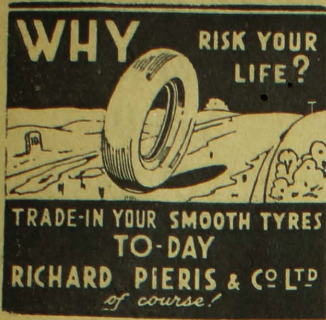
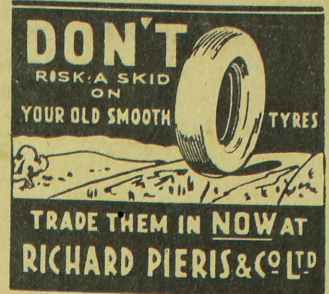


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u.n.p.



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Winning The Battle For Food Production Aided by Mechanization and Manuring

THE Food Production campaign is in full progress now and it is interesting to note some of the measures taken to step up food production in the Island. The Department's work is primarily a missionary task to awaken the enthusiasm of the peasant cultivators and encourage them to till their lands on better and modern methods. A sum of Rs. 3½ millions has been allocated to be spent on food production alone which will be utilized in assisting the cultivators to raise food crops and also increase the paddy yield by the application of improved methods of cultivation. A sum of Rs. 9 million has been set apart for the granting of loans to co-operative societies. Besides this a further sum of two lakhs of rupees has been set apart for issuing free seed paddy to the cultivators whose crops have failed.

SALVINIA DESTRUCTION

As a first step in the campaign an intensified campaign was undertaken in September to clear the waterways of that dangerous weed Salvinia which entirely covered every stretch of inland waters. After a successful week various areas were cleared and in order to check new infestations the department organized small teams to look after the cleared waterways. It is interesting to note that quite a good amount of work was done on the basis of self-help through the rural development societies whose members have now realised the value of learning to do things better and do things together. In areas where the weed still occurs arrangements have been made with the Revenue Officers to see that they are cleared. During the Salvinia Week the Ceylon Navy and the members of the Agricultural Corps assisted the Food Production Department in the eradication of this dangerous weed.

WEEDING AND TRANSPLANTING

Following the weed eradication week there began a campaign of weeding arable land and preparation for the Maha season. A transplanting campaign was inaugurated in Siyane Korale by the Minister of Food and the Home Minister at Mawanella. On this occasion about 1,000 women took part in the process of transplanting an extent of fifty acres. A party of visitors, delegates of the Moral Re-Armament Association, was present including their leader, Dr. Frank

Buchman, besides a team of Food and Agricultural Organization passing through Colombo on its way to India, who were greatly impressed by the demonstration.

Recognising the value of this process which results in increased yields of paddy, a process which is common practice in Japan, a further demonstration was held at Matale when a party of 1,500 women participated in it. The land selected was about 200 acres in extent at Padawita. The Minister of Food and the Assistant Government Agent, Matale, were present. In every village in the North-Western Province there is now a team of women trained in transplanting. They are generally available for work in fields not only in their own village but also in adjoining villages on payment of a nominal sum per day as wages. As a result it has been possible to bring a very large acreage under transplanting and consequent high yields of paddy in that Province. The highest yield that had been obtained from one area in 1949 was 22 bushels. But in 1952 this has been stepped up to 68 bushels.

MECHANIZATION OF CULTIVATION

The mechanization of cultivation has become a reality now in this country after the arrival of tractors and with the opening of a servicing station in far off Batticaloa to serve the tractors in the Eastern Province. Owing to acute shortage of labour and buffaloes for ploughing, increased paddy production from the existing fields had been a problem. Arrangements have been made by the Co-operative Agricultural Production and Sales Societies in the dry zone where this shortage was most acute, to purchase 200 tractors to assist in ploughing and harrowing the fields. Already 30 tractors have been purchased, from this consignment of 200 and 20 are operating in Polonnaruwa and 10 at Anuradhapura. The tractors will chiefly be used in the North-Central, North-Western, Northern, Eastern Provinces, Matale District, Lower Uva and Hambantota districts. At a recent demonstration at Hihgurakgoda, technicians from abroad were surprised at the ability shown by the local tractor drivers in handling the machines with only ten days' driving experience. By using every available inch of land and adopting the most efficient methods, we can become independent of imported foods.

VEGETABLE CULTIVATION IN CITY

Besides the increased cultivation

of paddy in the rural areas the Department of Food Production has been taking an active interest in promoting a vegetable cultivation campaign in Colombo City. A team of one Agricultural Instructor and five Food Production overseers have been at work, supervising home gardens in Colombo and 500 home gardens in Obeyesekere Town. Free seed has been issued in all cases and manure made available at the Municipal Destructor at a cost of Rs. 10 a ton. Many of the city

dwellers have responded to the call of Grow More Food in the city itself. In the case of the Jaffna district as a first step towards increased production of chillies and onions which grow in abundance there, a scheme of subsidies for sinking wells for lift-irrigation schemes has been organized. The Co-operative Agricultural Production and Sales Societies in the district have undertaken to construct 1,000 wells in the peninsula out of the subsidy provided.

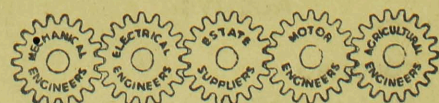
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MORAL RE- ARMAMENT

By David Hind

MORAL Re-Armament is for everyone everywhere. It is creating a worldwide transformation of human society. M.R.A. brings the full dimension of change—social change, economic change, national change, based on change in men. No other social, economic or political programme goes to the root of the disease in human nature. It is the great central revolutionary force.

Human Nature Can Be Changed

Everybody wants to see the other fellow change. Every nation wants to see the other nation change. But everybody is waiting for the other fellow to begin. M.R.A. says that if you want to see the world change the best place to start is with yourself and with your own nation.

National Economies Can Be Changed

No one group, no one class, no one nation or race is adequate to solve our problems. M.R.A. is uniting men and nations above differences of party, class, race, point of view and personal advantage. It is turning the course of events away from unemployment, poverty and war towards an age of security and prosperity. It is demonstrating on a world scale that there is enough in the world for everyone's need, but not for everyone's greed, and that as men care enough and share enough they have enough.

World History Can Be Changed

Since the war M.R.A. World Assemblies have been attended by delegates from over a hundred nations. Ten Prime Ministers and 93 Cabinet Ministers have taken part, as well as trade union officials from 48 nations who are leaders of over fifty million organised workers.

M.R.A. is enlisting men and women of every race, background and culture.

Fourteen nations of the Far East have been represented at these assemblies. Thirteen of the lands of the Muslim world in the Middle East, 21 European Nations, 22 African countries, 22 countries in the Americas have sent delegates.

Everywhere men long for peace and prepare for war. They long to rebuild, and prepare to destroy. They talk of Union. But disunity increases.

Peace is not just an idea. It is millions of people becoming different.

WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT IT

You cannot join M.R.A. You cannot resign. It is the way you live. It's not an institution. It's not a point of view. It starts a revolution, by starting one in you.

M.R.A. means absolute moral standards—absolute honesty—absolute purity, absolute unselfishness and absolute love—at home with the family, at work and in the nation.

If I feel disunity with any other person in the world, it is always partly my fault. There is always something I can do about it. When I point my finger at my neighbour there are three more pointing back at me.

Honest apology is the highroad for honest peace.

Someone once sent Frank Buchman, founder of M.R.A. a postcard with the picture of a man on it. The thought below was this. "God gave a man two ears and one mouth. Why don't you listen twice as much as you talk?" This is a daily programme for everyone. Check your life against these four standards, and then courageously begin to put right what is wrong.

M.R.A. means the power to change people, our enemies as well as our friends, the other fellow, the other nation. **NEW MEN, NEW NATIONS** and a **N-E-W-W-O-R-L-D.**

M.P.'s Clarion Call to Moratuwa Youth

THE first anniversary general meeting of the Moratuwa U.N.P. Youth League was held at "Melgreen" on Sunday, the 22nd ultimo. Mr. H. E. A. de Mel, M.P., the President, occupied the Chair.

The report was read by the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Langston Perera.

Mr. S. Lucien J. Silva moved a vote of congratulation to the President on his election as Member of Parliament to represent Talawakelle.

Mr. Denis Fernando seconded and the motion was carried with acclamation.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Rising amidst cheers, Mr. de Mel, delivering his presidential address, said:

"Now that the General Elections are over and Democracy has triumphed over all the totalitarian forces and their allies, it is our bounden duty to knit ourselves together and direct our united efforts to strengthen and consolidate our position so that the work of our party which alone stands for the invincible cause of Democracy and Freedom may go on uninterruptedly."

Continuing, he said that during the year under review, the entire country was enveloped in a cloud of sadness owing to the demise of our late Premier, the Beloved Father of the Nation. The year was also memorable by the resulting event when the void thus created was fittingly filled by the worthy father's worthy son which was perhaps unparalleled and rare in the history of democratic countries. The triumph of democracy was attributable partly to the youth of the country and partly to the self-sacrificing, patriotic, sincere and true leaders of their country. Then their nation was safe and secure at last for another period. They were a free people and therefore privileged to guide their destinies by themselves. They should, therefore, adopt a proper course of conduct and a just and unselfish policy of action. It should be of paramount importance to take steps to increase their national wealth to a maximum and reduce dependence on foreign countries to a minimum. They wanted a stable and good government. To build up same, the youth in particular should come forward. Mother Lanka expected every true son and daughter to do his or her duty by her country. Irrespective of their walk in life, he wanted all youths to rally round their country's banner to fight and maintain their freedom. He wanted the labourer and the master, the employer and the employee to come forward in union and work unselfishly for the peace of the world. He reminded the youths the words of the poet:

"Let all the ends thou aimst at,
Be thy country's, thy God's and
Truth's."

The election of office-bearers resulted as follows:—

Patron: Hon. Mr. Dudley Senanayake, the Prime Minister.

Vice-Patrons: Sir John Kotelawala, Mr. S. Lucien J. Silva and Mr. D. E. W. Perera.

President: Mr. H. E. P. de Mel, M.P.

Vice-Presidents: Capt. Rupert V. B. Peiris, E.D., Mr. Neil de Silva, Proctor S.C., Mr. P. W. Fernando.

Hony. General Secretary: Mr. Denis Fernando.

Hony. Treasurer: Mr. Herbert A. J. Wijesekera.

Hony. Asst. Secretaries: Mr. D. B. Peiris and Mr. Anthony C. Fernando.

Hony. Asst. Treasurer: Mr. Langston Perera.

With a vote of thanks the meeting terminated.

Communism Versus Commonwealth

By Stanley Morrison

WHILE the Commonwealth countries meet in London in order to forge fresh bonds between them in a perfect voluntary manner, Communism stages one of its periodical Death Dances—this time in Czechoslovakia. The contrast between the Democratic way of life and the Communist methodology could not be better exemplified. But the diseased minds which embrace the Communist creed with all its terrible paraphernalia of mock trials and bloody festivals at which human victims are sacrificed, continue to be attracted by Communism. What is the reason for this? The reason is still chiefly the defects which still mar the social structure of the Democracies. So long as these defects remain, neurotic-minded intellectuals and that great horde of the half-educated, which the schools in the Democratic countries throw up, will look to Communism to provide a panacea for the social evils which continue to deface the landscape in these countries. Besides it must be realised that in the Communist countries the half-educated have no opportunity for self-expression and the neurotic intellectuals find themselves sooner or later before the firing squads together with (unfortunately) the men who sincerely value independent thought. Thus the half-baked and the neurotics are not a real problem in Communist countries since they are either totally suppressed or mercilessly liquidated.

Nevertheless, Communism still remains the greatest challenge the Democratic way of life has ever faced, since the masses mere material achievements have a great appeal, although the material achievements of Communism are dwarfed by the material achievements of that Democratic country, the United States of America. To the average, under-privileged man and woman of Asia and Africa the purely bread-and-butter aspect of Communism appeals by contrast with the poverty he endures under Democracy. He does not understand that it has taken Russia (with all her ruthlessness and the terrible slaughtering of the small peasant proprietors in the horrible 1930's) thirty-five years to bring the standard of living of the masses to the level of the unskilled workman in the Western industrial countries. People outside the circle of the Communist countries only think of their own sufferings and are only too prone to believe the fantastic stories of the prosperity of the masses in Communist countries, which are broadcast by Communist propagandists.

Therefore, the task of the Commonwealth Economic Conference now meeting in London is to organise a workable plan for lifting the dead-weight of despair and poverty which rests so heavily on so great a mass of men, women and children in the under-developed regions of the Commonwealth. This conference will have to demonstrate to the world that it can achieve, by a voluntary act of co-operation, even that degree of material advance which Russia has attained by ruthless steam-roller methods. Some such plan seems to be envisaged by the economic experts who prepared the blueprints for the development of the Commonwealth's resources. But the fact that India, Pakistan

and Ceylon are reported to be stressing the importance of not hampering their own industrialisation programmes give the impression that the blueprints of the experts contemplate the continuance of the old policy of making the Asian members of the Commonwealth the mere producers of raw materials to feed the factories of the industrial West. Such a plan will naturally inspire distrust in the minds of the Asian delegates. There is no doubt that a great deal of new wealth that could be created in the East and in Africa by developing their still untapped natural resources. But that alone will not help to raise the living standards of their huge populations. And this is where a certain quantum of industrial development becomes imperative.

But if the Commonwealth is to be a truly co-operative economic concern, then the need arises for the setting up of a central planning board which will set itself the task of agreeing upon the kind of industries to be installed in the different countries composing the Commonwealth. This would prevent the creation of redundant industries within the Commonwealth and would eliminate the danger of several members of the Commonwealth producing vast quantities of the same things. In fact, if the Commonwealth is to be made into a great "going concern" (to use MacKinder's famous phrase), then central planning should be designed to prevent over-lapping in order that there may be free movement of goods and commodities between the component parts of the Commonwealth. The redundant over-production of certain commodities in two different components of the Commonwealth would naturally lead to a slump in those commodities. A Central Planning Board on which all the Dominions and Dependencies are represented would, therefore, be absolutely necessary in order to prevent the haphazard development of the resources of the Commonwealth. And such a board cannot be run without a spirit of give-and-take. It is only by such methods and in such a spirit that the Commonwealth can be converted from a haphazard collection of disparate economic units into a great co-operative organisation devoted to the upliftment of its vast population.

Impressions of Parliament

MR. M. SIRISENA AMARASIRI DE SILVA, President, Rural Development Group Society, Nagodda V.C. Division, Galle District, writes the following as his impressions of Parliament.

On Thursday last, November 13th, I was in the gallery of the House of Representatives, when the debate on the amending bill for Ceylon Citizenship took place. There were two things that struck me vividly.

First of all, I was very deeply impressed by the statesmanship and patriotism of our Prime Minister. He spoke with a sincere ring in his voice. He was conciliatory but firm. He felt for his bleeding motherland.

Secondly, I was pained at the attitude of the 14 Opposition M.P.s who staged a walk-out. It struck me that they knew not what they did, and looking at them, I remembered the words of Walter Scott:

"Breathes there the man with soul so dead,

Who never to himself has said,
This is my own, my native land."

I came away from Parliament, deeply thankful that the destinies of Mother Lanka are in safe hands.

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Conservative Women's Conference, London

By Matilda de Silva

IT was both a pride and a pleasure to me to be the only Ceylonese among a vast gathering of women, estimated at more than five thousand, who assembled at the Central Hall, Westminster, London, on May 20, 1952, for the twenty-fifth annual conference of the women's section of the National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations. The pride was greater and the pleasure doubled as I was the representative of the United National Party of Ceylon.

Nearly all the delegates were British. I saw a handful of Eastern women, mostly Indians, and a few others. And in the midst of all this vast feminine assemblage were just two men—the most important political figures in the British Commonwealth. The Prime Minister, Mr. Winston Churchill, received such a tremendous ovation as I have never witnessed before. It symbolised the love and affection with which he is held by the British nation. Unperturbed, unaffected, he gave his now famous V sign in acknowledgment and took his seat on the platform with his wife by his side. There was also Mr. Anthony Eden, Britain's No. 2 Cabinet Minister, the man on whom Churchill's mantle will one day fall. Besides these two men, there was a third somewhere in the hall, unseen by feminine eyes—Dr. G. F. Brockless, Mus. Doc., F.R.C.O., A.R.C.M., L.R.A.M., who presided at the organ.

I was chaperoned to the hall by Mrs. C. D. Harvey, of Winchester, a charming English lady, who had been delegated to meet me at my hotel and generally to be my guide and friend, a better guide and friend I could not have wished for.

The moment I went into the hall, I was surrounded by many who expressed in no uncertain terms their pleasure of Ceylon having sent a delegate to the conference. It was soon after the death of our revered Prime Minister, and everyone I met spoke in such genuine praise of the late Mr. D. S. Senanayake that one really wondered whether he alone had not dispelled the former ignorance of the Britisher in regard to our beautiful Island. They all knew what Mr. Senanayake had done for the liberation of our country from the foreign yoke, and their expression of deep sorrow at his death was patently sincere. They felt Britain had lost one of her staunchest friends.

Personal chit-chats over, the Chairman, the Hon. Mrs. T. A. Emmet, took her seat and hushed the great assembly into silence. She offered a welcome to the delegates, and acknowledged their gratitude to Mr. Eden for his presence. After some preliminaries, the conference discussed and adopted nine motions, the first of which placed on record its confidence in the measures taken by Government to avoid immediate economic collapse, and pledged full support for any further measures that may be required of the country. Other motions dealt with cruelty to children, workers in industry, visiting children in hospital, international missions (the conference requested greater opportunity for women to serve on these missions), the school examination system, the future of the Commonwealth, home grown food and the individual approach to the electors.

The procedure at the meeting was much the same as here, for instance, but two factors struck me forcibly—first, the orderliness with

which everyone conducted themselves and secondly, the thoroughness with which the speakers approached the subject, having come fully armed with facts and figures and never once repeating themselves. The respect shown by the audience to the chair and the courtesy extended by the chair to the audience also won the admiration of all.

Mr. Eden addressed the gathering in the morning, while the Prime Minister spoke in the afternoon when Lady Graham was in the chair.

On the following day a mass meeting was held at the vast Royal Albert Hall, when the Hon. Mrs. T. A. Emmet again presided and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Rt. Hon. R. A. Butler, addressed a gathering which was much larger than on the previous day.

Many invitations were extended to me from all over England but my own holiday programme permitted me to accept only that of Mrs. Harvey to Winchester, where she drove me through miles of enchanting rural England and showed me round Winchester College and Cathedral, and of Ashridge, the Bonar Law Memorial College in Berkhamsted, Herts.

Ashridge, presided over by Admiral Sir Denis Boyd, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.C., who was during the emergency in Trincomalee, and who has vivid recollections of Ceylon, is a non-party political Adult Education Centre situated in extensive surroundings. I spent a day there and was kindly shown round by the Secretary, Capt. Henry Gordon, O.B.E., and two of the tutors Mr. J. A. Cross and Mr. David Mitchell. Later, the Principal and staff entertained me to lunch.

While I was there I was also invited to join a discussion group presided over by Professor G. W. Keeton, the Law Professor of the London University. Students young and old, are attracted to this centre from all over the world. "Students who attend courses at the College have the opportunity of absorbing the best in historic tradition and of studying in an atmosphere of fellowship the major problems of the day, economic, political and social," Admiral Sir Denis Boyd told me.

He added: "Students profit by the teaching given but of equal value is the spirit of friendship and interest which is stimulated by the discussions and by the pleasure the students find in such informal and beautiful surroundings."

Ashridge is a place those who go to England should not miss. It is non-party and everybody is welcome there.

Community Centre for Trinco Suburb

AFTER a preliminary and explanatory talk by Janab Abdul Majeed, Inspector of Community Centres, E.P., on the merits and advantages of community centres, it was decided unanimously to open a community centre at a meeting convened by the residents of Ward No. 5, Trincomalee, presided over by Janab A. H. Abdul Rahuman, Member, U.C., for the area.

The following were elected:

Patron: Janab U. Uthumansa; President: Janab A. H. Abdulrahuman; Vice-President: Janab S. Singharajah; Joint Secretaries: Messrs. E. Ganesan and S. Ganeshapalam; Treasurer: Mr. M. Muthucumar; Committee Members: Messrs. R. Nadarajah, V. Ramalingam, N. Poo-palappillai, M. Thangarajah, T. Mahalingam, N. Velachari, L. H. L. Vinil Fred, E. A. P. Nandias Silva, K. Sivaguru, M. C. J. Abdeen, R. Ban Ahamed and P. Abdulsamath.



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SITUATION IN SOUTH AFRICA

FRUITS OF MALANISM

THE situation in South Africa is gravely deteriorating. Following the race riots in Port Elizabeth last month in which eleven people were killed, there have now been outbreaks of violence at Kimberley and East London. At Kimberley at least, thirteen people, all Africans, were killed and at East London, ten, including two Europeans, one of them a nun. These developments are new in the history of South Africa and they mark a steady turn for the worse during the past few months in the struggle between the two sides, the Europeans and the Africans.

PASSIVE DISOBEDIENCE

Behind the scenes, less spectacular but no less novel and significant for the future, there has been another development. The Africans themselves have shown that they are learning to organise. Many who have known the Bantu race for a long time were at first unwilling to believe that the Africans working in partnership with the other non-whites, Indians and the Cape Coloured, possessed the ability to carry out the threat of a passive disobedience campaign. They have been proved wrong. It is no small task to arrange for a given number of volunteers to turn up at a set place and time, and then merely to sit on the wrong seats or stand in the wrong queue. To behave quietly but provocatively in such circumstances, to act simply as Europeans

but to invite arrest by doing so requires a measure of both political consciousness and self-discipline which has come as a disturbing surprise to some of Dr. Malan's supporters.

These two developments are not directly connected. The African National Congress, which has been running the passive disobedience campaign, so skilfully, has had no apparent hand in inciting the rioting. Before the one-day strike this week it issued a statesman-like appeal to its followers to observe the peace. Rioting and arson have taken place for other reasons; for example in East London, the police have tried to break up orderly though forbidden meetings of Africans, and the mounting state of tension in the Union as a whole has created explosive situations only too easy for drunken and irresponsible elements to touch off locally.

ALARMING BREAKDOWN

If, however, the two trends were to merge, if the organising ability so far put into passive resistance were to be thrown into the scales of violence, there would be little telling where events in South Africa would end. There would certainly be an alarming breakdown in public order there might be something close to civil war. At present any such possibility may still appear to be some way off. But the situation is tense and unstable, and there is no sign as yet that the Malan government is prepared to countenance any policy other than repression to meet the growing refusal of the Africans to

co-operate with the Government. The result is to drive events ever faster in the direction of extremism and to provoke the African into drastic political and economic action which they do not want and which can offer no ultimate solution to the real problem of race relations. And this being allowed to happen in spite of the absolute dependence of the whole South African economy on its black labour force.

ORIGIN OF PRESENT TENSION

The origin of the present tension lies in the constitutional crisis precipitated by the Malan Government's determination to put the Cape Coloured people on a separate electoral role from Europeans. It is true that Mr. Strauss and the United Party are, in general in favour of a policy of segregation for Africans. But increasing evidence that the nationalists were prepared to hack their way through the tangle of race relations, at almost any cost in terms of public opinion and constitutional procedure, has had an effect of delayed shock on the opposition white and non-white alike. When the Separate Representation of Voters Bill was declared unconstitutional by the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, Dr. Malan pushed through a High Court of Parliament Act; as a result of this, the government's parliamentary supporters sitting as a High Court—over-rode the Supreme Court's ruling. Lately the High Court of Parliament Act itself has been declared null and void by the Cape Division of the Supreme Court, now the appeal by the Government against this ruling has been turned down in Bloemfontein by the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court itself. It is thus not surprising that what began as a constitutional crisis, caused by a deliberate political decision affecting the everyday life of a large section of the community, should now be reflected in a nationwide sense of uncertainty, frustration and fear. Dr. Malan has only himself to blame for the way his opponents are reacting to the provocation he has given them.

DEADLOCK AGGRAVATED

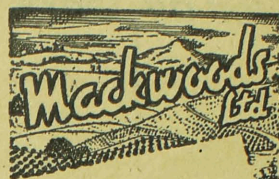
Instead of trying to bridge the gap between his administration and the Africans by creating new machinery for consultation—there has been virtually none since the Natives' Representative Council was allowed to lapse by the present Government—Dr. Malan has only aggravated the deadlock in racial relations by more and more use of the police. Instead of recognizing the truth, he has now even blamed the British and the Indians as the people primarily responsible for what is happening in his country. Speaking as the Prime Minister of South Africa, Dr. Malan this week accused the British of letting down the white races in Africa by their policies in the Gold Coast, and the Indians of deliberately fomenting trouble in the Union by their actions over Natal and at U.N.O. It is legitimate to wonder how far these tactics may be designed primarily as electioneering gambits in preparation for next year's appeal to the country. Whether they are or not, their effect is deplorable, both on developments in South Africa itself and on the opinion of the outside world. Such a lapse into irresponsibility may sow the wind, but it will reap the whirlwind.

THE OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS

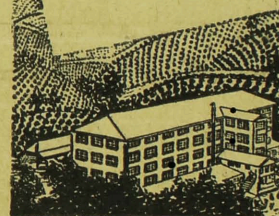
The outstanding problem in Africa is to promote among the Africans a public opinion interested in working with the whites, while creating among the whites a genuine willingness to see African living standards rise and political rights increase in step with them. These aims, as human as they are inescapable if Africans and Europeans are to live together in united communities, lie behind the British colonial policy of encouraging the maximum feasible consultation with Africans and their gradual participation in Government. Dr. Malan's accusations,

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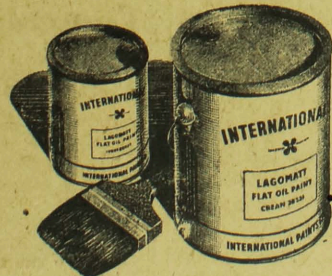
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(Continued on page 7)

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u.n.p.

Friday, December 5, 1952

TREASURY PROBE ?

We read with some interest a news story in an evening contemporary to the effect that the Ministry of Transport and Works had requested the Treasury to inquire into the working of the Colombo Port Commission office. This gave the impression that all was not well with the latter institution and that the Ministry of Finance was going to probe into its working. On making our own independent enquiries we were told by a high official of the Ministry of Transport and Works that the news story was factually correct but that the interpretation that the average reader would give it was wrong.

It merely meant, the official assured us, that the Treasury which alone was responsible for the re-organization of the administrative structure in any Government department, was asked to "see for itself" what was wrong at the C.P.C. Office. If a department complained that it could not cope with a very large increase in the volume of work and asked for additional staff of a particular grade and type, then it is for the Treasury to say "yes" or "no" to such a claim. Since the Treasury is at the giving end of such extra staff it is also the best authority to investigate and find out whether that staff is really necessary.

That may well be the correct position but we are moved to reflect that it is a somewhat sad confession of failure for a Ministry to call in the Treasury in such matters as this. For, surely, under the new Constitution the Permanent Secretary to a Ministry was vested with great responsibility. The spirit of the new Constitution expects that the Permanent Secretary should exercise the powers that were once exercised in the old days under the Donoughmore Constitution, by the Chief Secretary and the Financial Secretary. Under the Donoughmore Constitution the Chief Secretary and the Financial Secretary exercised sole control of the increase of staff, conditions of service, transfers, and all such functions as were necessary to regulate the flow of business throughout the Government Services. This inevitably created a bottle-neck of almost exasperating delay. The solution to such a situa-

tion was to distribute that responsibility and as the highest authorities felt that Heads of Departments could not be vested with such powers, the system of Permanent Secretaries exercising such powers over a group of departments was evolved. That is why Permanent Secretaries are paid nearly Rs. 3,000 a month. From the beginning of this Constitution, however, a few Permanent Secretaries, through good nature, through timidity, through ineptitude, through laziness and some through ignorance gradually abandoned their rights and opened the way to Treasury interference even on trifling matters. In any Government Service in the world if you once allow your powers to be usurped even by consent thereafter the usurping authority will consider it a matter of right and privilege to continue to sit on you. This is exactly what has happened in many spheres of the public administration in Ceylon.

Another somewhat curious position that has arisen in recent years is that in the name of a distinguished Head of the Treasury who is also Secretary to the Cabinet various minor officials exercise discretionary powers never intended for them. The privilege of signing for the Head of the Treasury is shared by too many officials, some of them comparative juniors, and often very distinguished members of the Civil Service, in administrative charge of big departments of the Government have to submit to their rulings. The latter, however, rarely complain because they wrongly imagine that the majesty and authority of the Head of the Treasury and the Minister of Finance might be hurt by such protest. This, of course, is not the case. The Head of the Treasury is one of the busiest and most overburdened members of the Public Service and from the changeover the position has been filled with distinction both by Mr. T. D. Perera and by the present holder, Mr. A. G. Ranasingha. It is equally true that behind the cover of their authority several assistants are in a position to lord it over Permanent Secretaries and Heads of Departments.

The Ministry of Transport and Works is one of the largest single Ministries in the administration and, fortunately, it has the most experienced Minister in the Cabinet at its head. In this particular case the Minister knows much more intimately the historical background of the departments under him than any single Ministry official can possibly know. In the last three years it appears to have given up much of its authority. It is time now for not only the Ministry of Transport but all Ministries to become aware of the wide extent of their powers and the responsibilities that go with such powers.

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A Democracy Is Not Dictatorship of the Majority

Says Eardley Gunasekera

DEMOCRACY, it is accepted, involves rule by the majority. As to whether the majority is always correct is a matter we must consider. "What is the composition of the majority?" is a question that is always asked. In an attempt to answer this one must necessarily come to the conclusion that the majority may be composed of the foolish or the wise. Democracy in its tenets involves rule by the majority whether right or wrong. However in this system Democracy often comes to rational and feasible solutions to all social issues. Commonsense from the average man, it is felt, is a satisfactory solution which terminates in far reaching results than all the plans of a riper intelligence.

It is not always that the human mind responds to reason, and the majority principle on first sight seems to most of us absolutely unreasonable and does not correspond to any ethical code of life. The majority, it is felt, imposes its will on the minority by sheer compulsion. The interesting feature is that in Democracy and in its hopes to hold in esteem its ideals that never happens. The decision of the majority is not arbitrary and dictatorial for it is the taste of the majority spiced by a large number of minor dissents.

In the everyday course of our life we experience the will of the majority in some form or other. It has become part of our very nature that in our position to acknowledge the majority principle we feel what it is to impose and accept with equal pleasure the will of the majority. Even the most dictatorial rulers who have conferred on themselves splendid resources and opportunities for the execution of their commands pay heed to the voice of the common man. He realises, feels and is aware in his mind's eye that not the most violent tactics could counteract and appease the spirit of man. The spirit of man is immaterial and abstract and it is not possible for any force to destroy this spirit. We are born into a world where certain conceptions of life are in vogue, into a world where others have been born, and gradually get acclimatised to the problems of life and their tried solutions. We are born into a world where there is a certain way of life and it follows that we must abide by it. It means that the freedom of the individual is exercised within certain social limits and which if he dislikes he has the facility of altering by constitutional methods.

The ability to differ and disagree on concrete grounds is itself an asset for the successful working of a

democracy. The majority decision in a democracy is never rigid but flexible. Thus when we take the opportunity to disagree we also take the opportunity to bend and canalise the majority will in a direction which adopts a course of toleration and compromise.

It is wrong to feel that in Democracy infallibility of righteousness could be estimated on quantity of opinion. If quantity be the be-all and end-all of majority rule its flavour becomes totalitarian. The opinion of the majority must have an element of quality judiciously combined with quantity.

It is an error to consider that all majority decisions are perfect and that they have the interests of the nation at heart. However, there is every good reason to feel that the majority can be wrong, but this is so only as the result is "freely willed." It is the desire of every majority to satisfy as far as is possible the entire society. In this endeavour, it sometimes tends to execute some of its own unadulterated decisions. Every majority decision has that little quality which causes it to be good. It is never the aim of a decent majority to subjugate and overwhelm those under their guidance and care.

When the American democracy was in its embryo form, Tocqueville was able to foresee this danger and this is what he said: "In the principle of equality I discern two tendencies, the one leading the mind to untried thoughts; the other inclined to prohibit him from thinking at all. And I perceive how, under the dominion of certain laws, democracy would extinguish the liberty of the mind to which the democratic social condition is favourable; so that after having broken all the bondage once imposed on it by ranks or by men, the human mind will be closely fettered to the greatest will of the greatest number."

However we are prone to overestimate the capabilities of the average man to think. It is impossible that the average man possesses this quality to such an extent as to be able to extend it to all matters. Our minds will never reach that stage when we will refer to it as a repertoire of comprehension.

The democratic process in action means the majority will in action. It would be unfair to putrefy the sanctity of democracy by making accusations in the manner of "majority rule means a dictatorship of the majority, rule by coercion and compulsion." Majority rule does not signify the intoxication of the minority by the liquor of majority will. As a result of the inborn qualities and the embodiment of the democratic spirit there can never be a violation of democratic ideals.

Situation in South Africa

(Continued from page 5)

based on the atmosphere now being engendered in South Africa, unfortunately ignore these realities. What has happened and is happening in the Gold Coast represents an attempt to solve the main problem by methods and at a pace suitable to that particular territory. The Gold Coast's progress towards self-government is not intended to undermine the authority of Dr. Malan, and it cannot be made dependent on events and attitudes in South Africa. British policy must have its own doctrine and its own conscience.

POSSIBLE REPERCUSSIONS

It is increasingly true, on the one hand, that what happens nowadays in one part of Africa has repercussions in others. If Dr. Malan wor-

ries about the Gold Coast, and from his own point of view he has grounds for doing so—other Governments with responsibilities in Africa have a right to worry about South Africa. Britain as a power responsible for many millions more people in Africa than these are in the Union, has a close and direct interest in what happens there. It is always invidious to criticize the internal affairs of another country; but the impact of Dr. Malan's racial policies is not confined to his own country. It is strongly felt as far north as the Rhodesian copper belt, and to a growing extent in East and West Africa as well. By making no concessions to the trend of the modern world the Malan Government is not only defying the liberal conscience of international public

(Continued on page 10)

CEYLONESE STUDENT'S EXPERIENCE IN AMERICAN VARSITY

"A FUNDAMENTAL difference between legal study at Yale and in Ceylon is in the method of instruction," writes John de Saram, a graduate of the Law School of the University of Ceylon, who has just completed a year's study at Yale University Law School, where he was awarded a Master of Law degree. In his article written for "Free World", de Saram describes some of his experiences at an American University. He was the recipient of a United States Government Smith Mundt grant.

"In most law schools," he adds, "students read treatises prepared by the authorities which set forth the principles of law governing particular situations. At Yale, the case law method is employed. The student goes directly to primary sources—judicial decisions, statutes, administrative regulations. He is required to cover a specific reading assignment for the day: cases and other assigned materials are then discussed in class. No longer do professors make lecturing the primary medium of instruction. Through questions and answers, the student is able to deduce the principles of law governing the subject under consideration. The case law method of instruction enables the student to think and reason for himself. He is able to trace the developmental pattern of specific

laws and can understand more clearly the social, economic and political factors influencing legislation."

AMERICAN STUDENTS' INTEREST IN ASIA

There were experiences outside of the classroom which meant a great deal to him. At Yale he lived in a residential university for the first time. There was the initial awkwardness of adjusting to dormitory life, he confesses. The annoyances of the first days centred round the small details of living—running down most mornings to a crowded breakfast room; carrying his own laundry to the Student Laundry Agency. Later, he adds, subtly and imperceptibly, there grew out of these irritating trifles a feeling of independence, a security in having to meet and live over the details of a routine. There was also the warmth in feeling the growing familiarity of things about one—the feel of a key turning in the door to one's room, the view out of the window, the walk down to the post office.

"We were four on a floor and we got to know each other well..... I was glad to get to know what an American student was like; his emotional reactions to things around him, his ways of thinking, his reasoning on problems confronting the world today. Most of my friends were extremely interested in the problems of Asia; they listened carefully and invariably asked penetrating questions."

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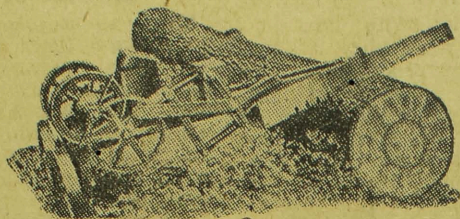
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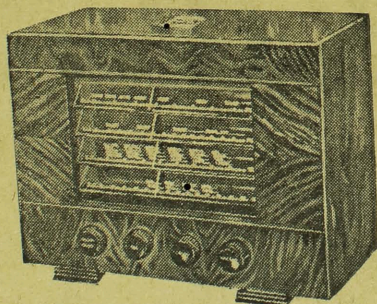
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Labour Minister Addresses Mercantile Employees AT THEIR UNION MEETING

AS there has been some misapprehension in regard to the speech recently delivered by the Hon. Dr. M. C. M. Kaleel, Minister of Labour and Social Services, at the annual meeting of the British Ceylon Corporation Ltd., Branch of the Ceylon Mercantile Employees' Union, as it appeared in some of the daily papers, the following full text of the Minister's speech is published:

Ladies and Gentlemen: I see a lady also here but I will not include her in my address because I know she does not belong to your union; but I hope she will not flash across her columns parts of what I say and leave out other parts and thus bring about a misunderstanding between employer and worker and myself. However, I am glad to be here this afternoon to listen to your grievances at first hand because as Minister of Labour I am keen to see that all genuine grievances are redressed.

Your Secretary referred to certain demands made by the Employees' Union and wanted the Government to compel the employers to carry them out. If I am a dictator with unlimited powers it is possible to compel the employers to carry out your demands, but ours is a democracy and as such we have to listen to the other side as well and consider what is best for the country, as a whole.

Whatever that may be, you cannot complain that your voice is not heard. You have very able leaders like Mr. P. B. Tampoe, the General Secretary of the Ceylon Mercantile Union. Under their guidance you could get plenty of work done.

I must, however, disagree with Mr. Tampoe when he advocates strikes to compel the employers to accede to your demands. It is easy for leaders to speak of strikes but they hardly realise the great hardship and suffering they bring about not only to the worker but to his wife and children and all those who are dependent on him as well.

If you are powerful and united you can make your employers listen to your grievances. Therefore, strengthen your trade unions. As it is your unions leave much to be desired in this respect. You ought

to be able to make your employers to listen to your grievances or bring them down to their knees in the event of their refusal to implement any reasonable grievances which they undertake to redress.

I know of several employers who give a raw deal to employees who are members of a Trade Union. But this cannot happen if a recent International Labour Organisation Convention which forbids employers from victimising their employees who belong to any trade union, is ratified by Government and I think the Government is likely to ratify this I.L.O. convention. If this happens any victimisation for joining a Union might become punishable in a Court of Law.

You will thus see that everything is being done to protect the worker. Every recent legislation has been to safeguard the interest of the worker so much so that it may be said that I have a decided bias in favour of the employee as against the employer.

Government is also at present taking steps to implement the Industries Disputes Act. One of the first things that will be done will be to appoint an Industrial Disputes Court who will listen to disputes between workers and employers.

With regard to the much discussed Mercantile Report it is not correct to say that Government has shelved it. Even before the last General Election representations were made to me and I had promised to take up the matter if elected. Now that I am Minister in charge of the subject it is all the more incumbent on me to try and implement those recommendations. This new Bill which I had hoped to take before Parliament this year ensures better terms for Mercantile Employees. It has partly been delayed at the Legal Draftsman's Department owing to pressure of work. Government would have taken up this matter long ago if not for a series of crises that cropped up in the meantime, to which Government had to devote a great deal of time. The report had to be laid aside for a time but by no means shelved.

I thank you all for your kind reception and for giving me this opportunity to speak to you.

COMMUNISM AND CEYLON

THE situation in Ceylon after the last General Elections showed off the danger of an immediate crisis. But the impending menace of Communism has still to be faced. This is a necessitated warning. At the last General Election the parties which advocated Totalitarianism were entirely rejected except in a few towns where this menace had gripped them tightly. Hence it means that a majority of the indigenous population prefers the continuance of a democratic Government. It would be a foolish idea, to think that the battle is won. Communism has to be fought out not only in the political point of view but also in the economic point of view for it is the 'material wants' on which it flourishes. If the Government is inefficient, corrupted and indifferent to material wants of the common people, it assists the spread of Communism.

The numerous development schemes being carried out under the Colombo Plan no doubt is a sufficient example of the Government's awareness of these needs. But it is necessary to show that these projects do not comprehensively show the development of the economy which is

urgently needed to evade the cause of an impending disaster which is Communism. No doubt to finish these vast multi purpose projects it will take a few years. Till the projects are finished the Government should try to secure the common people a low cost of living. Otherwise no doubt the ignorant mind of the common man would be poisoned by the heretic doctrine of Communism. If by some misfortune we leave the slightest opportunity for the spread of Communism no doubt the Communists will make the best of it. Hence the Government should not leave a single stone unturned in trying to better the life of the common man. The best and the most practicable way of doing this is by lowering the cost of living. Otherwise the man who cannot keep his head above water would start attacking the Government and at the end take to Communism as a refuge, and indulge in all the abominable vices it advocates.

THOMAS M. FERNANDO,
(Age 15 years).

Boarding Dept.,
St. Sebastian's College,
MORATUWA, (Ceylon).

Tuberculosis and Physical Culture

By D. Kamal Wijayasinghe

ALTHOUGH much has been said of heredity as an important factor in the actiology of consumption, it is very rarely that the disease is directly transmitted from parent to offspring. The reasons for it are, that consumption though no respecter of age, is not so common in children. Of course a weak constitution and even distinct susceptibility to the disease may be inherited.

Due to lack of sanitation, and the intimate association of children with consumptive parents are accounted for numerous cases where children and parents are found to be victims of this disastrous infection.

Certain trades and occupations have found susceptible in the development of consumption. Among these are mining, stone-breaking, being exposed to metal filings, closed stuffy rooms, the breathing of foul air and dust, when breathed into the lungs, give rise to irritation and even slight inflammation rendering the organs more vulnerable to infection.

The most susceptible age is from late teens to middle thirties. It shows that the resistive forces of our people are on the decline as such an early period of life. A severe illness may sometimes weaken the body, and render the patient more liable to infection.

CURE OF CONSUMPTION

Until very recently, consumption was classed as a disease that has no cure, but if taken in hand early, it is not only possible, but is probable. There are many recent discoveries in medicine that may be of assistance in bringing about a cure. The most effective cure consists of natural and healthful environment with pure food, and abundance of fresh air, suitable exercise and an outdoor life.

EXERCISE FOR WEAK LUNGS

Physical culture and proper exercise outdoors are best means of strengthening the lungs. Great care must be taken not to over-tax the patient. He should not let enthusiasm overtake him but do only as much as he can accomplish with

Process of Penalising Peccant Proctors

WHEN a Proctor is reported to be guilty of malpractice or misconduct, three Judges of the Supreme Court will hold the inquiry to decide whether or not he is guilty; and if he is guilty whether he should be struck off the rolls. But before the Supreme Court Judges hold the inquiry, there is something in the nature of a preliminary inquiry, that is held by a Disciplinary Committee of the Law Society, which would be governed by the Commissions of Inquiry Ordinance.

The Commissions of Inquiry Ordinance has been repealed and replaced by the Commission of Inquiry Act. Therefore the amendment in the Courts Ordinance is necessary to bring that Ordinance into conformity with the Commissions of Inquiry Act. The sections of the new Commissions of Inquiry Act do not exactly correspond with the sections of the repealed Commissions of Inquiry Ordinance. Therefore it has become necessary to amend the rules contained in the scheme of the Courts Ordinance in order that they may be brought into conformity with the Commissions of Inquiry Act.

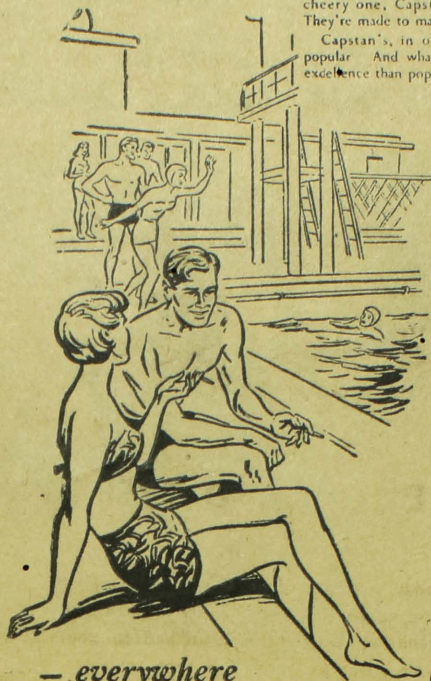
The amending Bill was passed by the Senate at the meeting held on Tuesday last.

comfort. As he gains in strength, severity of the exercises may gradually be increased.

Breathing exercises are of utmost importance, and should be performed six or eight times a day. The object being to get more oxygen into the blood, breathe in deeply and then breathe out again. Breathing exercises may be done standing, sitting or lying with arms stretched overhead according to the strength of the individual. Walking and hill climbing are excellent in promoting breathing and toning the muscular system and should be introduced gradually. Remember that no age is immune from tuberculosis. The spreading of this terrible scourge must be checked before it can overrun the country. Yes! It can be wiped out with proper hygiene and physical culture.

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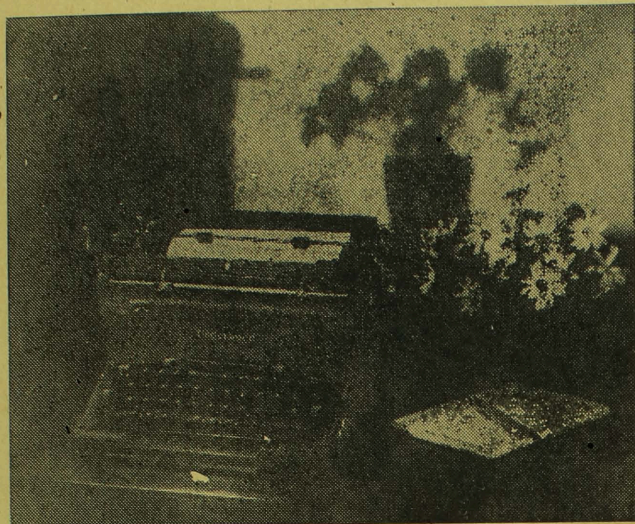
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CEYLON'S NEW COMPANIES ACT Maximum Protection to Shareholders

THE Company Law Commission has in its report discussed the difficulty of passing further safeguards which would protect the unwary investor. Certain recommendations have, however, been made for the introduction of provision into the present law to give shareholders greater control in the management of a company by supplying them with fuller and more accurate information as to the administration and financial position of the company and for widening the scope of the functions of auditors and increasing their responsibilities. It is also recommended that a greater measure of protection should be afforded to minority shareholders. It is expected that the new Companies Act will still further improve the position of businessmen and investors and lead towards the commercial progress of this country. The advantages of incorporation under the Companies Ordinance are detailed and the full benefits of a corporate body as opposed to an individual or a partnership carrying on business. Company Law has been described as "the sum total of those legal principles which regulate the large scale organization of industrial and business management and finances in most branches of economic life."

THE COMPANY CONCEPT

In Ceylon the company concept has gained much popularity in recent years, judging from the rapid increase in the registration of companies. This rapid increase is indicated by the fact that for the 77 years prior to 1939, the year when the existing Companies Ordinance came into force, the number of registrations was 825 and for the 13 years and 6 months after 1939 the number has totalled 1,430. According to the Registrar of Companies, Company Law in Ceylon does not pretend to be an original effort. In 1853 it was provided by Statute that the law relating to commercial matters should be the same as would be administered in England in the like case at the corresponding period. The English Law relating to Joint Stock Companies was introduced into Ceylon in 1861. The present law which is contained in Ordinance No. 51 of 1938 follows the English Act of 1929. But "Company Law can never reach a stage of finality. It is in need of constant revision and experience shows that these changes in commercial and financial practice have in the past demanded a major recasting of the law not less than about once in 15 years."

It is expected that the English Act of 1948 giving effect to the Cohen Committee's recommendations will soon find its counterpart in Ceylon when the report of the Ceylon Commission on Company Law is adopted by our Parliament.

CLASSES OF COMPANIES

A study of the register of companies, private and public, in the files of the Registrar of Companies, there are three classes of companies under the present Companies' Ordinance: (1) Companies limited by shares; (2) Companies limited by guarantee; and (3) Unlimited Companies. Since the coming into operation of the 1938 Ordinance, 1,415 companies were registered as com-

panies limited by shares, 12 companies as limited by guarantee, and 3 companies as limited companies. Companies limited by shares are the normal type of companies and are the most convenient and effective for the working of all kinds of business enterprise. Companies with a share capital are either public or private companies. Whether a company is private or public can be ascertained from the Articles of Association of the Company. The definition of a private company summarises three characteristics—a restriction on the transfer of shares, a limitation of membership and a prohibition to appeal for public subscription. If the Articles do not contain these specific requirements under the relevant Section of the Companies Ordinance or if no Articles are filed with the Registrar, the Company would be a public company. Of the companies registered since 1938, there are 224 public companies and 1,191 private companies.

Under the new Companies Act, the deception caused to investors by the wide statement of objects in the Memorandum of Association is sought to be done away with. It is recommended by the Commission that the undertakings to be carried out within the first five years of operation should be set out separate from the other objects, and that the company should have no power to carry out any of the other objects without a special resolution of its shareholders in general meeting.

Situation in South Africa

(Continued from page 7)

opinion; it is also creating embarrassing practical problems for countries like Britain which have to live beside it in Africa.

PART OF INTERNATIONAL PATTERN

Criticism without responsibility can cause much mischief. Moreover the effect of some foreign comment has so far been to rally South African opinion behind the Government and against outside interference. This cannot, however, be allowed to influence the genuine concern of the British people, who stand in a specially intimate and friendly relationship with South Africans as free and equal partners in the Commonwealth. Besides the community of interest in the future of race relations in Africa, the British have in addition a special claim to be heard by virtue of the strategic role which South Africa plays in Commonwealth defence. For the free world to survive in war, it might be that the Western Powers—including the United States—would have to rely on the use of the Union's ports and airfields, industries and raw materials. All these are factors which make it plain that what happens in South Africa cannot be regarded in isolation. They are a part of the international pattern which concerns the United States and Western Europe as well as Britain. That explains why the events in South Africa have called forth such alarm and indignation among the Union's friends and why, if Dr. Malan and the other members of his Government are to pursue their aim of racial segregation by their present methods of apartheid, there is grave and legitimate misgiving about the consequences.—(The Economist).

UNIVERSITY OF CEYLON

NO less notable than the contribution he made towards a keener sense of appreciation of the East was Dr. Ananda Coomaraswamy's contribution towards the establishment of a University of Ceylon. Yet at the anniversary celebrations of his birthday, the 75th of which took place on the 22nd August, the praises of Dr. Ananda Coomaraswamy's work as an "Ambassador of Understanding" and an interpreter between the East and West always overshadowed his important contribution towards the establishment of a University of Ceylon. It is incredible that this should happen in Ceylon.

The University of Ceylon owes its origin to the work of such stalwarts as Sir Ponnambalam Arunachalam, Sir James Peiris and at a later date Dr. H. M. Fernando, Dr. S. C. Paul and Mr. M. T. Akbar. Nevertheless long before these stalwarts came to play their decisive roles it was Dr. Ananda Coomaraswamy and Mahinda's Mr. F. L. Woodward who were yearning for a meeting centre of Eastern and Western culture. In the hopes they spread they saw in a University of Ceylon a vista containing a seat of learning attracting students from Burma, Siam, Cambodia, China and Japan. Drawn to these shores by the esteem in which the Island is held in the Buddhist world these students as Dr. Ananda Coomaraswamy and Mr. Woodward could see then, would make this Island with its central position, its history and religious associations a focus of Eastern and Western culture throughout the East exercising an influence over World Thought.

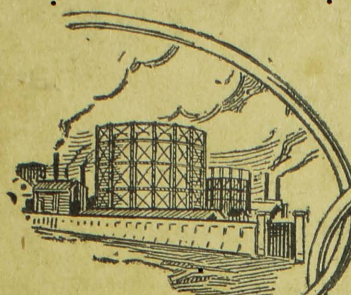
For many years Dr. Coomaraswamy lived out of Ceylon but his writings have kept before men's minds the cultural heritage of Ceylon and inspired Ceylonese all over the world to appreciate more deeply and intensely their own traditions. Most of Dr. Coomaraswamy's activities have been devoted to drawing humanity together by showing them the affinities of their culture and had thus helped to promote peace and understanding among the peoples of this world.

Dr. Coomaraswamy was born in Colombo on 22nd August, 1877. He was a son of Sir Mutu Cumaraswamy and his English wife. He was a cousin of Sir Ponnambalam Arunachalam and Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan and thus was a member of one of the most distinguished families of Ceylon. He was educated in England and on his return to Ceylon was Director of the Mineralogical Survey, 1903-1906. His work took him out into the country where he became interested in Ceylon Art and Literature and this led to the writing of his first monumental work "Medieval Sinhalese Art." After further studies he went to America and in the last three decades he had been a Research Fellow of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and had spent his life studying and interpreting those arts both to the Western world and to the world at large.

In 1905 as a social worker Dr. Coomaraswamy was a founder member of the Ceylon Social Reform Society which, under his direction, introduced among other things the vernacular in the school curriculum the recognition of Ayurvedic Science and the removal of the poll-tax which he described as a "barbaric tax." Scholars in the West did not consider the importance of Indian art until Dr. Coomaraswamy through his numerous writings, brought about a big change in this attitude. The fact that he interpreted the East to the East was certainly his biggest qualification to be remembered down the ages. It was a more difficult task to persuade the Easterner of the height of his own culture. For instance our own people had to be told by European critics usually that Sigiriya was a work of art.

Dr. Coomaraswamy is among the foremost scholars and men of letters Ceylon has produced in recent years of whom we could be justly proud.

T. M. G. SAMAT.



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