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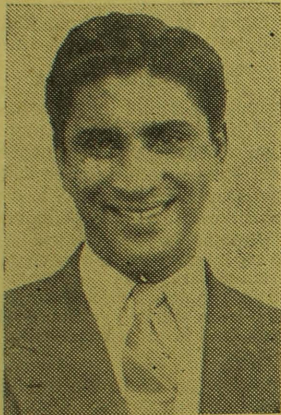
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Man of the Year



Mr. R. G. Senanayake

MR. R. G. Senanayake is the Man of the Year in Free Ceylon. His five-year training under the daily guidance of the late Father of The Nation has made him our saviour in the present economic crisis.

He is being subjected to an unworthy form of personal attack which all just people will resent.

The amazing criticism has been made that he is a young Minister, only 4 months in office. What then of our Prime Minister who has been a Prime Minister only for that same period. Where is the logic of this argument? Our Finance Minister is also a young man. R. G.'s critics in the Press are even younger than he!

These same critics were loudpedaling "youth" four months ago when they campaigned for Mr. Dudley Senanayake.

R. G. learned his politics from the greatest political guru in Ceylon's history, Mr. D. S. Senanayake. Now that he disagrees with the Press Lord he is treated to personal attack and ridicule. Is this fair?

Commerce Minister Speaks for the U. N. P.

Full Statement Exposes Distortions

We publish his statement in this issue. It is NOT true to say that he speaks only for himself. But members of the Cabinet are being coerced into reversing their decisions.

It is up to the Back Bench M.P.'s to rally and stand by the Cabinet. No Cabinet was more anti-Communist than the present. The old Cabinet was "anti" without knowing why. The present is "anti" because it is intellectually more informed. But to buy our rice at reasonable prices is no crime.

To sell our rubber at a reasonable price is no crime.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT

Mr. Senanayake said:—

"In view of various criticism which have recently appeared in the Press regarding certain aspects of the proposals brought back by the Trade Mission to China, which I had the honour of leading, I feel that it is time that I made a few observations on them myself.

At the outset it might be useful to indicate the background of the situation in Ceylon when the Prime Minister announced the decision to send a mission to China.

We were in a desperate situation in regard to our stocks of rice in the country and the prospects of immediate supplies. Our normal suppliers were either asking dollars, which we hadn't; and our tenders for what sterling rice was available had failed, as we had been out-bid by other buyers.

PRICES SKY-ROCKET

In spite of every endeavour made by the Food Minister in the course of his visit to London and Washington especially undertaken for this very purpose, it was found impossible to procure all the rice that was immediately necessary. Although limited quantities of American rice were available in the open market, prices began to sky-rocket the moment Ceylon started making its purchase, so much so that after making one or two purchases the Food Com-

missioner had to withdraw from the American market.

The dollar earning for Ceylon had for some time been dwindling consequent on the withdrawal of American buying and the purchases of American rice at high prices had almost wiped out our dollar balances. There was a critical period of three to four months between October to December, 1952, when our requirements to meet the ration, which had already been cut down, were not covered either by stocks or incoming shipments.

It was in this context that I was asked to proceed to China to explore, firstly, the possibility of obtaining sufficient rice from China to meet Ceylon's immediate requirements to maintain the ration; and, secondly, to explore the possibilities of expanding trade between the two

countries.

So far as the first part of my mission was concerned, I believe that there is no controversy about it. Arrangements were made for the immediate delivery of 80,000 tons of rice, which would enable Ceylon to tide over the critical period between October, 1952, and January, 1953.

In actual fact, what the mission did in Peking was to conclude a provisional trade agreement (subject to ratification by the two governments) covering a wide range of commodities and to bring back certain proposals in regard to rubber and rice for submission to my Government. Both these matters were strictly in accordance with the letter and the spirit of the written instructions given to me by the Prime Minister. The General Trade Agreement has

(Continued on page 7)

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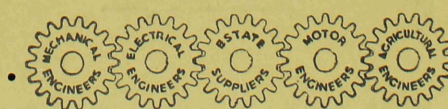
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ENGLAND IS NOT AGAINST CEYLON-CHINA TRADE

Inviting Indian Opinion is Betrayal of Our Independence.

By Our Political Correspondent

WHEN we throw out all the words, words, words that hide the truth we find that England is NOT against the Ceylon-China Trade Agreement.

The British Cabinet has NOT expressed an opinion. How can it when England buys our rubber and re-ships it to Russia? How can it when England trades with China through Hong-Kong?

Secondly, we express great alarm at the unprecedented attempt to solicit Indian opinion on our national policies. It can be a betrayal of our Independence. It is an astonishing thing to witness a national newspaper inviting Indian intervention and invoking Indian pressure on our government. The argument that India might not like our trading with China is hollow for India certainly dislikes our firm stand on the dual citizenship issue.

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Commerce Minister Speaks for the U.N.P.

(Continued from page 1)

already been approved by the Ceylon Government and the proposals for rubber and rice are now under active consideration.

POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS

In place of harping on my assuming authority in excess of instructions, the attack seems now to concentrate on the political implications of a trade agreement—of any kind of trade agreement for a matter of that—with Communist China. One would have thought that reference to political implications of trade with China would be quite irrelevant at this stage, as it must be assumed that the Government fully considered this aspect of the question when it deliberately announced its intention to send a mission to China with the object not merely of just procuring a casual consignment of rice but also of exploring the possibilities of establishing closer commercial relations between the two countries.

In this connection, the following question and answer between Mr. Keuneman and the Prime Minister in Parliament on September 23rd, 1952, is not without interest: Mr. Keuneman: "Will the Hon. Prime Minister let us know whether, if general discussions (regarding trade) take place, his Government will be prepared to enter into direct trade agreement with the Government of China?"

Prime Minister: "It depends on the proposals. Otherwise, it would have been farcical on our part to have sent a mission."

GOVT. ATTITUDE

This interchange of question and answer in Parliament should leave no doubt as to the attitude of our Government on the question of trade with a Communist country. This attitude was shared not by the Prime Minister and his Government only, but even by the very publicists who now think fit to condemn it.

I have always held the view that political ideologies should not stand

in the way of countries trading with each other, if that trade is to their mutual benefit. I am quite unrepentant about it.

It is bad enough to see a world divided on political grounds, but to divide it still further economically, cannot surely conduce to the peace and prosperity of the people. To maintain a non-discriminatory market is a measure of special significance to a small country such as ours. I am encouraged to entertain and persist in this view by the reflection that even the late Prime Minister insisted that there should be no destinational restrictions or bans on the export of our commodities. I know personally that the late Prime Minister even went so far as to protest against the imposing of bans on the export of rubber from Malaya to China.

TRADE WITH CHINA

Talking of China in particular, it would be unrealistic to ignore a nation of 500,000,000 in our own continent of Asia, with a united and cohesive Government for the first time in many centuries. She is bound to be a major factor in world trade; and as I indicated in the course of certain observations during the Budget Debate, I foresee the ingredients of a minor boom once China enters into international trade in a big way.

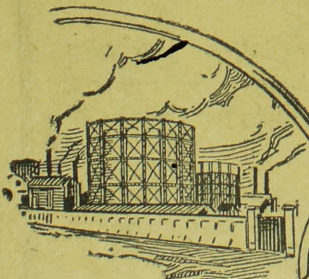
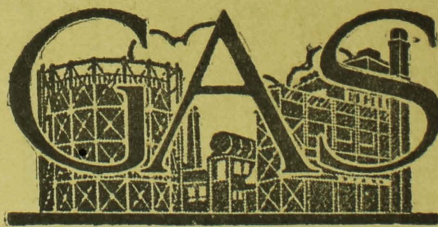
Already the announcement of the Trade Agreement with China has stimulated both the rubber and the coconut markets. It is reasonable to envisage that the emergence of a new buyer of the proportions such as China, will materially counter the monopolistic buying operations, international raw material allocations, destinational controls, etc., which contribute so much in the depression of prices of raw materials which we produce.

If these countries really want to finance Communist activities through these channels it is perfectly open for them to do so now. The conclusion of a trade agreement with China is not going to make the slightest difference on that score. Logically, if it is thought that this risk does exist in trading with Communist countries the proper thing to do would be to ban the trade altogether with any Communist country whatsoever. This is not proposed here in this country nor has it been proposed in any other democratic country. Besides, if the Communist countries really want to send money here for political activities so far as I am aware, there is no law to prevent the coming of that money into Ceylon quite openly and without going through the 'devious' procedures of trade. If there are any serious grounds for apprehension on this score there should be no difficulty in devising measures for countering such undesirable developments.

CERTAIN APPREHENSIONS

It would also seem that some people entertain apprehensions in regard to the possible consequences of a trade agreement with the Chinese in the event of a war breaking out both with regard to the agreement itself as well as the maintenance of shipping services, etc., which are of such vital consequence to an island country. A major war is a cataclysm of the first magnitude and it would be idle to speculate about its course and consequences. I do not believe that any amount of planning by us can provide for contingencies arising out of such an eventuality. That would be entirely a new situation which would have to be dealt entirely with new methods.

In any case why talk only of war when the more immediate prospect is that of peace. If there is peace in Korea there is every prospect of commodity prices slumping. Ceylon would then be in the happy position of having secured a stable commodity market and established a cordial relationship with a very powerful buyer.



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Pressure Grows Stronger Against Sino-Ceylon Pact

Who tells the Press what goes on in the Cabinet room? How does the "Times" publish the Ceylon-China Trade Agreement? How does the "Daily News" categorically state in an Editorial on Nov. 1st that it is a "plain fact" that "a communication from the Commonwealth Relations Office was received by the Ceylon Government expressing Her Majesty's Government's grave concern about the long-term proposals. . . ."

The public will note with some amusement that the paper which publishes this main Editorial very recently demanded an inquiry into the "Times" scoop of the China Pact.

Again, how comes the Finance Minister to publicly speechify on the China Trade Pact?

What is happening to the "traditions" some people talk about—about Cabinet discussions being secret and that no Cabinet Minister should canvass public opinion on any matter until the whole Cabinet can speak with one voice?

How did a pressman come to see the text of a Commonwealth Office communication?

Sir "Vaithy", we are sure, will be greatly concerned. Is there a source of leakage in our Foreign Office? Are our cables tapped? Can other Governments get secret information through the same source? These are questions that need answering.

On another issue, we are surprised that a so-called note from the British Government should be passed over so calmly.

We can't imagine Mr. Churchill and Mr. Eden telling us not to trade with a Communist country when Britain is on the friendliest trading terms with Russia. Hongkong is in China, people seem to forget, and are we to believe that British Hongkong does not trade with China?

Why are our publicists trying to

choke the life out of the U.N.P.? Can't they see that the Leftist opposition is once again being given a handle and the initiative to campaign against us. "There you are", they will say. "Didn't we tell you? The U.N.P. cannot do anything. They are tied to the apron strings of Britain and when the American whip cracks they scuttle." What was our answer a week ago?

Our answer was in deeds, not words. We were going to trade with anyone we wished. We were an independent country. We were free to buy and to sell, from anyone, to anyone. Now these pressure movements are using fear as a weapon to scare people into losing our advantages.

India's opinions were sought and the publication proved our point—that there is nothing wrong in buying rice where we could get it and selling rubber to those as will buy it.

India has several trade agreements with China. How can India tell us not to trade with China? In fact India won't and has not done so.

Britain trades with Communist Russia—but no one says that therefore Britain will get submerged with Red money. India trades with Red China—no one says that the Indian Communists will get Red funds. Poor Japan can't help herself. Japan's vaunted Independence has, on the other hand, been shown to have strings which big power blocks can pull.

Let us place our faith in our people. Let us tell them the facts. Let us go down to them. A nation's destiny is not shaped in air-conditioned rooms and ivory towers and by the flia flia of stiff-collared experts alone.

Let us stand squarely behind our Prime Minister and give him vigorous and unqualified support to fight for economic independence, to fight for honest politics, to fight against pressure tactics, to fight for the people who look to him with confidence.

THE REAL COST OF THE GAL-OYA PROJECT

WITH reference to a letter in the centre-page of the "Observer", entitled "The Cost of Gal Oya", the Information Officer writes the following for public information:—

"In the article it is stated:—

- (i) that the Gal Oya Dam cost over Rs. 200 million;
- (ii) that this figure compares with a figure of Rs. 113 million which was the cost of Goulburn Dam in Australia, which is approximately three times the size of the Gal Oya Dam;
- (iii) that the Gal Oya Power Plant will produce only 11,000 Kilowatts of Hydro Electric Power as against 120,000 Kilowatts produced at the Goulburn Dam, and that the cost of production of Hydro-Electric Power will be Rs. 1,000 per Kilowatt the Goulburn Dam as against Rs. 17,300 per Kilowatt at Gal Oya.

These statements are completely inaccurate:—

- (i) the total cost of the Gal Oya Dam (including all fees payable to the Contractor) will not exceed Rs. 70 million;
- (ii) the Goulburn Dam is not three times the size of the Gal Oya Dam. The volume of the Goul-

burn Dam is 12.8 million cubic yards, while that of the Gal Oya Dam is 7 million cubic yards;

The estimated cost of the Goulburn Dam was 11.36 million Australian Pounds, i. e. approximately Rs. 119 million. It is not known whether the Dam has been completed within the estimated cost. Even if it was the cost of the Goulburn Dam would be Rs. 9.30 per cubic yard as against Rs. 10.10 per cubic yard in the case of the Gal Oya Dam. It is completely inaccurate therefore to state that relatively the Gal Oya Dam has cost 10 to 12 times as much as the Goulburn dam.

- (iii) the Gal Oya Reservoir was built primarily as an Irrigation project. The development of Hydro-Electric Power was secondary consideration. The Gal Oya Power Plant could have been designed (at greater cost) for a higher output of Hydro-Electric Power. But it is unlikely that the Eastern areas of the Island would have been able to consume a higher output in the foreseeable future, while the cost of transmitting the power to other parts of the Island would have

(Continued on page 4)

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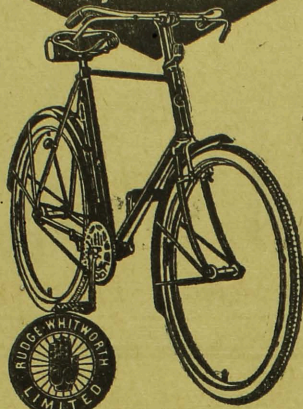
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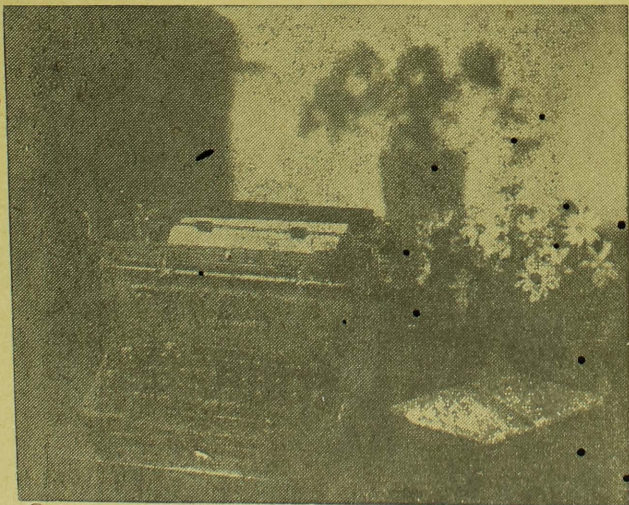
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Senator Hits Out at False Charges Against Catholic Church

DURING the debate in the Senate on the Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, the second reading of which was moved by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance, exception was taken by Senator Mudaliyar S. T. P. Rodrigo to certain observations made by another Senator, a Leftist, who speaking on fishing disputes laid the blame on the Roman Catholic Church and alleged that that Church levied a tithe of some 4 per cent. of the catch in areas like Mutwal and Negombo.

"We all know", said Senator Rodrigo, "that it is the habit of Leftist Senators, whenever and wherever possible to speak without sufficient data on matters with which they are not concerned or with which they are not at all closely connected. I can tell that Hon. Senator that the information is all wrong when he said a 4 per cent. levy is made. A voluntary contribution of one-tenth of the catch is given to the Church for the maintenance of the pastor, the renovation of the buildings of the church and so forth. Out of this amount, nearly 75 per cent. is given back to the fishermen for forming societies according to their own rules and regulations, for assisting them during marriages, births and deaths and when there are fishing disasters and distress. I can authoritatively say that I am aware of certain societies which owe much more money to the Church, than the fishermen have contributed.

WHAT THE CHURCH HAS DONE

"Pointed reference was made to the Catholic Church. I think I will be enlightening the Hon. Senator a little more when I say that there are fishermen who contribute to certain Buddhist and Hindu temples. It is not with the condemnation that we are concerned but with the practice that is now under criticism. It is easy for anyone to condemn, but we must remember that when there was no Fisheries Department in existence, to look after the fishermen who were thought of as the de-

pressed class, it was the Catholic Church that took care of them. Today, however, we have a set of active people from the different parts of the Island elected to the Fisheries Advisory Board to look after their interests. . . . In the Southern Province we have a set of men who wield a lot of influence; they have been appointed by the Government and they are rendering honorary services; up to date nothing has been said against them. They are known as Patabendi Aratchis. In the Eastern Province the substitute for them is Patankati to look after the interests of that Province. . . . Coming from a family which has handled fishing disputes for nearly a quarter of a century and having very good experience in this field, I am sorry to say that the very first dispute that was handled by the Department of Industries recently in Colombo, was a thorough failure."

OBJECTS AND REASONS

Sir John Tarbat drew attention to the absence of the usual statement of objects and reasons in the draft copy of the Bill.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance, replied that the Bill came to the Senate from the House of Representatives with the omission.

"Surely because the other place has made the mistake of not producing the objects and reasons of the Bill, there is no reason why we should follow suit", was Sir John's rejoinder.

However in his opening remarks the Parliamentary Secretary in moving the second reading detailed the three objects the Bill sought to achieve.

The first object was to prevent or prohibit the wholesale destruction by poison or explosives, of fish in our Island waters.

The second object was to prevent the use of prohibited meshes and nets which prevent the breeding and development of fish in our waters.

The third object was to provide the necessary machinery for the settlement of fishing disputes involving rival claim for fishing grounds or the use of particular nets in particular fishing grounds or communal claims for fishing grounds, or even disputes between nationals and non-nationals.

HOUSEWIFE'S LAMENT

MME. Pauline Soldatenko, a housewife who lives in the Soviet city of Voroshilovgrad, unburdened her troubles in a long letter to the newspaper Trud recently. Why can't Soviet housewives get reasonably priced refrigerators and washing machines, she asked. Why can't they get their furniture repaired? Why can't they buy cook books?

"Trud, no doubt will tell Mrs. Soldatenko that all the trouble lies with 'bureaucrats' who have disobeyed Stalin's instructions to make Russia a land of abundant washing machines and cook books. But that answer is nonsensical. Mme. Soldatenko and millions of housewives like her can't buy washing machines and refrigerators because those goods need steel, and all Soviet steel is earmarked for guns and tanks and for machines which help, directly or indirectly, to build armaments. And as for cook books, those need paper. How could the Soviet Government issue tens of millions of copies of Stalin's verbose writings if it also had to find paper for cook books?

"Mme. Soldatenko is obviously treading on dangerous ground. Perhaps next time she'll ask why she can't take a trip to the United States and see for herself how the 'oppressed and enslaved' American housewives struggle along 'without even the most elementary modern conveniences.'"—(New York "Times").

The Real Cost of the Gal-Oya Project

(Continued from page 3)

been extremely high. The position in Australia is very different. There is an assured outlet for the power in the numerous large industries which have sprung up all over the country in the recent past. The Goulburn Dam was therefore probably designed with electric power production as a primary aim, and, as the output is very large the cost per unit is necessarily low.

"As regards the statement that the American firm that built the Gal Oya Dam is claiming a "bonus" from Government what the Contractor has in fact claimed is the fee which he states is due to him under the Contract because of the saving he has effected in the cost of executing the work. This claim is under consideration."

H. A. J. HULUGALLE,
Information Officer

Colombo.
October 29.

Will The U.S.A. Open Her Eyes in Time?

By Stanley Morrison

TODAY the whole of that part of the world, which is called free, faces a steadily worsening economic crisis that threatens a disastrous lowering of living standards for the masses, particularly in Asia. To allow this crisis to gather weight would be to invite these very masses to turn in desperation towards Communism because of their loss of faith in democratic systems of government. After all, to the semi-starved masses in Southern Asia and the Far East what matters is adequate food, clothing and shelter, and not the political rights of Democracy. Political rights, such as freedom of speech and expression generally, are rated at their proper value only by people comparatively free from anxieties as regards their daily wants. If worries over food and shelter predominate in the minds of a large section of the masses over all other matters, then the attractions of a political system, which denies freedom of expression and freedom to a people to elect their rulers, are, sooner or later, bound to lure the suffering masses towards Communism. Such a danger-point has not yet been reached in India, Ceylon, Pakistan and South-East Asia. But economic conditions have this year been steadily deteriorating and fear and doubt have begun to harass the minds of all classes, including the rich (the latter of whom particularly find their incomes shrivelled to about one-fourth of what they were earning during the middle of last year).

It would be stupid to deny, therefore, that the danger-point is now not very far away and that if the trade decline were to go unchecked, Communism would win a considerable number of recruits from among the middle classes and the workers. Desperate people will turn to desperate remedies and Red China is a beacon beckoning to the rest of Asia to follow in her footsteps.

However, things have got to get worse before they get better. And it is a consoling thought that the more enlightened minds both in Britain and the United States of America are now wide awake to the dangers that threaten Democracy everywhere on the economic front. Today Communism (if Mr. Anthony Eden is right) does not threaten to make war on the rest of the world. On the other hand (and I think no one quarrels with my statement) the threat of Communism consists in the fact that it offers to provide the under-privileged masses (in Asia particularly) with a panacea for all the ills they suffer from. Hitherto this offer has had no "takers" in South Asia, since the masses do not relish a revolution with all its attendant horrors and violent changes and also because they still have faith in the more peaceful, though more gradual, processes of Democracy. But we know what happened in Chiang Kai-shek's China—how at first the masses were with him, how they gradually became indifferent, and then how they suddenly lost faith. Having lost faith, they turned towards the Communists.

Are the great powers of the West—the U.S.A., Britain, etc.—going to allow such a situation to creep over the landscape in the rest of Asia? "Not bloody likely"—as the lady says in Shaw's Pygmalion. But Time is running out and already vast mental changes are taking place in the consciousness of the Asian masses. WILL

THEY WAIT UNTIL THE WEST WAKES UP?

It is fortunate, therefore, that the fateful Commonwealth Premiers' Conference is only a few weeks away and that this week the Americans have a brand new President installed in the White House. These are harbingers of hope for the rest of the world. After all, there are wise statesmen in Britain and the U.S.A., who realise that the world is gripped by a grave crisis and that if they do not do something about it and do it quickly, the whole of South Asia will turn towards Communism and that the great men of South Asia, such as the Nehrus and the Radhakrishnas will be powerless to stem the tide of revolt of the discontented masses.

It is because Ceylon's Prime Minister, Mr. Dudley Senanayake, realises the terrible gravity of the position in Ceylon that he sent Mr. R. G. Senanayake to China to look for food to feed the people of Ceylon after desperate months of unavailing efforts to find this food outside China had come to nought.

As Mr. Senanayake said at Matara two Saturdays ago, if the present Government failed to provide food for its people and the rubber estates were compelled to close down and hundreds of thousands of workers were unemployed, then these starving unemployed people would turn to Communism. He then went on to say that if the West would not pay fair prices for our rubber and rice could not be obtained outside China, then it was the duty of the Government (which the people had elected) to find profitable markets for our rubber anywhere and to obtain rice even from China in order to stave off starvation and unemployment. It is on these things that Communism thrives and Mr. Senanayake is determined that these desperate conditions do not arise here.

Meanwhile, the prospect of Ceylon entering into a trade pact with China is reported to have aroused grave fears in the minds of ruling circles in the United Kingdom. But what has the Government of that country done to relieve the Ceylon Government of their terrible anxieties? Ceylon is now being told to wait till the Commonwealth Conference meets this month before any action as regards the China Pact. Meanwhile, a British Minister recently turned down flat Ceylon's suggestion that the English people should do without their rice pudding in order to help Ceylon. His excuse was that if Britain did not buy this rice, then somebody would and Ceylon would still go without this rice. This is scarcely a helpful answer to a distressed member of the Commonwealth. After all, Britain could still buy this rice and then send it on to Ceylon to help her to tide over her present food crisis. And the annual quantity of rice bought by Britain for her rice puddings amounts to some 300,000 tons—which equals more than half of Ceylon's rice imports for a year. In fact, this thoughtless pronouncement of this British Minister has provoked many thinking people to ask whether the word 'Commonwealth' has any meaning in this context. They say 'commonwealth' means the 'common good'. But apparently this British Minister does not think so.

At the same time, many people feel that this all-considered statement of a British Minister's does not represent the point of view of the average inhabitant of the British Isles, who, if he were aware of the real plight of Ceylon, would not hesitate to do without his rice pudding to help little Ceylon—since the true Britisher is more willing to make sacrifices to help others than perhaps any other race on earth. It is, however, time that some Englishmen realised that the great fund of goodwill towards the British people which exists in this country can be overdrawn.



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Friday, Nov. 7, 1952

TRADE WITH CHINA

DESPITE the confusion caused by a newspaper war Ceylon must trade with China and Mr. R. G. Senanayake's achievement will not be destroyed. Once again, as over the Rice Price crisis, the U.N.P. Journal gave the country the correct lead.

We must comment on a few matters concerning the ethics of journalism. While we congratulate the "Times of Ceylon" on its fearless, dignified and cultured presentation of the issues we would pause to express the hope that its new Editor, who appears to be a chip of the old block, will continue to keep that paper at the heights to which he has now raised it. It had certainly dropped low under his immediate predecessor. We take a serious view, however, of the ethics of its newsreporter's action in publishing a State document merely to "scoop" its competitors.

As the authoritative voice of the Party governing this country we have always been accurately backgrounded on matters of high state policy often weeks before any newspaper came to hear about it. If we wished to follow the sensation seeking, circulation boosting methods of our elders in journalism (who ought to know better) we could have scooped them week after week. But there is a grave responsibility laid on a national institution like the U.N.P. Journal and we have always had regard for the safety and security of the State. It may be necessary now to pass an Official Secrets Act to prevent commercial newspaper sensationalism from endangering the country's security. It is today open to any newspaper organization to publish the text of international agreements purely to sell its papers and thus get more revenue from its advertisers.

The "Ceylon Daily News" did not come out of the newspaper war unscathed. The personal attack on Mr. R. G. Senanayake was unworthy of the position that paper enjoys.

There is an even more serious matter for reflection. For the first time in the journalistic history of this country we saw with amazement the correspondents of that paper setting out to solicit opinion abroad in support of its opposition to the China-Ceylon Agreement. It got precious little for its pains. Nehru would not talk. It got Acharya Kripalani of all people.

The British Commonwealth Minister, naturally would not talk. Only a Parliamentary Secretary said that naturally Britain would be concerned. This is not new or startling. Of course Britain would and should be concerned. She is our friend.

Not satisfied with this the New Delhi correspondent went to the High Commissioner for the U.K. in New Delhi. That was a classic interview for it blasted the "Daily News" furore over the danger of trading with a Communist Country. The High Com. was in favour of Ceylon trading with Russia! Jumping Crickets! How's that for a boomerang? We hope the British Government will stop its High Commissioner yapping to press reporters about the policies of friendly governments. What business had the British High Commissioner in New Delhi to talk out of turn? Sir Kanthiah should take this up with the Commonwealth Relations Office.

We take alarm at a newspaper opening the door to foreign intervention in a local debate. This is a dangerous precedent. It can lead to the betrayal of national independence.

The Ceylon-China Trade Agreement must stand, but let us also inform the other members of the Commonwealth about it at the London Conference. Even if it is not on the Agenda it could still be generally discussed on a "purely for information" basis. We believe that our contemporaries in Ceylon will all agree on such a course being fair and reasonable.

We shall conclude with the words of our article on page one of this issue—"The Man of the Year" is Mr. R. G. Senanayake.

We suppose all this was a result of the hot-air conditions in which the issue appears to

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have been discussed. This is a matter of national importance and is the concern of everyone. Let us try to find out 'what' is right rather than 'who' is right, for the paramount interest is that of our motherland.

AN INDIAN VIEW?

In an alleged comment on the Sino-Ceylon Trade Pact, Acharya Kripalani has delivered himself of a curious statement. It sounds highly profound though. Asked a question:

"Can it not be regarded as a purely commercial deal?"

Acharya Kripalani says: "There are no purely commercial deals except between nations of equal international status."

Where did Acharya Kripalani learn that piece of political wisdom? Or is it a piece of sarcasm? Is it a commentary on Western diplomacy?

Does this mean that when we buy wheat from Australia this is no purely commercial deal? When England buys our tea, is it "no purely commercial deal"? When Pakistan buys our oil is it "no purely commercial deal?"

When we got Frenchmen to build our new harbour was it "no purely commercial deal?"

When we bought our barges from De Hoop because England could not give them, was it "no purely commercial deal?"

But when we want to sell rubber to China and she is willing to buy at 50 cents a lb. higher than our big brothers (who issue millions of words a year on "Democratic Ideals") are prepared to pay little Ceylon, then people get notions

that it is "no purely commercial deal."

If any world "statesmen" imagine they can make us believe that Democracy must make victims of small nations they have another guess coming their way. We want economic freedom for our people, not beautiful phrases. We have seen how some countries adopt a patronising attitude to others merely because of some aid they give. That aid seems a long-term investment to some people.

Our local Communists attack the U.N.P. for being friendly with Britain and America. We certainly want to be friendly with Britain and America. We prefer them to any others. But they must not expose us to the criticism that their friendship means that we must sell our commodities to them at bargain rates in the name of democracy.

Just as armies march on their stomachs, Democracy survives only among well-fed well-housed, well-paid peoples. Talk never yet saved democracy. What beat Germany was not 1,000-lb. bombs or Winnie Churchill's cigar, but the lack of food resulting in the devastation caused by those bombs.

The attitude in some chancelleries appears to be: "If the people of Ceylon have no rice why don't they eat cake, or bacon and eggs or hot-dogs." Those who warn us of falling victims to Red China would do well also to think that if we do (which we won't) we would only be the first and that they would soon be in our company. Our food is not our problem alone. It is their's as well. Either they must buy our rubber at a decent price or we must sell it to survive as a decent people.

The Prime Minister's U. K. Visit

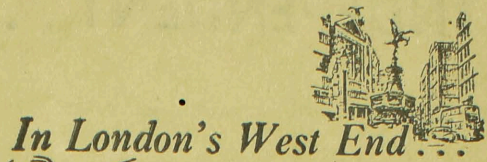
THE full schedule for the visit of the Prime Minister to the United Kingdom to attend the Commonwealth Premiers' Conference in London, has been prepared. The Conference opens on the 27th instant and Mr. Dudley Senanayake is expected to leave on the 24th.

The principal event connected with the visit of the Premiers of the Commonwealth, will be the official dinner party given by the Queen at Buckingham Palace on December 3rd. A joint reception at London's historic Guildhall will also be given for the visiting Prime Ministers by seven High Commissioners in London. Mr. Churchill and leading members of the Government and Op-

position will attend this function.

Mr. Senanayake will be present at the unveiling of a portrait of the late Premier at Ceylon House. The unveiling ceremony which was described by a Ceylon House official as a purely domestic matter, will probably be performed by the Ceylon High Commissioner in London.

The Ceylon Premier will meet members of the Ceylon Students' Association on two separate occasions during his London stay—he will receive a deputation to discuss the question of a hostel and be the guest of honour at a luncheon meeting. Arrangements have also been made for Mr. Senanayake to visit Ceylon students at Cambridge and to speak to the Ceylon Women's Association.



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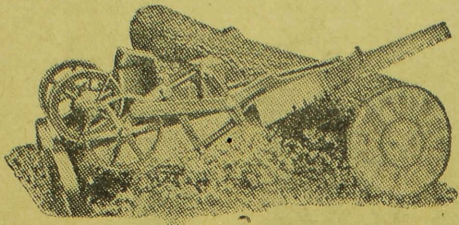
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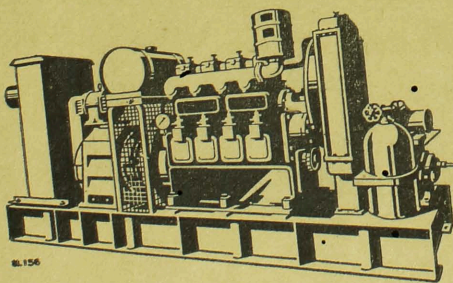
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A PLAY WITH A PURPOSE

By Quintus Delilkhan

I HAVE undergone the complete moral exhilaration of being present at the M.R.A. play with a purpose—"Jotham Valley" and enjoyed it also to the top of my bent as a super-excellent artistic production. The play deals with the rooted evil of hatred in the hearts of two brothers, and the influences which enabled them to undergo the necessary inward transformation which changed them into human beings, as men are meant to be if they are to fulfil their essential destiny as men. Love is no doubt a beautiful sentiment and genius in every clime and in every nation has paid it homage, nifing all the resources of splendour in every language to do this befittingly. But in many great modern plays love is a somewhat dubious and reprehensible appetite for what one may not lawfully take. It seems to be less lawful to take one's goods than to take away from hearth and home something which is much greater in the scale of human values and human loyalties, and all this is seemingly justified by the name of love. All this is morally and artistically depressing. It lowers the ideals of living. It gives no consecration to life. It undermines human dignity. It represents that moral disintegration which has slowly but inevitably, in this and in numerous other directions as well, sapped the foundations of our civilization: If a new world, morally braver than in the past, is to be built we must renovate our sense of moral values. Art for art's sake cannot stand up against the imperious realities of today. To the varied aggressions around us, to the rude violences of unmoral ideologies, to the multiform insidiousness of false and subtle propaganda we must in art, drama, literature, and through every vehicle which is available to us, restore life to the place of honour which it must hold if the world to be made fit for the nobler tasks which should engage the minds of honest, peaceful and sincere men. In the press of a great battle for the soul of man, the right things should be put in their right place. We require today an implacable and devastating moral earnestness which can sweep over large tracts of the civilized world like an irresistible prairie fire.

It is impossible not to feel caught up in the surge of such a sincere and tremendous moral passion when

watching the moving and tense scenes of "Jotham Valley". The division between the stage and the audience instantly falls away. The listener feels in his own heart all the contending passions of those who hate and, through the alchemy of sympathy which the play generates so abundantly, one also feels the slow transformation within. This play definitely creates the purgation of the soul which it is the function of all true art to enforce. I think all of us who have known much modern literature are tired of the mere excess of purposeless and unmotivated cleverness in most writers whose talent seems to be devoted to ploughing with astonishing skill the barren sands of life. We must get back in art, literature and drama to the magnificences of the common virtues which are the genuine intimations of man's immortal destiny. Man as a responsible moral being, cannot be merely attitudinizing and strutting his hour upon the stage, as if there is nothing beyond. We in this age must come to deadly grips with reality, and our art, drama and literature should show a high, noble and serious passion for the true and the wholesome and the healing things of the spirit that really and eternally matter. Everything must be wrested from life that can make a better world.

"Jotham Valley" omits no point of artistic excellence. It abates no jot or tittle of beauty because it is harnessed to a moral idea. The songs are songs of heart-moving beauty. The melodies are as intoxicating as clear, exhilarating mountain air. It uses all the devices of colour, lighting and integral stage effects to create a miracle of unity. The moral of the play is not shrill, pedantic and preachy. It creates strands of verbal beauty and lovely iridescent melodies which are woven into the very texture of the play. It fulfils meticulously the most exacting conditions of a really good play, and it more than all creates, without offending a single canon of artistic propriety, a strong and appropriate sense of beauty. The author of this play must indeed be a happy man to not only have made it, but also to participate in putting it over the footlights straight into the heart of his audience, and to find the response so instant and so visible. His personality irradiates through the whole play. In this overpowering musical drama, he has succeeded in putting goodness amidst the congregated powers and principalities of the world, and arming a moral message with the grandeur of high art and the shining puissances of the spirit.

PROBLEMS IN THE CURATIVE TREATMENT OF CRIME

THERE is as much to be said for Sir Richard's "Crime Fiend" Campaign as for the late Mr. M. T. Akbar's "Anti-Crime" movement. But what these movements fail to recognise is that the need is not so much a campaign against the problem, as a cure for it!

While crime cannot be altogether eradicated it can certainly be maximized by a faulty system of treatment. On the other hand crime can be minimized by discovering and adhering to certain foundation principles on which could be placed the complete moral deliverance and change of life in the thousands of degraded and hopeless beings saturated with drunkenness, gambling crime and impurity.

There can be no doubt that dealing with the criminal of all classes every human Government worthy of the name will find punishment necessary. Indeed law without a penalty becomes, as the lawyer re-

minds us, merely good advice and ceases to be law at all.

The relaxation of prison discipline and the improvement of prisoners' condition carried to the very limit of safety should not be designed to endanger the jail being so comfortable that it may cease to become a terror to evil-doers. Anything that will increase this tendency should as far as possible be avoided.

In Ceylon treatment of (a) the Habitual (b) Ordinary (c) Youthful (d) and child criminal have only reached the fringes of treatment. "You cannot ban a man because he has been to gaol" said the Commissioner of Prisons and Probationary Services the other day opposing a proposal to keep Re-convicted criminals away from the Port area. In the treatment of the habitual who has deliberately chosen crime as a profession and embraced it as a career inciting others to its commission it has yet to be realised that nothing short of banishment is the cure. Botany Bays however are not

(Continued on page 9)

Adult Vocational and Technical Training Scheme Unemployed to be Made Employable

THE process of speeding up unemployment relief adopted by the Minister of Labour and Social Services will make a further advance, when the Adult Vocational and Technical training scheme comes into operation. The purpose of the scheme is to train unskilled unemployed men as masons, carpenters and in other skilled trades. "Give us a thousand masons and we will provide them with work", said the Minister of Labour, when the question of relief measures for the unemployed was raised in Parliament recently. "But I cannot take a man who has been all his life spending his time as a peon or labourer and ask him to start work on a building. That is why we are starting a school to train men as masons, carpenters and various other skilled workers. "We are doing everything possible to enable workers to be employed on works that would ultimately benefit both the workers and the country."

SCHEME TO COST 4½ LAKHS

The scheme for the training of men recruited from among the unemployed will be started under two categories, practical training and theoretical training under expert instructors. After a theoretical training for a number of weeks, the trainees will receive the practical training on work sites for about four months. At the end of that period

they will be tested and certificates given to those who have successfully passed the test. The cost of administration and the expenditure in connection with the training, capital expenditure on furniture buildings besides general expenditure on equipment, trade testing and so on, is estimated at nearly four and a half lakhs of rupees.

Although there is provision in the Budget for this purpose, the cost of tools and equipment required in connection with the scheme will, if possible, be obtained free under the Colombo Plan. The site for the school has been selected—three acres of land acquired in Kirillapone.

CO-OPERATION OF EMPLOYERS' FEDERATION

It is heartening to learn that the co-operation of the Employers' Federation has been enlisted for the scheme and assistance has been promised in drawing up the required syllabus for the various trades and advice in regard to the tests to be applied in deciding the required standard of efficiency to enable the trainees to be gainfully employed. The Federation has very generously agreed to assist in placing the trainees under private employers for practical training and by the provision of Instructors. One of the major drawbacks encountered in placing skilled workers in employment is the lack of an accepted standard of efficiency in any particular trade to enable employers to

(Continued on page 11)

Problems in the Curative Treatment of Crime

(Continued from page 8)

for the ordinary criminal the majority of whom sad to say, yet find it difficult in spite of rehabilitation schemes to return to the ordinary ranks of society with their crimes buried in oblivion once punished. The mental anguish through which the ordinary criminal passes is often far more severe than any punishment that which the Courts inflicts upon him. One cannot but admire the Japanese law which makes it a penal offence to injure him in any way after he has completed his term of punishment.

It was only in recent times the separation of the youthful offender from the crime-soaked adult whose companionship must naturally exercise a pernicious influence was introduced. Wathupitiwela's School for Youthful offenders and the re-organisation of the Probation System was another step further. And as for the child criminal annexed and utilised by the wily and often decrepit criminal as scouts the problem is still far beyond such organisations as Boys' Clubs and Police round-ups of beggars.

Our "Aids to Discharged Prisoners' Associations" have room for much improvement. The voluntary principle is still inadequate. A better bridge is urgently needed over which he can safely pass back from prison to ordinary life for a released prisoner. His circumstances are against him and will over power him unless he is safeguarded and protected by some stronger power than his own good resolutions. When the day of complete liberty arrives he should pass not straight from Prison but from surroundings which will ensure him a new and happy entrance to a sphere of usefulness. If difficulties occur he will be able to retain the same sheltering influences instead of returning to his evil ways.

There is at least one aspect of treatment even the fringe of which Ceylon has not touched namely—the prisoner's family. When a prisoner is sent to jail no consideration is paid to his family and their support. It is true in the case of some individuals the family may have participated in the wrong doings. But consider the unfortunate position of a woman with young infants whose husband is sent to prison. Practically every criminal of adult age in Ceylon is either married or has a mistress. Hence the question is a burning one. There is always a constant and increasing demand for labour. Why has no one thought about this aspect with our building schemes?

A firm but kindly control of the criminal should be an essential feature of wise policy. A voluntary "please be good policy" will not do. It is not wise to trust to his voluntary efforts to be good and pick himself up. His will power for good has become like a broken disjointed limb and will need splints and plaster of Paris for sometime to come. This the strong hand of authority must supply. Tackling the problem in this way does not mean extinction of crime but it does mean the reduction of crime to an absolute minimum.

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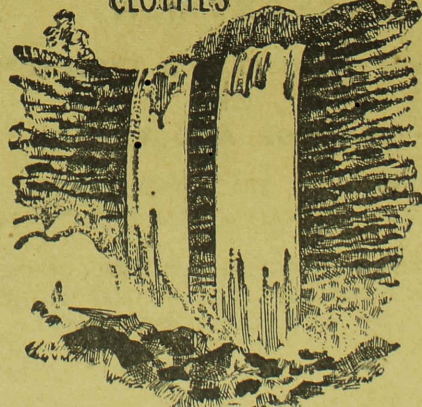
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Women Factory Workers of Colombo

THE results of a scientific investigation into the circumstances of women factory workers within the Municipal limits of Colombo, by Professor Bryce Ryan, head of the Department of Sociology, University of Ceylon, are contained in a Report to the International Labour Organisation. Although the investigation was limited to women employed in the larger factories in the City, the results are probably representative of the female labour force in factories in other urban areas in the Island. In the city with a population in 1946 of over 360,000, about one-fourth the city's adult female population is said to be gainfully employed—a small proportion of these in factories, many in general outdoor labours and the greatest number (roughly one-half) in domestic service, based on data furnished by the Department of Census and Statistics. The industries giving employment to women are: coconut fibre processing, tea and rubber packing, cigarette manufacturing, spinning and weaving, plumbago processing and manufacture of matches. Thus factory employment of women in plants of some size is limited to these seven industries.

2,400 WOMEN WORKERS

The total is estimated at 2,400 women workers though this figure does not include all women in factories or workshops in Colombo, although it covers perhaps three-fourths or more of those in firms known to the Labour Department and about the same proportion of those actually engaged in the industries mentioned.

There are also workshops of various types not known to the Labour Department, mostly employing small numbers of women. For example, there are women engaged in patching gunny sacks, cleaning kapok, areca-nut and cocoa seeds, and other work in small enterprises. Most of these are either seasonal and are not regular sources of employment.

The only processing operation in Colombo in the tea industry is that of blending and repacking a small part of the product. As regards rubber, in the Colombo warehouses, the rubber sheets are only examined, graded and bad portions excised, prior to shipment for which women are employed.

The urban women labour demands of the fibre export trade are greater than for any other factory industry; it is the only major export commodity for which any important part of the processing takes place at the urban level. Grading is done by combing or hackling the fibre to achieve uniformity of quality—a process calling for much hand labour. Hackling is an exclusively female occupation and by far the largest single type of employment for female factory workers in the city. With a few exceptions—such as nursing, midwifery and teaching—female gainful employment is a product of bitter economic necessity, the female labour force being almost wholly unskilled and generally drawn from the lowest section of the population. The preparation of plumbago, sorting and grading is done by women customarily. Poverty in a large majority of the homes drives these women to this type of work.

MOSTLY MARRIED WOMEN

Three-fourths of the workers are married or have been married. If a woman, called herself married, widowed, divorced or separated, her statement was accepted by the investigators without question, although it is practically certain that a considerable number of cases would not meet the requirements of a legal union. It was found that nearly 45 per cent. of the women were either married or divorced or separated which was rather startling. Nearly 70 per cent. of the women workers were born

within the Colombo area. There were relatively few of the women who had migrated to the city from rural areas of this minority who immigrated to the city had been born within a 30-mile radius.

Few of the women came to Colombo as isolated individuals seeking work. Of the migrants nearly three-fourths came with their husbands or parents, or accompanied by their relatives. For women workers in the city, it was remarkable that ninety per cent. had worked only in the industry in which they are now engaged and have never worked at any other type of job. In the fibre industry more than 70 per cent. had been working for over ten years.

LIGHT INDUSTRIES

The other industries utilising female labour are the light manufacturing industries, producing for the domestic market. Cigarettes bearing local and English brand names are produced from local and from imported tobacco. The plants are mechanized and employ both men and women. Soap manufactured from coconut oil is produced largely by male labour, women working only in partially mechanized packing department.

In spinning and weaving, the mass labour force is male, women being employed in the lighter phases of the work, especially in winding. The match factory employs women in the wholly mechanized tasks of box-making and packaging. Apart from a few women who occupy supervisory grades there is little difference between women workers as regards wage rates and job status within specific factories. Employment in certain plants is much sought after by the women owing to the amenities offered and the general social status of the work involved. These are practically all newly-established and mainly manufacturing plants in which conditions are considerably better and wage rates little higher. Cigarettes and soap are manufactured under conditions approximating to western standards of amenities.

With the growing industrialization of Asia, it is likely that increasing numbers of women will in future be found in the factories. The conclusion arrived at by the investigation is that the "survey of female factory workers in an Asian metropolis has indicated the economic distress and social abnormal background of the women forced into the role of wage-earner—employment therefore, is typically the product of dire necessity."

HUMANITY'S SHADOW

In Hiroshima can be seen
within an entrance hall
against a white and broken
wall

The shadow of a man
in thoughtful pose,

And whither he was going no
one knows;

Nor what his thoughts the final
moment

of that fateful day

Before the fury of the bomb

Sealed off his breath

Leaving only his shadow after
death.

Had he time to decide
Whether he might find his wife

Or reach his children's side?
What had he left undone

That he had meant to do
Even as I—and you?

In Hiroshima against a broken
wall

A shadow casts a deeper,
darker one

Within the hearts of all.

Myrl Ijami,
Mainichi Shimbun.

TIMELY SAINTS

As 20th Century Biographer's Sees Them

"THE portrait of a saint" writes, Clare Booth Luce, "is only a fragment of a great mosaic—the portrait of Jesus". Although a sizable portion of Christendom (including the Roman Catholic, Anglican and Orthodox communions) honours the saints as man's intercessors with God, historical distances have dimmed most saintly portraits even for the modern Christian, to say nothing of the skeptic who lives next door. To show the "timeliness" of the saints in 1952, Clare Luce has edited "Saints for Now", twenty sketches of triumphant Christians of the past. The contributors' list covers a wide literary spectrum. Each contributor was asked to write about his favourite saint. The following selected by the weekly magazine "Time" are some of the saints, as their 20th century biographers see them:-

St. Augustine, the 5th century Bishop of Hippo, was Christianity's first great philosopher. Writes Anglican Rebecca West: "His works are the foundation of modern Western thought.....He took as his subject matter a certain complex of ideas which intrude into every developed religion and are present in Christianity also; the idea that matter, and especially matter related to sex, is evil; that man, wearing a body made of matter, living in a material world, and delighting in the manifestations of sex, is tainted with evil, and must cleanse himself before God; and that this atonement must take the form of suffering. He examined these ideas from a philosophical point of view and discussed how they looked in the new light cast on the world by the life of Christ.....The construction thus built stood up so well that the Western mind made it its home, and its finest achievements since then have consisted largely of

modifying and extending the original structure....."

St. Benedict, founded the Western monasticism which saved Europe in the Dark Ages. Writes Quaker Whittaker Chambers: "Against that night and that ruin, like a man patiently lighting a wick in a tempest, St. Benedict sets his Rule...In an age of pillar saints and furiously competing athletes of the spirit, when men plunged by thousands into the desert, in a lunge towards God, and in revulsion from man, St. Benedict's Rule brought a saving and creative sanity. Its temper was that of moderation as against excesses of zeal, of fruitful labour as against austerities pushed to the point of fruitlessness."

St. Pius V, Pope, led the 16th century Counter Reformation and excommunicated Queen Elizabeth. Writes Catholic D. B. Wyndham Lewis: "The high, narrow forehead, the big, imperious nose, the deep-set, challenging eyes, the firm, bearded lips are those of a man whose weakness, as some assert, was his refusal to take advice; that is to say, human advice...Heroic, an adjective freely lavished by the press nowadays on firemen rescuing stray kittens up trees, is the final, banal and inevitable adjective for this Pope...It is amusing to reflect that but for being a saint, and on the wrong side, Pius V possesses every attribute of the Strong-Man-as-Hero postulated and proclaimed by Carlyle, and, except that he devoted it exclusively to God's service, all that Will-to Power about which Nietzsche made such a hullabaloo."

St. John of the Cross, who died in 1591, is possibly the greatest mystic of Catholic Christianity; his lofty writings on the union of man and God have been a modern rediscovery. Writes Trappist Merton: "The life of charity was perfect in the great Carmelite reformer...It was so perfect that it can hardly be said to shine before men. His soul was too pure to attract any attention. Yet precisely because of his purity, he is one of the few saints who can gain a hearing in the most surprising recesses of an impure world."

"The hardest thing to accept, in St. John of the Cross, is not the Cross, but the awful neutrality of his interior solitude...The two words 'desiring nothing' contain all the difficulty and all the simplicity of St. John of the Cross... They are simply an echo of two words that sum up the teaching of Jesus Christ in the Gospel: 'If any man would come after me, let him deny himself.'"

Adult Vocational and Technical Training Scheme

(Continued from page 9)

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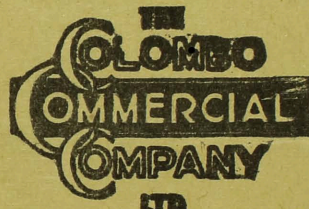
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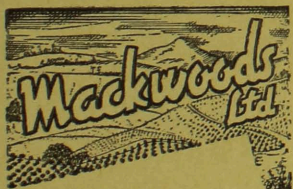
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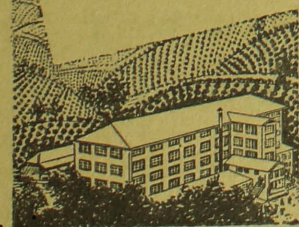


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