculation was rife. "Everyday the place was crowded with Moormen and others who bartered their commodities for paper, in the taking of which there was not the slightest scruple."

Strong measures had to be taken and strong opposition was of course, encountered. Before six months had elapsed the men in one branch who considered that their vested interests had been infringed—the pressmen—in a body tendered their resignation complaining that they had "to endure arbitrary and demeaning usages" and stigmatising the new Government Printer's conduct as "more befitting the commonest coolies or slaves than well-bred citizens". The men were dismissed for preferring so groundless a charge and firmly determined to maintain his authority to introduce order and system and put a stop to all irregularities. Mr. Skeen, a man of indomitable courage and possessing an extraordinary knowledge of human character, gradually laid the foundation of the system which more or less obtain at the present day. Mr. Skeen died in harness in 1872 and was succeeded by Mr. W. H. Herbert who retired owing to ill-health in 1881 and was succeeded by Mr. G. J. A. Skeen the son of the first Government Printer.

OMEGA.

## CEYLON'S FIRST MUSLIM NEW YEAR HOLIDAY

INDEPENDENCE had to come to Ceylon before it could have a public holiday for the Muslim New Year. The first such holiday for the Island occurred this year on the 22nd September, when public offices and Muslim business houses were closed. Radio talks and meetings formed part of the celebrations. The Muslim calendar based on the lunar months opens with the month of Muharram, a month hallowed as having been the one in which Adam was created and Noah's Ark came to rest on a mountain after the Floods. But in Ceylon it is best known for the observances of Hobson Jobson. 22 Muslim Associations with whom were associated Ullamas and khateeb (men of learning) formed an Action Committee this year at Slave Island to stamp out hobson jobson. Such old customs as taking panja and firebathing and going about in fancy costumes singing from door to door were condemned as irreligious at the meeting of these associations.

Very appropriately pre-Muharram sermons at Friday services in mosques appealed for the elimination of unislamic activities in connection with the month of Muharram. Parties of "tiger" dancers in the streets and hobson jobson once a real threat to public peace due to

rivalry keep the Police very much on the alert in some years as on Sinhalese New Year days. These sermons also drew attention to the importance of religious devotions to perpetuate the memory of the martyred leaders Imam Hassan and Imam Hussein the beloved grandsons of the Prophet. Unislamic practices were attributed to ignorance, indifference and superstition among Muslims in South East Asia.

The religious celebrations of the month of Muharram occur on the 10th day of the month of Muharram which this year coincides with the 1st of October. No doubt if this anniversary in 1843 was celebrated with the recitation of Mowlood, feeding the poor and hadheez (religious lectures) the New Moor Street riots of 1843 would never have occurred. It taught the Police the dangers of permitting two processions on the same day and time on the same route even for a religious purpose. Anticipating trouble the Superintendent of Police was at one end of New Moor Street with a posse of constables by 10 o'clock in the morning that day. Placing himself between the two processions he caused with some personal exertion the procession of one party with 4 pagodas to move up the rise of the hill in New Moor Street. Other Policemen kept back the second procession. The Superintendent of Police was thus engaged in alternately urging the one forward and keeping the other back. There was keen rivalry between the processionists some of whom had armed

## Rebirth of Essen, Germany

"WHAT are your plans?" news-men asked Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach when he was arrested in 1945 as a war criminal, amid the wreckage of his vast armaments empire. "Rebuild the factories," answered Krupp, "and produce again." Last week he was about to make good his resolve.

In World War II, Allied bombers knocked out more than 60% of Krupp's Essen plants and equipment and the work begun by bombers was carried on by the victorious governments. Russia grabbed more than 130,000 tons of valuable Krupp machinery. Britain carted away 150,000 tons of valuable scrap, systematically dismantled half of the remaining Krupp buildings. Krupp himself was tried at Nuremberg and sentenced to twelve years in prison. (Six years later, U. S. High Commissioner John J. McCloy commuted the sentence to the time already served.)

Founded in 1811, the Krupp firm sold arms to all nations and all causes, became a symbol of Bismarck's blood and Iron Reich under Alfred Krupp, the present Krupp's great-grandfather. During his trial, Alfried Krupp said: "As a member

of the fifth generation which produced steel, the fourth generation which forged weapons, I should like to add one thing. Never in my parents' home... did I hear one word or experience one act which welcomed or promoted any war at any place or at any time. The symbol of our house does not depict a cannon, but three interlocked wheels, emblem of peaceful trade."

Last week representatives of the Allies and West German government officials were putting the final touches to a joint agreement permitting Krupp's wheels to turn again—for peaceful trade. Under the agreement, Krupp will be 1) forced to sell its coal mines and steel plants, and 2) will be allowed to produce only working peaceful products like trucks, ships, locomotives and agricultural machinery. But many a European industrialist hoped that the ban on arms production would soon be withdrawn. "The sooner Krupp pitches in to do its share in the rearming, the better said one British official. "I certainly don't like to see them capturing all the civilian export markets while the rest of us struggle to produce arms for the common defense."—(From "Time").

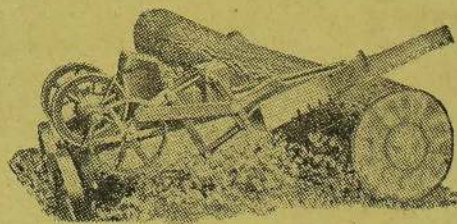
themselves with swords, daggers and stout sticks. It soon became hazardous for the Police to stand between the processions, yet the Police had almost succeeded in preventing a fight when one of the processionists darted past the Policemen and cut a man, another one receiving a severe sword cut across the back. The "Fireworks" now began. Showers of stones and brickbats came down on the Policemen and everybody else. People jumped on the tops of houses and denuded the roofs of tiles which were used as weapons. Only a charge of cavalry according to the Police could have put a stop to the melee.

At Kayman's Gate one party had halted. They were raging at the destruction of one of their pagodas and refused to obey Police instructions. By some means they were pushed to the upper end of Main Street and only after a Military party of the 90th regiment had made its appearance at the Racquet Court was the place cleared. Two died in hospital as a result of the riots and many were grievously injured. Fears were expressed that the attacks would be renewed and Colombo had one of its most anxious nights; but it passed without incident.

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# U.S.A. The Permanent Revolution

## The American Way of Life

(Continued from last issue)

THUS it will be found upon closer inspection that there is not just one American way of life. There are American ways of life, almost without number. For example, there are the great regional differentiations, where nature herself has conspired with American institutions to create ways of life, as different from each other as those of two nations might be.

It is true that these American "sub nations" are bound together, by many common ties, including the important tie as of language; yet their temperamental characteristics, their customs, their values and views; their personal objectives differ so greatly that a man who is happy and effective in one might be miserable and frustrated in another.

Take the Far West. This vast area, which begins, roughly speaking, at the Eastern border of Colorado, has of course, many things in common with the rest of the United States. Yet the ways of those people are very different from the ways of the Easterner. Nature herself has made sure of that, for the Far West is a region of majestic drama, of mountains and buttes, and deserts, besides which the woods and streams of the east coast look puny. The Western people, generally speaking, are more outspoken than the Easterners, more cordial, more generous of their time and money; they speak slower, and they have a way of cutting through a lot of argument to reach a quick conclusion on which they are willing to stand or fall. The Easterner is endlessly fascinated by them; but he considers them naive, unsophisticated, lacking in perspective in the ways of the world. In fact, the West is to the East as the East is to Europe.

And yet, as anyone knows who has lived out there, these generalizations misrepresent the realities. The Far West includes many ways of life. Take, for example, the differences between the Pacific North-West and California. In the Pacific North-West the great rivers rise in snow-capped mountains and wind down through gorges to the sea. The cities are incredibly young—Seattle has not yet celebrated its centenary. The trade union country and the standard of living is high. But happiness is pursued in the North-West with a certain calm simplicity that is rare in America. For all the youth of his region, the North Westerner is something of a philosopher; he expects a lot out of life, but he doesn't aim to get very rich. He attends to his business all right, but he is more interested in his mountains, and his waters; he would rather pack up with his wife and kids, with about 200 dollars worth of camping gear in the back of his car, and push off for a ten-day tour of his magnificent State parks; or go cruising in a small boat, or salmon fishing in the foaming streams of the Columbia River watershed, or skiing on the mighty slopes of Mount Rainier.

In the eyes of the North-Westerner, the Californian, therefore, is a noisy fellow. The Californian goes about in bright informal clothing of many colours and lolls on bright beaches along the shores of the bright-blue Pacific and grows oranges that shine brightly from the dark-green foliage of the orange trees. That is to say, the Southern Californian does; the Northern Californian is altogether different. Northern California merges with the Pacific North-West and has its roots firmly planted in San Francisco, the westernmost metropolis of Western civilization. San Francisco has become a place where a man can find anything he wants to find, which is perhaps the best definition of metropolitanism.

But Los Angeles, which is the headquarters of the Southern Cali-

fornian, is not like that. Los Angeles is big and boastful and overrun with Easterners and movie actors and cultists of infinite variety. It is also the Mecca of the retired couple who took the life-insurance ads seriously and have come out here to enjoy the "beauty" and "leisure" and watch the sun set westwardly over the Pacific. But, the North-Westerner has the feeling, as he passes the innumerable little "bungalows" that sprawl out into what was a few decades ago, a near desert, that the beauty is wasted here, that it is not appreciated as in the North-West, that it has not been absorbed.

Somehow like the movie industry that it houses, Southern California seems to be removed one step from the real, to live in a world that nature never made—or, for that matter, man. That is the big difference between Southern California and the North-West.

Then there is the other vast region of the United States between the Rocky Mountains and the Appalachians, where a river may be a thousand miles long and where everything drains into the Mississippi. Here all lines are horizontal, life is intensely practical and "real", and the quarter-sections and the fields and the towns duplicate themselves, league after league, in seemingly endless repetition. It is here in this great "valley" that the itinerant lecturer has his worst time and reaches his most pessimistic conclusions; for unless these people are studied community by community, they appear to vanish into sociological generalizations.

But actually when you come to know Kansas you find it very different from Minnesota, for example, with its high percentage of Swedes, and Germans and a better balanced economy than Kansas has ever had. Kansas, Nebraska and the Dakotas are heavy agricultural exporters; their way of life is based upon the soil, and even their towns exist for the farmers, not the townspeople. This makes town life quite different from that of an Eastern town, or even of a town in a manufacturing area of the Midwest (such as Chicago or St. Louis, for example), where the town exists, so to speak, for itself, and lives on its own exports. The Midwest farmer is fat with the world's riches and safe from its depredations. But he is not in the least soft. On the contrary, he has time after time challenged the power of the East, which he regards with a congenial suspicion that is much more marked in the Midwest than in the Far West.

The Midwest merges into the South, and as it does the standard of living declines. The South is a problem country. It grew up differently from the rest of the nation, with an economy based on big landholdings and slave labour. It still has with it the problem of the Negro; in many towns of Mississippi and Alabama the Negroes outnumber the whites, who cling to their political power by any means, fair or foul. The Southern ways of life differs radically from other American ways of life. The pace is slower. The extremes of poverty and riches are greater. The traditions are better preserved. The storied "Southern aristocracy" is becoming something of a myth, but it has left behind it the tradition of Southern cooking which is supposed to be the best in the United States (though no vestige of it is to be found in the hotels and public eating places); of hospitality, which makes the New Yorker look like a boor; of flirtatious women; and of peaceful ways whose like is to be found nowhere else in the United States.

And then there is Texas, the independent nation that became a State in 1845. Geographically Texas belongs to both the Midwest and the South, but in terms of its way of life it belongs to neither. Maybe California has outstripped Texas in population growth but Texas has

(Continued on page 9)



## NEWS FROM ABROAD

### "Nest of Traitors"

LAST November Australia's Communist newspaper (The Tribune) had a scoop: the details of a draft treaty of friendship, commerce and navigation between the U. S. and Australia. The treaty, which has been in the works for five years, contained no vital secrets, but the affair was nevertheless alarming: it suggested that a high government official with access to the classified treaty had given the information to the Reds. In Parliament later, Australia's foreign minister, Richard Casey, admitted the leak. (Although Casey denied the connection, members' questions pointed to one John Burton, a former top official under Casey's Laborite predecessor, Herbert V. Evatt. Burton last spring led a delegation of fellow travelers to Red China's "Pacific Peace Conference.")

Pressed for action, Casey said: "The government is doing its utmost to uncover the nest of traitors which exists somewhere or other in our public service."

Last week an anti-Communist charged that there were spies at the Rum Jungle uranium mines (see below) and even in Parliament itself. Australians were beginning to wonder whether the government's search for the traitors was getting anywhere. In Parliament last month, Laborite Allan Fraser asked: "Can the Minister for External Affairs inform me whether the nest of traitors is still in public service?"

Casey: "Yes."

Fraser: "Will the Minister say why the traitors have not been arrested and placed on trial?"

Casey: "If the honourable member will bide his time, all will be made clear."—(From "Time").

### Lesson from a Piece of Cheese

PREMIER Antoine Pinay, a resolutely ordinary Frenchman, likes to think of France as a large-scale model of Saint-Chamond (pop. 15,000) his industrious little home town (its chief product: shoe-laces) near Lyons. As often as he can, Pinay locks his desk in the Hotel Maignon, his official Paris residence, and slips away to look over the prosperous tannery he still owns in Saint-Chamond, and to chat with local shopkeepers and housewives about the problem on whose solution he has staked his political future: how to cut prices, hold back inflation. Recently, le petit Premier made a startling discovery: high prices are caused not simply by "greedy capitalists," as the Socialists and Communists would have it, but by "thrifty" French housewives

who have forgotten how to be thrifty.

Last week, in the magazine Rea-lites, Pinay reported on some experiments, conducted by a staff of economists, which confirmed his own findings at Saint-Chamond.

Faced with two halves of the same Camembert cheese, one carrying a bigger price tag than the other, French housewives "always" ("You hear me—always") ask for the more expensive piece.

Presented with both halves of the same bolt of cloth, customers not only buy the higher-priced half but actually invent reasons justifying the price difference.

As long as they stick to such spend-thrift habits, concluded Pinay, France should not expect the government to perform price-cutting miracles. "Ever since Henry IV, all governments have broken their teeth on this problem (of prices). The only solution would be an abundance of goods and the restoration of free competition. But things are not that simple, because the customer does not know how to defend himself. On the contrary, he favors high prices."

Line of Mercury. Pinay had a good talking point, but he would need results, not arguments, to convince the National Assembly, which reconvenes next month, that his government can keep its promise to balance the French budget without raising taxes. At first Pinay did remarkably well (Time, April 21 et seq.), but by last week his "save-the-fanc" campaign had fallen afoul of man and nature. Foot-and-mouth disease, raging in central France, had ravaged cattle herds, sent beef and veal prices soaring. A hot, rainless summer reduced butter and cheese production, ripened a grape harvest so abundant that the bottom fell out of the wine market. Rearmament cutbacks produced spotty unemployment in the engineering trades; French labor unions threatened new demands for wage increases. With France's 1952 budget already 200 billion francs in the red Pinay was in a tough spot.

Without additional U. S. aid (which Washington has already refused), France might soon be in for more trouble. But "Lucky" Pinay refused to be downhearted. Last month, vacationing at Aix-les-Bains in the French Alps, he ran into a gypsy in front of his hotel. The gypsy grasped the Premier's hand, studied his palm and said: "I see no change in your present political situation for at least a year or possibly two..." Then the gypsy traced Pinay's line of Mercury (which shows ability in the pursuit of wealth), and added: "You are going to make a long voyage to North America within the next two or three months..."

Washington didn't need to read its heart line (which shows generosity to others) to figure out why.—(From "Time").

## U. S. A. The Permanent Revolution

(Continued from page 8)

got richer faster than any comparable region of the United States ever has. Oil derricks, sky-scrapers, flamboyant hotels, oil and gas pipelines, canals, piers and great industrial shapes have sprung like mushrooms from a landscape that the North-Westerner would consider quite drab. It is the land of the big rich; the making of wealth dominates the way of life. And yet wealth is really only a symbol for the Texan, he likes to spend it just as wildly as he makes it; he loves the "feel" of struggle, the exhilaration of victory, of "getting ahead". Everything here is on a big scale, as if the gods had lifted the curtain for a drama in Valhalla. The young folks associate in droves—one of their barbecues will be attended by a hundred or more. As an Easterner once complained, he wished that Texas could be friendly on a neighbourhood

basis instead of on a State basis. The ordinary Texan thinks nothing of driving two or three hundred miles just to see a "local" football game.

The Texan way of life, indeed, represents an extension into the twentieth century of certain ideas that animated all Americans up to the First World War. Here is the land of opportunity, where anybody can rise to the "top"; where tomorrow is unpredictable and yesterday unnecessary. Here the intrepid individual, the risk, the adventure, the fabulous reward, have somehow come to fruition in a world largely occupied with the less romantic problems of social "security" and social "science". It is possible for the modern American to feel somewhat nostalgic about Texas, however he may smile—or cringe—at its recesses.

(To be continued).



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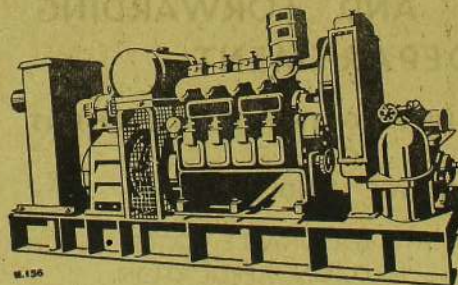
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## THE MEANING OF FULL EMPLOYMENT

FULL employment is an economic problem which looms large in all parts of the country. Political equality in the context of economic instability, and social backwardness is inane and meaningless. With the emergence of the welfare state, the activities of the Government have become wide and numerous. Ours is an undeveloped country in the economic sphere, when compared with other Western countries, but in the light of the present situation, the standard of living of the people in Ceylon is higher than that of South-East Asian countries. Unemployment has become rampant, and it is the duty of the State as a social service State to solve this burning problem.

According to Lord Beveridge "the greatest evil of employment is not physical but moral, not the want which it may bring, but the hatred and fear which it breeds". There is some truth in this statement, and in the light of such a truth, the Government's aim should be to eradicate this fly in the ointment of social and economic progress altogether.

The factory and all working establishments should not be watertight compartments without giving the employee the right of decent living and relaxation, nor should it be a picnic or haphazard mechanism, but in it life should be real and earnest. The Government should put the right man in the right place according to one's aptitudes and capabilities. Thus the work becomes expedient and smooth, otherwise it will be cumbersome and dilatory.

The first aim of the Government should be to take a survey of the whole island and record the exact number of those who are unemployed. There are about 65,000 unemployed according to Government Reports, and of this number about 34,000 are unskilled, 15,000 semi-skilled, skilled 10,500, the technical and clerical class consist of about 6,000—when compared to our population, the number unemployed is alarming and the Government should take immediate action. According to the wages calculated in conformity with the various classes of unemployed, the State will have to spend about Rs. 65,000,000 to relieve these persons from the pressure of unemployment. Money is being passed by Parliament for the purpose of giving employment, but the Labour Department alone in 1949, did not spend about 4 million rupees out of the 7½ million which was voted. Thus the people at large were handicapped in getting jobs and thereby lost the chance of getting employment. Thus these defects should be eliminated, and instead the Government should take vigorous steps to co-ordinate the work according to a well-defined scheme of work.

Spending such an amount of money on unemployment relief is no loss to the country, as it is the State which derives the benefits out of the toll of the worker. The worker should be mainly of a profitable nature and the work should be efficient and of a high standard without shirkers, but honest workmen who have a keen interest in the work. In the light of the growing advancement of Agricultural and Industrial projects which are set-up by the State the country's unemployment problem should be tackled without much strain on the Government finances. If the country is to realize the fruition of this political independence and to make Ceylon a self-sufficient State and to remove this unequitable distinction between the higher and lower classes, it is economic development, social equality and more jobs for the unemployed that will be an important factor in the realization of the full-fledged social service State.

T. B. HERAT,  
Maraluwawa,  
Kurunegala.

25th August, 1952.

## A LETTER FROM PARIS

WHEN the first touch of fall tints the leaves along the Seine, Paris takes off her summer make-up and welcomes back her Parisians. The French, who greet their visitors in the spring, return from their summer hide-a-ways just in time to wave goodbye. And the curtain goes up on a city the summer guests can only imagine.

The coming season in the French capital is expected to outsparkle the gaiety and activity of any period since the war, according to Pan American World Airways. The French feel prosperous and, with a banner tourist summer behind them, they have something to celebrate. They are hoping the off-season traveller will join in their festivity.

### SOCIAL AND CULTURAL WHIRL

The brilliant social and cultural whirl begins on October 2nd with a special all-star charity show with Maurice Chevalier. On the serious side, the Paris Opera is putting on again Paul Dukas' controversial "Les Indes Galantes" during part of which the audience gets sprayed with perfume. For those who think this isn't quite dignified enough for opera, there will be traditional performances of Aida, The Marriage of Figaro, and many other well-known operas. There will be new programs for the Paris Symphony and for the three ballet companies.

At the Comedie Francaise, Jean Sarmant's new adaptation of Romeo and Juliet will be offered and also, for the first time in 27 years in Paris, Moliere's "Don Juan."

On the lighter side the cabarets are full of talent. The sad songs of Edith Piaf, the romantic songs of Jean Sablon, and the pleasant humour of Charles Trenet will all be available. The Folies Bergere hopes to feature Josephine Baker and the irresistibly funny Peters sisters. Mistinguett, 80 years old and loved by all, will also be around.

### HOT JAZZ

Hot jazz lovers will find the little cabarets of St. Germain de Pres on the left bank jumping to the music of Sidney Bechet, Claude Luter and Mezz Mezzrow.

For many travellers who combine business and pleasure, there are a flock of important industrial exhibits, beginning on October 2nd with the International Auto Show and its Grand Prix auto race on October 6. Among the dozens of autumn shows are those of feminine beauty products, household gadgets, office equipment, a special boat show and the inevitable agricultural equipment show.

### FASHION OPENINGS

The frenzy of the August fashion openings will be replaced with continuous, more relaxed showings of new designs all fall and winter. These showings, impossible for the ordinary traveller to visit during August or February when the top buyers and fashion magazine reporters are around, are easy to get into in the fall. Tickets may be obtained from Pan American's Paris office, or sometimes, from the hotel clerks. A reservation is necessary for the big four—Jacques Fath, Balenciaga, Christian Dior and Jean Dessès—but can ordinarily be arranged without difficulty.

Visitors wanting to see many showings in the elegant little salons with their deep carpeting and fragile gilt chairs, can apply for a general admittance card from the Chambre Syndicale de Haute Couture. Many women with an eye for patterns and also for their budgets, work out their own costumes with small inexpensive Paris dressmakers. Few visitors dare to come home without a few new Paris labels to their credit.

### DRESS BALLS

Balls, fetes and parties will go on all fall and winter. At the fashionable dress balls the President of France's personal "Garde Republicaine" is sure to show up in brilliant costumes of white breeches, plumed hats, red coats and gold epaulettes which give one the feeling of the real "gay Paree."



# The Press and Democracy

By Eardley Gunasekera

IN a troubled world where a variety of forces are in constant conflict, a Democracy, to many is an accepted solution.

Is Democracy a by-word, a passport, a totem pole in existence? Is it merely a vacuous word? Can it be distorted for the sake of convenience? How best could we guard it? These are the questions that are commonly asked. In answering the innumerable questions of the like one thing must be remembered—that it feeds man in its entire completeness and not man reduced to the condition of the herd, that it nourishes man as a single human entity and not as an insignificant cog in a giant social mechanism. In this context therefore it becomes obvious to draw the inference that man is the means and is simultaneously the end to the achievement of the perfect democratic ideal.

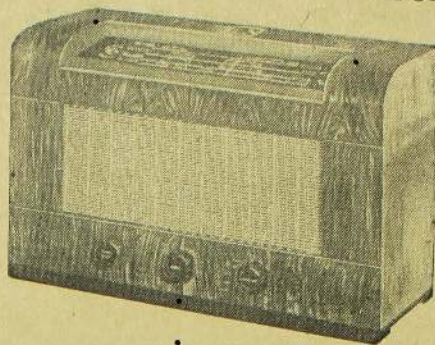
When talking of a democracy it becomes natural then to think and balance man in terms of democracy, democracy in terms of man and so on. Both of them appear to be synonymous. However, there is no doubt that the one is interdependent on the other but this interdependence in turn is dependant on another strengthening factor—intelligence of the man. The greater the degree of intelligence therefore the easier it is for a democracy to thrive. For it is obvious that we cannot expect a democracy to survive the trials of idiotic people! There is also at the same time another consideration we must bear in mind and that that no man is a fool since everyone has been endowed with intelligence but with variations in its development. It is education and education alone which can assist in this development but quite unfortunately the great majority of people have not the opportunity of enjoying some sort of education, and the common nation that the successful operation of a democracy depends largely on the common man must not be taken too seriously. There is a common tendency in these times to speak in diffuse and ambiguous terms when referring to this age as the age of the common man and hackneyed expressions of a similar type.

The working of a democracy, as I said before, must not be attributed to the greater part to the common man because there are many more factors besides that that contribute to the successful working of a democracy. The bass voice of the Press has had an overwhelming effect on the thought and actions of a people. By virtue of the wide and extensive circulation a particular newspaper may have it is in a position of distributing what it believes to be the truth and at other times an impartial judgment from a disinterested and detached point of view. But more often than never many of the views given by a newspaper is in keeping with the policy and ideals that particular paper normally advocates. Generally in a country where there are a great number of newspapers each advocating a definite policy and each enjoying a circulation of its own the reading public is prone to be disintegrated into categories with different views. But this does not mean that the greater the number of views the better it is for a democracy because a great many divisions, sub-divisions and further divisions would tend to retard rather than accelerate the working of a democratic form of government. It is then left to the reader not to accept quite innocently everything and anything a newspaper may set down in black and white because when reading a newspaper it is a generally acknowledged belief that it is advisable to be critical and exacting on what a newspaper has to offer us.

To the mass of men in a country where education is considered a luxury or to the mass of men who have received only 'a slight smacking' of it the newspaper is a tolerable source of information. They merely read and accept all that it has to say because their positions are so unenviable, their minds so undeveloped, their attitudes so restricted that a newspaper appears to them a fountain of knowledge and a perfect source of information. Thus many are apt to forget that the Press occupies a conspicuous place in the democratic world. If the Press too realises this it becomes easier for the working of a democracy. The fact that a particular Press exercises a dominating influence on the minds of the people does not mean that it must seek to impose and force down the throats of the reading public its views and beliefs. The importance of the Press in the democratic world has now been fully realised because on many occasions it assumes the dual role of leader and informer. Leader because it is capable of guiding and directing the masses either correctly or incorrectly. An informer because it gives people a message and brings to their notice all that is happening around.

If then the Press resorts to distortion, insincerity and unreasonableness merely for the sake of enlarging their circulation and 'propagating their faith' we can be rest assured that the stability of a democratic order is to a degree threatened. It is for the Press in these circumstances to be alive to its duties towards a society which can be secure only in a democratic world. If on the other hand this elementary function goes unregarded then I can only reluctantly say that the destruction of the democratic world is close at hand. In Ceylon in particular where there are only two leading newspapers the public are only given the opportunity of viewing situations from only two points of view. For this of course those papers cannot be blamed though it would have been better if the public were given more reading matter. The lack of enterprise and initiative so far has prevented the Ceylonese from making such a large undertaking. It is hoped however that with the improvement of economic conditions and the growth of the initiative spirit in Ceylon we can hope to witness a further assistance in the working of our democracy.

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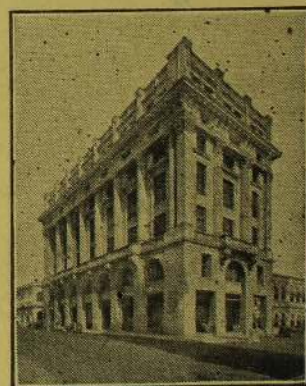
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COLOMBO BUILDING

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One well-known British Journal writes of the Association as follows: "The contracts of the Association are liberal to the Assured. Its premiums are low and its financial resources second to none. In a word the National Mutual of Australasia is an Office which can with confidence be recommended to intending assurers."

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