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Census of Public Service Personnel

TOTAL 123,194—MALES 114,752, FEMALES 8,442

THE size of the public service bulks large in every State, and this country is no exception. The public officer is defined as a person who holds a paid office employed by the State. The public service is a large and heterogeneous collection of persons drawn from all ranks of life engaged in all manner of occupations from the humble labourer with his modest daily wage plus temporary allowance to meet the increase in the cost of living, to the top-ranking Civil Servant. This service has this in common—they are all paid out of moneys provided by Parliament, that is to say, out of the tax-payers' pocket. But it is they who collect the whole of the public revenue and other moneys for public purposes. The rendering of the day-to-day services cannot however be done by the Central Government. There are local Governments or regional administration such as Municipal, Urban and Town Councils, Provincial and District Road Committees and Village Committees.

ARMY OF MEN AND WOMEN

The Report of the Census for 1951 of Government and Local Government employees (Public Servants) reveals some interesting details regarding the vast army of men and women thus employed to serve the public, all regularly employed. The particulars collected in respect of each employee are their status, whether permanent or temporary, pensionable or provident fund, daily-paid or monthly-paid, educational attainments, civil condition, married or single occupation, if any of wife or husband, number of children. These particulars have been collected from schedules supplied by Heads of Departments responsible for the same, and eventually serially num-

bered by the officers responsible. These are so tabulated as to enable those interested to obtain the desired information. Daily-paid labourers who were employed on a "casual basis", on the agricultural, industrial and other development schemes of the Government's Six-Year Plan, are excluded from this Census. About 15,000 such labourers were employed in the Irrigation Department. Part-time employees have also been excluded.

CENTRAL GOVT. EMPLOYEES

The total number of employees in all Government Departments was 123,194 of which male employees numbered 114,752 and female employees 8,442. The latter formed 6.9 per cent. of the total number of employees. The Ministry of Health employed the largest number of female workers, namely, 5,242. In classifying the employees according to status, whether permanent or temporary, pensionable or provident fund, it is shown that 78,827 employees or about 64 per cent. of the total number were on a permanent basis, although only 65,470 employees or 53 per cent. of the total number enjoyed pensionable status. Although there were about 256 different salary scales among the Central Government employees, yet only 23 of these salary scales were applicable to the majority (76 per cent.) of the employees. The remaining 233 scales were distributed among the other 24 per cent. of the employees. On an analysis of these remaining scales it is observed that there were as many as 144 scales none of which applied to more than 50 employees. The median salary (exclusive of all allowances) was reckoned to be Rs. 52.50. Classifying the employees according to grade of worker and length of service, it is observed that the Public Service is comparatively young—about 72 per cent. of its employees had completed less than ten years of service. According to sex, age-group and conjugal condition, there were 353 in every thousand employees

unmarried and the remaining 647 were either married, widowed or divorced. The median age of the public servant was 32.

DO YOU KNOW

That the number of Govt. School employees total 20,892; of these 12,524 are males and 8,368 females.

That there were among the Central Govt. employees 62 who have post-graduate degrees (Doctorates and Master's Degrees &c.) in English, 958 who possess the B.A. degree; 56 University Special Certificate holders; 493 who have passed

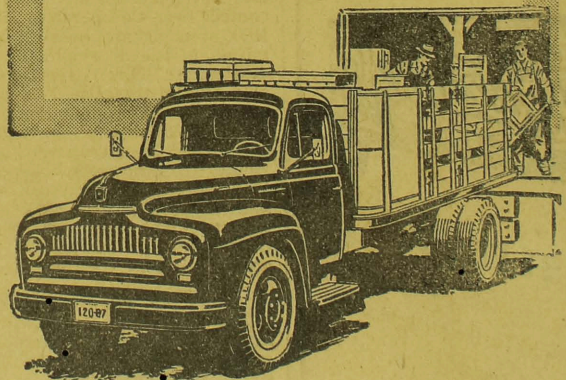
the Intermediate; 13,279 Matriculates; 86 H.S.C.; 15,642 J.S.C.; 35,626 (Seventh Standard and Lower); and 56,992 with no qualifications in English.

That there were 7 Sinhalese Pandits and 15 Tamil Pandits.

That Local Govt. employees classified according to type of Local Body for Revenue districts totalled 6,598 in Municipalities, 2,443 in Urban Councils, 628 in Town Councils, 1,820 in Village Committees, and 341 in Provincial and District Road Committees.

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DEVELOPMENT OF THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT Ceylon Provides an Example

THE Report of the International Labour Organization in a report on the development of the Co-operative Movement in Asia, prepared for the Asian Regional Conference held at Nuwara Eliya in January, 1950, referring to Ceylon where in nine years the number of Co-operative Societies had increased fivefold contains the following

observation:—

Ceylon provides a good example of a country with an official organization for Co-operation, set up on a sound and active basis and dealing with all questions of Co-operation, including even wholesale trade. At the same time this Government organization is ready to hand over gradually the duties it performs to central Co-operative organizations, as soon as the latter are capable of taking over the responsibility. The Department of Co-operation—which

(Continued on page 2)

WAGES BOARDS AND THEIR USES

THE principal minimum wage legislation in the country is the Wages Boards Ordinance (No. 27 of 1941) which has been on the Statute Book since 1941. Wages Boards were appointed under this Ordinance for different trades and have the power to determine the minimum rates of wages, hours of work and weekly and annual holidays. At the end of 1951 Wages Boards were functioning for the following trades:—

The Tea Growing and Manufacturing Trade; The Rubber Growing and Manufacturing Trade; The Cocoa, Cardamom and Pepper Growing and Manufacturing Trade; The Coconut Growing Trade; The Coconut Manufacturing Trade; The Engineering Trade; The Printing Trade; The Plumbago Trade;

The Tea Export Trade; The Rubber Export Trade; The Toddy, Arrack and Vinegar Trade; The Cigar Manufacturing Trade; The Motor Transport Trade; The Match Manufacturing Trade; The Cinema Trade; The Dock, Harbour and Port Transport Trade; The Building Trade.

Wages Boards have played a great part in securing better conditions of service in the trades for which they were established and in increasing the material welfare of the workers in those trades. This accounts for the frequent demands for the extension of the application of the Wages Boards Ordinance to more and more trades. It has now been decided by the Minister of Labour and Social Services to take action under the Industrial Disputes Act in respect of some of the trades for which Wages Boards were under consideration.

SHORT PAYMENTS DETECTED

The details of the amount of short payments detected during inspections and recovered for workers and the number of workers who benefited by such recoveries, given below for the years 1946-51, will be of interest in this connection.

Years	No. of Workers benefited	Amount recovered Rs.
1946	4,103	55,901
1947	11,026	250,963
1948	11,703	360,739
1949	11,510	244,217
1950	14,426	248,145
1951	22,404	568,595*

* This is the amount detected as short payments. Action was taken to recover these short payments and at the end of the year 1951, an amount well over half the amount due had been recovered and paid to the workers affected.

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INDIAN PROBLEM CLARIFIED

REVIEWING the history of the Indian problem during the last 30 years at a public meeting held in Delhi under the auspices of the Indian Council of World Affairs, Mr. A. Ratnayake, Ceylon's Home Minister, attributed the present "misunderstanding" in India about Ceylon's policy towards Indian residents in the Island to "misrepresentation of facts" by interested elements.

Mr. Ratnayake said that while one particular amendment about the

condition that married residents must have stayed in Ceylon during the qualifying period with their wife and minor children had been pointed out as an instance of Ceylon's 'unfriendliness', three other amendments making various provisions to enable Indian applicants to acquire citizenship had been glossed over by Ceylon's critics.

As regards the recent amendment, which was the subject of so much discussion, Mr. Ratnayake said that the late Prime Minister was still alive when the Ceylon Supreme Court passed its judgment against the Ceylon Government.

The fact that the late Prime Minister of Ceylon personally directed an appeal to the Privy Council

from the decision of the Supreme Court in regard to the residence of the wife and minor children was proof if further proof were necessary that his intention was that the wife and minor children of a married male applicant should have resided in Ceylon ordinarily during the subsistence of the marriage or from the dates of birth, or from 1.1.39.

AGREED DECISION

"I state here and now categorically" Mr. Ratnayake declared that the amendment to the Indian and Pakistani Citizenship Act is not contrary to the agreement reached between the two Prime Ministers, but in conformity with it, but the Privy Council gave a very strict interpretation of the letter of the law and we, by passing this amendment are only trying to give effect to the original intention of the late Prime Minister of Ceylon.

Mr. Ratnayake regretted that unjust charges such as "Malanism" in Ceylon had been raised against the present Ceylon Government, and said that any one could see that Indians in Ceylon lived happily and usefully and they were making a valuable contribution to the economic and cultural life of Ceylon. There was no unemployment among Indians in Ceylon. On the other hand there was acute unemployment and poverty among the indigenous population.

NOTICE

To Agents and Subscribers

Due to the 24th and 25th December being Post-Office Holidays, the U. N. P. Journal and the Siyarata will reach agents and subscribers on the 27th instant.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT

(Continued from page 1)

is attached to the Ministry of Food and Co-operative Undertakings—already had in 1945 an establishment of 853 officials, including 88 Inspectors and 709 Sub-Inspectors. In that year the organization was divided into two Departments, the Registrar's Department responsible for registration and cancellation, propaganda, education, training of staff, inspection, control and audit, and the Department for Co-operative Development, exercising general control over Co-operative activities, thus assuring an over-all co-ordination of the development of the movements. This latter Department also administers the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment, whose duty it is to supply the 4,000 odd consumer Co-operatives in the Island. It is, however, intended that this establishment shall come as soon as possible under the administration of the National Union of Consumer Co-operatives, whose creation is now contemplated.

PROCESS OF DEVOLUTION

This process of devolution has already advanced considerably as regards certain duties formally allotted to the Department of Co-operation, in particular the general supervision, and even the auditing, of the Co-operative Societies. A supervision and audit fund has been created and is maintained by the contributions of the Co-operative Societies which are compelled to pay into it 10 per cent of their annual net margins. The object of this fund, which the Government supplements in case of necessity, is to cover the expense of supervision and audit. It is administered nominally by the Registrar, but its administration is to be handed over to the National Co-operative Federation, when the latter is definitely set up. It is already administered by the Northern Co-operative Federation as regard that particular region. Further more this Federation, which in 1945 had a staff of 157 Sub-Inspectors, has been authorized to take over all duties connected with propaganda, education, inspection, supervision and audit for all Co-

operative bodies in the North and in the East. In the other divisions the duties of supervision only are exercised by the regional Unions, subsidised by the supervision and audit fund.

Although the Government of Ceylon maintains a strong Department of Co-operation and a large fund for Co-operative propaganda it does not in principle grant any

(Continued on page 3)

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IT IS TIME TO CLOSE RANKS

By Stanley Morrison

ALL over South Asia the threat of Communism hangs like an atomic cloud. There are ominous signs that Communism is preparing for a great southward march from Peking on the one hand and from those regions of Russia which border on Kashmir and Afghanistan on the other. Those who believed that the Chinese tail would wag the Russian dog must have received a shock when China meekly followed Russia in rejecting the Indian proposals for ending the Korean war. There is far more in this than meets the eye. It is a dreadful pointer to future Communist policy. It is the most menacing event since the outbreak of the Korean war.

In order to understand the full meaning of this Chinese rebuff to Indian friendship it is necessary to analyse the situation with a view to discovering the motives of China's action and the springs of her foreign policy. To begin with, it is known that before the Indian Government presented her Korean peace proposals to the United Nations she, through her envoy in Peking, consulted the Chinese Government about their acceptability to them. Obviously the Chinese Government gave India the green light and then Mr. Krishna Menon presented the proposals to the United Nations. It is also obvious that the brusque rejection of these proposals by Mr. Vyshinsky on behalf of Red China came as a terrible shock to India, since India had consulted the Chinese Government before she took the plan to the United Nations.

What, therefore, does all this mean? The only government in the Democratic Bloc which is on friendly terms with China is the Indian Government and she did take the trouble to find out what the Chinese Government thought about these Korean proposals before bringing them before the UNO—and yet, despite this precaution, they were rejected. How is the world to interpret the conduct of Red China? Was the whole thing a time-wasting farce? Was it intended to be a deliberate rebuff to India? And does this rebuff portend a change of attitude on the part of China towards India? Has China decided that it was now opportune to stop conciliating India? These are questions of tremendous import for the whole world and the answers to them provide the key to the future foreign policy of China. If the answers to these questions are in the affirmative, then the Third World War is not far away, because a change in China's attitude towards India means that she is intent on pursuing a more aggressive policy towards her Asian neighbours. And if this is so, the great question is: Will India be given enough time to re-adjust herself to the new situation?

Fortunately, the answer to this last question is a somewhat comforting one. By this I mean that India will have time to re-adjust herself to any drastic change in Chinese policy because there are certain sign-posts which the Chinese are bound to put out on the road before they can alter the line of march of their new foreign policy. Apart from Korea, there is the Indo-Chinese sign-post. If China is to go on the war-path, there is bound to be a stepping up of her aid to the rebel Vietminh forces now locked in battle with the French and Vietnamese armies in northern Indo-China. Such abetting of Vietminh strength would be a clear indication that China has decided on establishing her hegemony over the whole of the South

East Asian region—one of the richest prizes in the whole world. In order to throw India off her guard it is likely that China will leave Thailand and Burma alone until she had conquered, directly or indirectly, the whole of Indo-China, Malaya and Indonesia. It would not be too fantastic a surmise to see a link between the powerful Vietminh drive now on in Indo-China and the grave threat which has begun to reveal itself in Indonesia to the stability of the nationalist regime there.

But why wait till the fire breaks out near one's home? Is it not wiser to take precautions in time to prevent the fire reaching one's doorstep? What I mean is: Is it not time for India, the potential leader of South Asia, to compose her quarrel with Pakistan over Kashmir here now rather than waste any more time trying to put an end to other people's quarrels elsewhere? Today India cannot point the finger of scorn at China over the rejection of her Korean plan when India herself has repeatedly rejected every scheme that has been put up by the United Nations to bring about a settlement in Kashmir. India's attitude towards Kashmir has undoubtedly weakened the moral force of her Korean proposals, magnificent though they were. In the face of any impending change in China's policy towards her, it is, therefore, incumbent on India to accept a compromise solution on the Kashmir issue rather than weaken both herself and Pakistan while great Communist military preparations are under weigh on her northern borders, particularly in Tibet. Without a solution of this problem there can be no possibility of a joint India-Pakistan defence agreement. And to delay the conclusion of such an agreement would be fatal to the defence of both those countries. But united no power on earth could hope to subdue this vast sub-continent, backed as they will be by the might of the USA and Britain.

As for the Indo-Ceylon misunderstanding over Indian citizenship, I am convinced that when Mr. Dudley Senanayake and Mr. Nehru meet shortly (as I expect they will meet) a solution satisfactory to both countries will be reached since the great Indian leader, when apprised of all the facts (cleared from the poison-fog in which they have been enveloped by the treacherous Aziz-Thondaman-Ramalingam triumvirate), will, I am certain, generously concede a small country's claims to protect her nationals against a large body of Indians who regard Ceylon as a happy hunting ground. And once this little quarrel between India and Ceylon has been damped down there will be no obstacle to that complete co-operation between Ceylon and India to which the best minds on both sides of the Palk Strait look forward as a consummation devoutly to be wished. After all, India is the greatest spiritual reservoir in the world today and Destiny has marked her out to lead the whole world away from the exploitation of man by the elevation of the things of the spirit above mere materialism.

Development of the Co-operative Movement

(Continued from page 2)

subsidy to the Co-operative organizations (except in case of necessity for the supervision and audit fund), nor does it grant loans without interest. Generally speaking, the Co-operative Societies are financially maintained by their own Banks and analogous institutions. A Federal Co-operative Bank of Ceylon has just been registered, but has not yet begun to operate. It has received an advance of Capital from the State.

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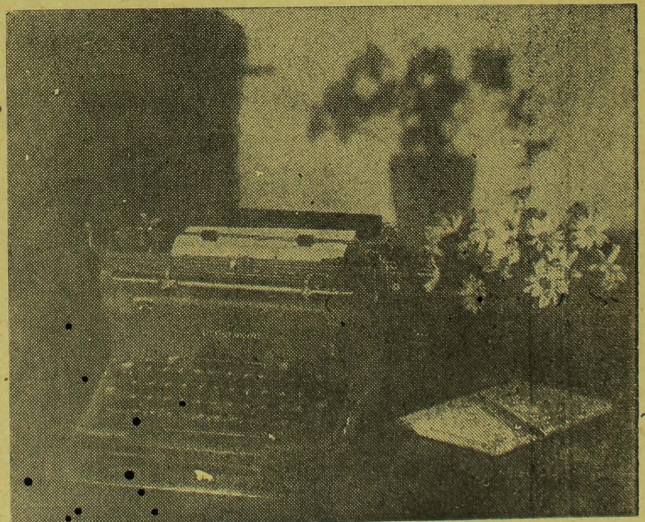
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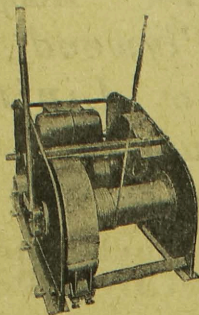
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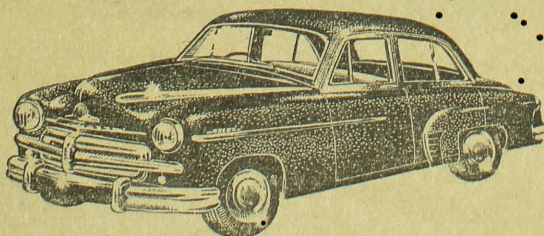
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Where Does the Money Come From?

IT comes from ordinary people, like you and me. But though that is true, it does not give you the detailed information which you probably want and which we are always delighted to give.

So let's get down to details.

You have perhaps heard that a few years ago a theatre was bought in London for the Moral Re-Armament plays. Where did that money come from?

First of all someone had the thought—"We have M.R.A. plays. We need a theatre to play them in". Several business men got together to consider the matter. It seemed a sensible suggestion. So they made inquiries about theatres. They decided that the Westminster Theatre was just what they needed.

But the price, it was staggering! Yet the idea seemed right.

Just as they had decided to back the idea whatever the difficulties the telephone bell rang. A voice from the other end, many hundreds of miles away, said, "I hear you are thinking of buying a theatre. I would like you to know that I shall be glad to contribute..." And the voice mentioned a sum running into four figures. Those who knew the owner of the voice would never have dreamed of connecting her with a four figure cheque.

Well, it looked like a confirmation of the wisdom of following up the idea. They went ahead. Money flowed in. Much of it represented ex-servicemen's gratuities and war bonuses. Some of it represented thank offerings for sons who had come safely through the war. Some—memorial gifts for those who had fallen. A few big sums—many little sums. And the theatre was bought.

Salaries were no difficulty. There were no salaries. Like all M.R.A. workers, actors and back stage people gave their services free of charge. Still it costs £100 a night to put on the show of "THE FORGOTTEN FACTOR", the M.R.A. Industrial play. Where did that money come from?

Not from the sale of theatre tickets. All the tickets were by invitation. Often when the curtain went up there was no money in the bank for that night's showing. But people who came to the show sent donations. Sometimes just a little. Sometimes a good round sum. But always enough.

Perhaps you have also heard of the M.R.A. training centre in Caux, in Switzerland. Where did that money come from?

Again, one man—a Swiss Engineer—had a thought "We need a M.R.A. centre in the heart of Europe where people from all over the world can meet in assembly. He and a few other men set out to look for it. They found it above Lake Geneva, at Caux-sur-Montreux. It had first been a luxury hotel, then a house for refugees. It was now about to be sold to a demolition firm.

The Young Swiss Engineer gave a great part of his fortune. A cook from Berne gave her life's savings and offered to work in the kitchen without salary. People sold their life insurance policies, their houses and possessions. From all over Switzerland and even beyond, came big sums, small sums, and the hotel was bought. Bought! yes. But it was far from habitable, and there was no money to engage a contractor for repairs.

Then friends in Switzerland and from further afield, teachers and students, housewives and businessmen, workers and school children, rallied round and within a few weeks all the plumbing and wiring, the plastering and pasting, the scrubbing, cleaning and reconditioning were practically finished. When the first Assembly opened in June 1946, equipment had been purchased or given sufficient to

house and cook for 1000 guests a day. Repairing went on all through the summer. The locksmith and his son who had volunteered to mend all broken locks, were still on the job, and down in the basement a man whose lifelong job had been mattress repairing was still giving his services.

Today the M.R.A. Conference Centre in Caux comprises 6 hotels and can accommodate 1,400 people. It costs over a million Swiss francs a year to run, say, 10 lakhs of rupees. Where does that money come from?

In the 6 years since 1946, 60,000 people from 113 countries have attended the Assemblies at Caux. They travelled there at their own expense. Some came representing their governments. In 1949 the U.S.A. appointed a Bi-Partisan Committee to visit Caux and their expenses were unanimously voted by Congress. British Miners opened a Caux Delegation Fund and sent their representatives out of money saved from their small luxuries.

No bills are presented. It is left to each guest what he or she will pay. Some pay in full. Some pay less. Some pay more, much more. Some pay nothing, either because they have nothing or because they have not been able to obtain Swiss Francs. Some give from income. Some from capital. Caux is financed by the sacrificial and voluntary giving of thousands of people.

Countries which, because of currency restrictions, can contribute little or nothing in cash, give in kind. Jamaica sent 6 tons of sugar. A Finnish lift company gave a lift worth ten thousand dollars. A Canadian farmer sent 8 tons of food. Danish farmers sent 14 tons of butter, eggs and cheese. Ruhr pits sent 46 tons of coal and promised a similar amount if needed again. India has sent both coffee and tea. Siam this year sent 5 tons of the best rice to feed the many Asian delegates to the Assembly. And Ceylon too, sent tea, both this year and in 1950.

Dr. Buchman in response to the many invitations he has received from Ceylon and the other Asian countries, came out bringing with him an international team of about 180 people with four of the M.R.A. plays.

Where will that money come from? Some big gifts. Many small ones. Some of it, perhaps, from you and me?

Dr. Buchman says "Where God guides, He also provides". And "If everyone cared enough and everyone shared enough, everyone would have enough".

Yes. This is the new economics of the New World. And it W-O-R-K-S.

All donations and contributions may be forwarded to any of the following gentlemen:—

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A SOAP manufacturer said to a minister: "Your preaching hasn't done much good, for there is still a lot of sin and sinful people."

The minister made no immediate reply, but they soon passed a child making mud pies. He was exceedingly dirty. "Soap hasn't done much good in the world, I see", said the minister, "for there's still much dirt and dirty people."

"Oh, well", answered the soap maker, "soap is useful only when applied."

"Exactly", was the minister's reply. "So it is with the Gospel, we proclaim. It, too, must be applied."

Democrats Believe in Helping Others

By Eardley Gunasekera

IN recent times there has been a tendency to withdraw from the ideal of corporate life and co-operative effort which is indeed a vital factor in the establishing of the democratic faith. There has been, in spite of all consciousness of this view, a conception that the utility of a democracy is now lost. As a matter of fact some are inclined to believe that the whole democratic order is threatened because so many violate the fundamental laws of a democracy. Marxism, which has a great political appeal, thrives in some countries because it has convinced the illiterate masses that its tenets are meant to alleviate the pitiable conditions they live in. It also presupposes that the equilibrium of the Marxist regime could be maintained by the whole-hearted condition of every living being. Whether in practice these farfetched aspirations ever operate it is needless for me to mention. The truth is that is able to survive amidst unsatisfactory economic conditions. It was established in Russia by violence and force. The Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 being ample evidence of it.

Democracy, on the contrary has resorted to no such means to be accepted by human beings because human beings themselves have been convinced that it is the solution to human problems. Furthermore it has held its own for centuries and it would be absurd to cast it off without sufficient reason. The majority of the people on the surface of the globe are aware of its power and value and it is nothing but unreasonableness to try to replace it by a system which is upheld by a small section of the people who employ ruthless means to achieve this result. Why, I ask you should any particular doctrine seek the assistance of violence and armed strength to convince human beings of its worth? One begins to view with contempt and scorn the Marxist order because it cannot and never will solve the problems of human beings because those problems themselves are developing complexities. Human nature is never static and consequently have a variety of reactions. It is because of this particular aspect that Democracy has proven its worth. It is flexible and can be moulded to suit these varying reactions. That is why it has not been necessary to depend on violence for support. The slow, gradual process of conversion and persuasion are the true supporters of a Democracy. It teaches everyone of us to teach and help others. If we cannot understand to help us to understand and if we cannot do things for ourselves then to help us to do them. These ideas are more in keeping with the human mind than theories of materialism and leftist poppycock which the world is fast rejecting.

Democracy includes sacrifice and the abandonment of selfishness. No government can solve the problems of a people who are concerned not so much with the problems that affect them as a whole as those matters connected with self-interests. Governments rule not to foster individual fancies but for the common and the general good; and governments are composed of people thus making it all the more important why secondary matters as personal motives should be disregarded. We must help governments to rule over us and to this end the greatest help we can give them is to help one another. A democracy is a form of government finding its origin and issuing directives not from the top as in a Marxist regime but from among the people. That is exactly the reason why we should make the source of democratic government as productive as possible. This productivity

is enhanced in no better way than by making people realise the value of helping one another and thereby help oneself.

In Ceylon there is a tendency to recoil from ideals of co-operation and teamwork, and from ideals of sacrifice for the sake of achieving a common good. In Ceylon value is measured by monetary worth. Ideals of common good and mutual benefit are only empty by-words. The value of altruistic behaviour and mutual assistance have been recognised and therefore the democrat and only the democrat believe in this because his is the only system of Government founded on the people and their behaviour. From this point of view a Christian society offers a very great chance for the complete survival of the democratic order. By this I do not mean that the democratic system is threatened if introduced into a society comprising on non-Christian elements. But the Christian concept of working for one's own redemption not unmindful of one's neighbour, offers an attractive appeal to a democracy.

"It is indisputable", wrote Maine of the Old Order, "that much of the greatest part of mankind has never shown a particle of desire that its civil institutions should be improved since the moment when external completeness was first given to them by their embodiment in some permanent record". Thus the political mood was static, and the very word reminds us that the position of the individual in society was governed by the notion of status. The individual in society and more specially in democratic society can have no such status if he follows principles of selfishness and non-co-operation. There is no more near perfect creature than the human being who has been gifted with rationalism to guide him along. He is in the unique position of being able to respond to impulses of great importance. We may be able to score an occasional victory from the point of view of self-interest. But this cannot go along indefinitely for there must come a time when the principle of selfishness, non-co-operation and personal motives will collide with democratic concepts of mutual assistance, co-operation and the common good. It is absolutely necessary that we as democrats should appreciate this quality of mutual assistance because a democracy has its foundation on the people and it is amongst the people that we must develop the essentials of a democracy.

LANKA MAHILA SAMITIYA

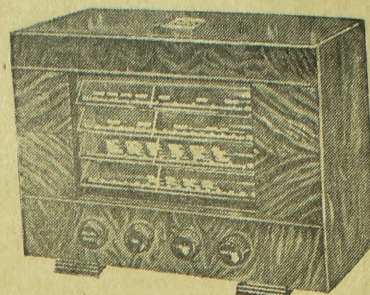
THE action of the Executive Committee of the Lanka Mahila Samitiya in giving notice of discontinuance of service to the Administrative Secretary, Mrs. P. Wickremesinghe, came in for strong criticism recently at a meeting of the Central Board of the Samitiya.

The further action taken by the Executive Committee in placing her on compulsory leave and debarring her from entering the office was strongly condemned and the Central Board directed that the notice of discontinuance of service and also of compulsory leave should be withdrawn immediately.

It transpired in the course of the discussion that the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting at which it was decided to give notice of discontinuance had not even been recorded.

It was also stated in the course of the discussion that the Administrative Secretary was placed on compulsory leave because she transported the ballot papers for the election of office-bearers at the annual general meeting in the President's car with the President to the Post Office, and not accompanied by two of the workers of the Samitiya as directed.

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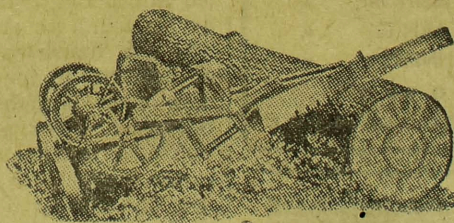
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Friday, December 19, 1952

FUTURE OF THE LANKA MAHILA SAMITIYA

THERE is trouble brewing in the Lanka Mahila Samitiya. Politics appears to be infiltrating into this splendid institution. The irony of it is that the excuse for political interference is that somebody dabbled in politics! A closer examination of some of the leading figures in the recent discussions would reveal the fact that some of them are camp-followers of the Samasamajists and Communists. Behind the shield of being non-political an attempt was recently made to set up certain individuals in authority over the Island-wide organization of the Mahila Samitis. Senator Miss Cissy Cooray was assailed, and there was an attempt to displace her authority with others who are wellknown to be "Trojan horses" of the Left wing. One is the sister-in-law of a Left-Wing leader; another, a very gifted woman, is known to be behind a Left wing journal. When we sound a note of warning we are sincerely concerned about the welfare of the average rural peasant woman who found in the Mahila Samitiya a guardian and a source of inspiration. It would be a pity to destroy the power for good that rests in this organization of Women's Institutes. That political squabbling must lead to such destruction is inevitable. We remind members of these samitis of the fate that overcame the Buddhist Theosophical Society in recent years when Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, was hustled into office as its President by his admirers and satellites who got themselves into posts of authority in the B. T. S. A man of Mr. Bandaranaike's intellectual attainments may well have brought great credit to the Society and given it a new drive and vision but he could not escape the environment of politics in which his whole life is surrounded. It is not possible, however desirable it may be for one with strong political views to be at the head of an Islandwide organization, without bringing to bear on its working the influence of his political predilections and allegiances. It was not until Dr. Nicholas Attygalle succeeded Mr. Bandaranaike that the Buddhist Theosophical Society ceased to be "the blood-stained battlefield of Buddhist education".

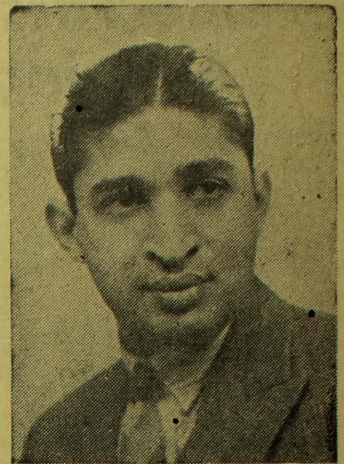
When Miss Cissy Cooray was honoured by the Government with Imperial distinctions and by appointing her a Senator it was a recognition of her work in the Mahila

Samitis and a recognition of the Samitiya itself as a force in the economic life of the Ceylon peasant and not political patronage. The fact that after her elevation as Senator she has always voted with the Government has to be viewed in the light of her normal detachment from politics which had kept her out of the various revolutionary movements that had drawn in some other intellectual woman. Miss Cooray is conservative in outlook and that is not a phenomenon that became apparent only after her elevation to the Upper House. It is said that she spoke at one meeting for a candidate at the General Election and thereby violated one of the cardinal principles of the Mahila Samiti Movement which is that its members shall not dabble in politics. We regret that she should have addressed any meetings at all, but in this instance she has frankly stated that she appeared not as the President of the Mahila Samitis but in her personal capacity as Miss Cissy Cooray, and that there were personal and special interests in the electorate concerned which made it her duty as a voter to express her views and give of her guidance to those who would listen to her. The greatest argument in her defence is the fact that she was a Senator, and thereby was invested with political responsibility higher than that which rests on the normal citizen. She did not campaign for any party during the last General Election. Those who would now criticise Miss Cooray should have the charity and reasonableness to grant that this is convincing proof of her neutrality during election time.

Mrs. Wickremesinghe, the Secretary of the Lanka Mahila Samitiya, is also in for attack from various quarters for having supported the President, Miss Cooray. It is the duty of any Secretary to be loyal to the President, whoever the President may be at the time. Instead of appreciating such loyalty some members appear to be over eager to denounce this good woman and see her out of the position from which she has during the last few years rendered signal service to the Society and the community at large.

As wife of a Christian padre, she was always distinguished for her forwardlooking, energetic approach to all problems set before her. There is much that the Mahila Samitiya can expect of her in future. It would be strange if there are not some women in the Samitiya who are impatient for office. It would only be natural in a human world to find that some would try to get power, all in the name of various high sounding and noble objectives! It is, therefore, for the rank and file to save the Society from ruining itself. The public would be justified

(Continued on page 7)



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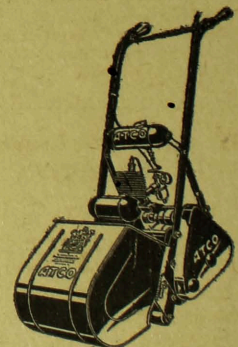
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WAR IN ASIA BATTLE OF KOREA.

THE ghastly battle of the South Koreans and Chinese Reds for the strategic ridges north of Kumhwa went into its seventh week. U.S. corps officers and liaison men who had seen it were sick and sad at heart. Said an A.P. dispatch: "Some [U.S. officers] have wept as pitiful remnants of full companies dragged their way back down the shell-blasted slopes of Triangle Hill and Sniper Ridge. Combat rifle companies are sprinkled heavily now with green replacements."

But in spite of their losses, the proud ROKs had proved their stomach for battle. Last week Eighth Army Commander James Van Fleet, the man mainly responsible for the ROK resurgence, reviewed elements of two new ROK divisions—the 12th and 15th—at the start of their training. With the copybook eloquence that becomes him, Soldier Van Fleet said: "The ROK army has come of age. It has proved to the world its great fighting heart. It will always be successful in battle. May it never fall."

BATTLE OF INDO-CHINA

It was a beautiful morning, with wisps of mist clinging to the jungle-covered hills. But the grimy, green-clad French Foreign Legion marched down Route Coloniale No. 2 beside their guns and tanks with curses on their lips. It was the luck of war: they had made a lightning strike into the heart of enemy country, but just as they had been about to descend on the Communist stronghold of Yenbay, the whole operation had been called off. Operation Lorraine it had been named—parachute troops leaping from an armoured spearhead of 15,000 infantrymen, as pretty a piece of planning as you would find in the book. What had happened?

In the headquarters of eagle-faced General Gonzales de Linares, they had only an approximate idea of events that morning last week. Stretching out from the apex of the triangular French-held Hanoi delta to the China border is a string of hedgehog defences; the Black River line. Three weeks ago, when Communist General Giap (Time, Nov. 17) attacked Laichau at the westernmost end of this line, General Linares had thrown in Operation Lorraine. It was a counterpunch, aimed to throw Giap's armies off balance and to cut one of his main supply lines from Communist China.

FUTURE OF THE LANKA MAHILA SAMITIYA

(Continued from page 6)

in withdrawing support, particularly with its money, from a society if there were grounds to believe that it has been over-run by a political caucus. As for the Government it would have no right to continue to subsidize an organization which becomes political with the help of slogans that shout against politics.

The Mahila Samiti are vital to the economic prosperity of most villages, and it is everyone's duty to leave political power-groups out of them and develop them as strong, democratic societies of women. Government should have little to do in their control, not even in the sense of patronage. They should grow strong, independent and competent without adventitious aid.

But Giap's Viet Minh forces, ignoring Operation Lorraine, suddenly swept south, swarmed across the Black River and swallowed the fortified French outposts Mocchau and Yenchau. Now they were advancing on the town of Sonla and the nearby airstrip of Nasan, where 12,000 French troops were cut off. There was another point of worry for General Linares: What had become of Communist Giap's crack 308th Viet Minh division, which had suddenly vanished from the Black River front?

"CUT OFF THEIR HEADS"

At 8 that morning, the withdrawing French Legionnaires had an answer to that question. Hidden in the jungle at the road's edge and concealed in the ruins of an old Chinese fort on a nearby hilltop, the 308th was watching the approach of a French column. Now, over a 2,000-yard strip of the road, they let the French have it. Lobbed hand grenades turned trucks into burning wrecks, while rifle and machine-gun fire blasted down the Legionnaires. Then the Viet Minh leaped into the road with daggers and machetes. The French column, cut in half, pulled back north and south of the ambush point. Dazed survivors gasped incoherent stories: one had seen women charging with the Viet Minh, others had seen a European leading the charge, shouting "Coupez les tetes! (Cut off their heads)."

Sandy-haired Breton Lieut. Colonel Louis Kergaravat rallied the southern half of his forces on a hill overlooking the road. Spotting the Viet Minh in the old Chinese fort, he called in the artillery. Said Kergaravat later: "They did not take cover. They acted as if they were drunk. We could see their bodies tossed into the air by the explosions of our shells." An hour later, driven off the old fort, the Viet Minh stormed Kergaravat's position. "I couldn't believe my eyes, there were so many of them," said Kergaravat. "It looked like a football stadium emptying." Screaming Viet Minh charged to within 30 yards of the French position were finally blasted off the hillside by Chaffee tanks.

TRUMPET CHARGE

For six hours the French

Staggering of Office Hours

THESE Government offices and departments in Colombo will stagger their working hours from January 1, 1953:—

Week days: 8 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.

Saturdays: 8 a.m. to 12 noon.

Ministry of Education: (i) Office of the Minister; (ii) Director of Education; (iii) Director of National Museums; (iv) Government Archivist; (v) Archaeological Commissioner; (vi) Commissioner of Examinations.

Ministry of Commerce and Trade: (i) Office of the Minister; (ii) Director of Commerce; (iii) Registrar of Companies; (iv) Director of Government Tourist Bureau; (v) Rubber Commissioner; (vi) Controller of Imports and Exports.

Week days: 8.30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturdays: 8.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Ministry of Home Affairs: (i) Office of the Minister; (ii) Excise Commissioner; (iii) Government Analyst; (iv) Registrar-General; (v) Commissioner of Parliamentary Elections; (vi) Director of Rural Development; and (vii) Commissioner of Cottage Industries.

Ministry of Lands and Land Development: (i) Office of the Minister; (ii) Land Commissioner; (iii) Settlement Officer; (iv) Surveyor-General; (v) Conservator of Forests; (vi) Director of Irrigation; (vii) Chief Valuer; (viii) Commissioner, Agricultural Corps; (ix) Director of Land Development; and (x) Warden of Wild Life.

Ministry of Agriculture and Food: (i) Office of the Minister; (ii) Food Commissioner (Control and Distribution); (iii) Food Commissioner (Supplies); (iv) Commissioner of Co-operative Development and Registrar of Co-operative Societies; (v) Director of Food Production; and (vi) Commissioner of Marketing.

Ministry of Labour: (i) Office of the Minister; (ii) Commissioner of Labour; (iii) Director of Social Services

Ministry of Industries and Fisheries: (i) Office of the Minister; (ii) Director of Industries; and (iii) Director of Fisheries.

Ministry of Local Government: (i) Office of the Minister; (ii) Commissioner of Local Government; (iii) Government Town Planner; and (iv) Commissioner of Elections (Local Bodies).

held off the Viet Minh while B-26s from Hanoi strafed the roadside. By that time the northern half of the French column was in position to counterattack. In the jump-off position was the 1st Bataillon de Marche, reckoned the finest Vietnamese unit in the French Union forces, whose tradition it is to charge to the call of a trumpet. Now, as the shrill trumpet echoed over the green jungle, the Vietnamese stormed the small hill where the Viet Minh had dug in. The fourth wave got in among the Reds with the bayonet. The fanatical young Communists died to the last man. By 5 p.m. the Legionnaires commanded the hilltops on either side of the road. The northern half of the severed French column could now come through.

By dusk all had passed the ambush point except the heavy armour of the rear guard, when suddenly a new wave of Reds jumped the road, recapturing the ambush area and cutting off the rear guard. Bucking their way through in the darkness, the tanks reached at centre of the ambush area, with hundreds

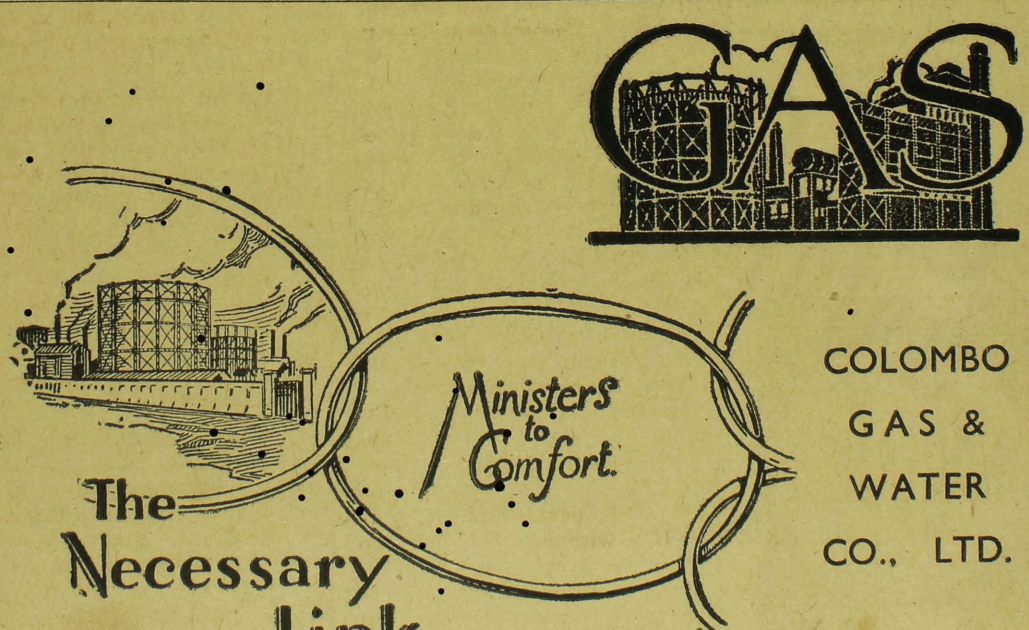
of suicidal Viet Minh swarming aboard with potato-masher stick grenades and plastic explosive charges. Some Viet Minh threw themselves under the grinding treads with armfuls of explosives. Six armored halftracks were destroyed and their crews slaughtered.

The blind, lumbering tanks had to clean the antlike Viet Minh off each other with machine-gun fire. Almost overwhelmed, the rear guard called for artillery support. The French gunners laid down a skillful box barrage which enclosed the tanks in a wall of fire. As the tanks moved forward, so did the barrage, until finally the column broke into the clear. The battle had lasted 14 hours.

THE HEDGEHOG'S SPIKES

In Hanoi, General Linares faced a new and alarming situation. Though he had extricated his centre his left flank was crumbling. First, jarlung, French outposts, and then Sonla itself had to be abandoned. The French pulled back into Nasan 117

(Continued on page 9)



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IS THERE MAGIC IN OUR FOLK SONGS?

By T. M. G. Samat

MELODY in our folk songs could be described as near primitive. If melody is the only reason for permanency of a song such sweet contributions to modern Sinhalese music as "Swanda Sukomali", "Dambulla Gale" and "Handa Pane", might perhaps outlive the folk melodies of our hills and dales. Much of the sentiment in our folk songs is detached. But melody and sentimentality are not the only qualities for survival. If these folk songs have survived for centuries it must be due to qualities different from the richness of our orchestrated melodies.

Based on a musical tradition perhaps as old as the 64 kinds of drums with which Sinhalese music is associated or rather as old as the origin of music itself, these folk songs of our Island could not have defied the ravages of time unless they had some power in them, the power to influence,—call it magic.

Folk songs all over the world are tied up with some indigent activity and high among these activities in Ceylon that are tied up to folk songs with power to "inspire" and strength to "move" is Paddy Cultivation. H. C. F. Bell's translation of a popular harvest song runs thus:—

"May all the gods permit us to enter the field after worshipping the sun god
The gods' consent obtained,
O Goyi lord, give us sickles
May the clouds keep us cool shading the sun's rays.
And the gods deliver from all evil granting peace these thirty "peyas".

This method of influencing nature with song might be an illusion but it is not futile for the song has no direct effect on the growth of the paddy; but it does inspire the cultivators to believe that the crop with

increased care and energy will be under the special care of the gods. Although there might not be clouds to keep them cool shading the sun's rays precisely when they are working the women transplant with as much energy as the men who ploughed the field. The song changes the attitude of the men and women engaged in the work towards reality and thus indirectly changes reality.

Folk songs are universally concerned with groups and their pre-occupations and interests which includes pilgrimages. Indeed Ceylon has a song for every aspect of the people's life and work. Thus we have in Ceylon the "Valan Tanima", a craft song of the potter, the "Padura Male" the song of the Mat Weaver not to mention the carter's song and the washerman's "Kotahalu Kavi".

Although these songs have no effect on the behaviour of the paddy plants or the mat or the pot they have an effect on the group for there is a noticeable change on the attitude on the part of the group towards its task led often by a song leader.

In the hope strongly desired by a group for rain or protection of crops from destruction there is an intimate tie up of nature and society. This tie up is no doubt the basis of magic. Every society pursues what may be defined as magic practices designed to influence nature in its favour to increase its food supply and to protect it against the destruction by animals. Any society which does not pursue these practices have done so before. In Ceylon we have incantations to drive away elephants and crocodiles. Like in the folk songs, in these incantations there is an intense hope that the wild elephant or crocodile concerned would disperse. And they do disperse. How does this happen?

The explanation might be that in the enactment of the incantation the group is inspired to believe in what they so intensely wish and a vibration is the result. The effect of course would depend on the strength of the vibration.

Expansion of the Employment Service

STARTED in 1938 the employment service instituted by the Ministry of Labour with only one Exchange in Colombo has now expanded to cover almost the whole Island. There is at present a network of these exchanges situated in Negombo, Kalutara, Galle, Kandy, Nawalapitiya, Kurunegala, Jaffna, Ratnapura, Badulla, Batticaloa, Kalmunai, Trincomalee, Anuradhapura, and A'issawella. Besides these there are branch exchanges at Hatton, Chilaw, Haputale, Matara, Kegalla, Anpara. There are also registering centres in outlying areas like Point Pedro, Mannar, Madampe, Moratuwa, Matugama, Dehiwala, Rakwana, Vavuniya, Mullaitivu, Oddichuddan, Balapitiya, Aturugiriya, Matale, Talawakelle, Kankesanural and Nuwara Eliya. This network of centres enables persons in search of employment to avail themselves of the service provided by the Government. All unemployed people seeking assistance can register themselves at the various centres nearest to their homes as applicants according to their occupational skill and experience. The number of unemployed persons was very large in the early periods totalling as much as 36,544 in 1947 and 36,656 in 1948, rising to 69,732 in 1949 and reaching the peak figure of 72,792 in

October 1952. A considerable number of these applicants have been provided with suitable employment both skilled and unskilled. During recent years although the number seeking assistance appeared large it is pertinent to observe that the figure includes under-employed persons and others seeking better and more remunerative jobs. With a view to placing the Employment Service on a more sound footing the assistance of the International Labour Organization has been obtained and Dr. John I Saks expert on Manpower has carried out a manpower survey which has just been completed and on his report Government will take the necessary steps to implement his recommendations.

Trinco to Help Cyclone Victims

IN response to a joint appeal by the Chairman, Urban Council, Trincomalee, Mr. Thambiah Ahambaram, J.P., Secretary of the Trinco U.N.P. Electoral Branch, and Mr. N. R. Varothiyam, M.P., a public meeting was held on Saturday, the 13th instant, at the Rama Krishna Mission Hall (Hindu College) to consider suitable measures to compensate the families who suffered by the recent cyclone which devastated a large part of the Northern Peninsula and render help to the victims.—(Trinco Cor.).

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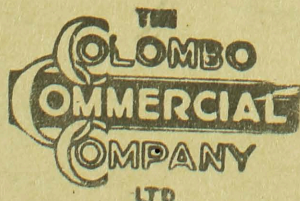
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The President-Elect SETTING THE COURSE

THE shouts and cheers of half a million Washingtonians faded behind Ike Eisenhower as he stepped inside the door of the executive wing of the White House last week for his conference with Harry Truman. "Good morning, folks", said Ike cheerily to the newsmen and White House employees who packed the big executive lobby. Official Receptionist Bill Simmons shouldered into view to shake Ike's hand. "I imagine you're rather tired", said Bill. "No", said Ike, "this hasn't been such a hard day."

By the White House clock, Ike was a couple of minutes early. Harry Truman was off in the residential section of the White House, and Ike chatted with Simmons until the President arrived in his office and buzzed a "show him in" signal. Then Ike went in for his first face-to-face meeting with Harry Truman since last June, when the President pinned a four Oak Leaf Cluster on retiring NATO Commander Eisenhower.

FRAMEWORK OF LIAISON

For 20 minutes the President and President-elect talked in privacy. There was little leakage of what went on, but aides pieced together enough hints to know that there was no bantering or joking about the campaign. The atmosphere was cool and Harry Truman was on edge. He talked gravely about the need for co-operation in international affairs. Eisenhower agreed. Truman suggested a joint statement backing the principle of "no forcible repatriation" of prisoners in the Korean war. Eisenhower, who has adopted the firm policy of setting his own course, declined the joint statement but promised to make his own views known. (Next day, through Wisconsin's Senator Alexander Wiley, he "emphasized his agreement with the principle of no forcible repatriation").

After the private session, Ike and Truman moved into the Cabinet room with their advisers. There Dean Acheson did most of the talking. A joint press statement reported that Truman and Eisenhower had "worked out a framework of liaison and exchange of information", but made clear that "General Eisenhower has not been asked to assume any of the responsibilities of

the presidency until he takes the oath of office". Before Ike left, Harry Truman handed him three loose-leaf volumes summarizing U.S. policies through the world, and top-secret plans in case all-out Communist attack on Korea, Yugoslavia or Iran.

Ike was tight-lipped and grim as Secret Service men led him back through the crowded executive lobby to his car. On his way back to the airport he detoured to the Pentagon for a handshake around and a fast military briefing inside the guarded precincts of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Then he took off for New York.

BEHIND BARRICADES

In Manhattan next day he opened shop in a sixth-floor suite of the Commodore Hotel, blocked off by a special partition and a heavy Secret Service guard. Reporters choked the corridor outside, engulfing visitors like Bob Taft and House Leader Joe Martin (who came up to talk legislative programs) and the Cabinet nominees. When Britain's Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden stepped out of the elevator to keep a lunch date with Ike, he was greeted by a glare of flash bulbs and a roar from a photographer (to a slow-footed reporter): "Get the hell out of the road!"

The Eisenhowers ducked out of Manhattan early Friday to attend the annual reunion of the West Point Class of 1915, at Washington's Army & Navy Club. Ike is honorary president of the class, the only one in West Point annals to produce two five-star generals. Eisenhower and Omar Bradley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Ike spent a quiet weekend back in Manhattan, picked up a heavy callers' schedule again early this week. Meanwhile, all signs indicated that he would soon disappear behind the security curtain for his trip to Korea. In Seoul, the Korean government erected welcoming banners, archways and Ike portraits. U.N. Commander Mark Clark flew to Korea from Tokyo to take charge of Ike's protection, and put Seoul through a practice blackout. Back home, Ike Classmate, Omar Bradley assured a television audience that Ike would go close enough to the Korean front "to talk to division commanders, lower commanders, and even a bunch of soldiers, sailors and airmen themselves."—"Time".

WAR IN ASIA

(Continued from page 7)

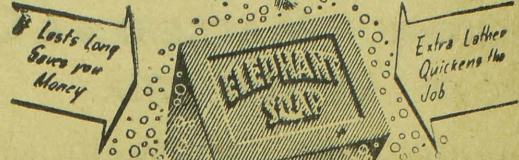
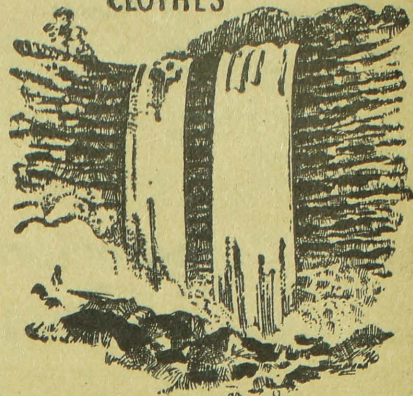
miles west of Hanoi, the only remaining bastion of the Black River defence line. An airlift (a plane every 15 minutes) was bringing reinforcements into Nasan and flying out thousands of Sonla's refugees. Situated in a wide-open plateau, rare in that country, Nasan, with its fortified air strip and embossed artillery, dug in for a spiky hedgehog battle.

Too readily, some critics think. With more men than Giap, with an abundance of U.S. equipment, with an overwhelming superiority in guns and planes, the French, instead of ranging all over the map

as Giap is doing, seem to be handicapped by the bunker—or Maginot—mentality. In the high command there is a conflict of personalities: two four-star generals, Linares and Salan, competing for military advantage. What France badly needs is another De Lattre, one who knows how to use the material at hand.

The coming battle may be decisive. If Nasan should be overwhelmed, the French would be bottled up in the Hanoi delta, and there would be little to stop the Communists' sweeping down the entire length of Indo-China.—("Time")

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**A New Buddhist Centre
For Nagadipa**

PITIGALA

A SIGNIFICANT event to Buddhists occurred the other day in the Jaffna Peninsula when a new Buddhist Centre put up at a cost of Rs. 40,000 was opened at Karainagar, 14 miles from Jaffna, by Dr. G. D. D. Wijeyasekera of Colombo, and Mr. D. A. Seneviratna, Director, Madyama Lanka Bus Company, owing to the unavoidable absence of Mr. S. H. Punchi Appu Silva of Weligama, who donated a major portion of the cost of the building. A full-night pirith chanting which followed was well-attended including many Tamil residents of Jaffna. This five-roomed Buddhist Centre has a kitchen, a well and necessary conveniences which will serve as a Pilgrim's Rest. A party of pilgrims from Pitigala led by Mr. J. de S. Kellapotha, who were present on the opening day enjoyed the honour of being the first pilgrims to use the Pilgrim's Rest. This Buddhist Centre is the result of untiring efforts of Rev. Randombe Somasiri Tissa, Chief Incumbent, Nagadipa Vihare, Nainativu, who has been the restorer of Nagadipa which Lord Buddha is said to have visited. Rev. Somasiri Tissa has not only fought

and won a hard battle in restoring Nagadipa to Buddhists, but has also been actively engaged in the Buddhist activities in Jaffna to such an extent that unlike in the past when Buddhism was almost unheard of in Jaffna, today there are two Buddhist Temples in the heart of the town. He was of course able to do all that marvellous work in the Jaffna Peninsula with the ready co-operation and assistance of a number of Sinhalese Buddhist helpers notable among being Dr. G. D. D. Wijeyasekera and Mr. P. A. Seneviratna, his Chief Dayakas. They have spent and are spending thousands of rupees on Nagadipa Vihare in particular and other Buddhist activities in the North in general.

Nagadipa, situated in the Nainativu Island, about 18 miles to the south of Jaffna, draws several thousands of pilgrims annually. A motor-boat journey from Kayts to Nainativu is necessary to all those who come by train or bus. In view of this, pilgrims are compelled to stay in Jaffna or Karainagar from where the motor-boat service starts. But for the efforts of Rev. Somasiri Tissa, the pilgrims coming to Jaffna would be stranded unless one has a Sinhalese friend or relative in Jaffna.

AGRICULTURE AND CEYLON

THE recent World Bank Mission to Ceylon made some very important recommendations and proposals. In the course of its report it advised the Government of Ceylon on various schemes and programmes of work that it had begun. Among the various branches on which it advised was agriculture. The proposals on agriculture were correlated with the economic development of Ceylon. The main point on which they lay stress on was that Ceylon was essentially an agricultural country.

In the past, agriculture was the main occupation and mainstay of the peoples of this island. The vast and prodigious number of tanks and Wewas, the ruins of which are seen today bear ample testimony to the veracity of this statement. Early writers such as Tennant and Forbes re-echo this view over and over again. Thus it is seen, that it was realized during the reigns of such Sinhalese kings as Parakrama Bahu, etc. that the climatic and other factors of Ceylon were most suited and ideal for extensive agriculture. This was during the time when Ceylon was independent and she was (quite deservedly too) at the zenith of her prosperity. With the advent of foreign rule the practice of agriculture gradually grew less. Ceylon became more and more dependent for her food supplies on other countries. Areas that once before had been richly cultivated fell to waste.

The present situation is quite in contrast with the times of the Sinhalese kings. Ceylon has to depend for the major portion of the food supply from outside. This has resulted in serious economic depression. The World Bank realized that Ceylon was ideally suited for agriculture. Thus it urged the revival of extensive agriculture so that she could depend on herself for her entire food supply. This was mainly due to economic reasons and

increase in population, while other countries too were experiencing difficulty in supplying food. It also urged the modernisation of agriculture in Ceylon. Modernisation is the only way of stepping up the rate of food supply. As an example, we can refer to a good many Western countries, notably America, which has increased its food production immensely.

The need for modernisation is thus seen. How can this modernisation of agriculture be bought about in Ceylon? Primarily the peoples must be imbued with the steps necessary and why it is necessary to undertake such steps i.e. they would be made "agriculturally minded". This is a very important step in the right direction. Once this has been accomplished modernisation proper should begin.

The part that science plays in agriculture needs no comment. Science and modern agriculture go hand in hand. They are about inseparable. Thus, the next step would be, the setting up of a research institute to aid agriculturists. Training, of a few, in countries like America would help a lot. The next process would be the mechanization of agricultural methods. In this connection aid from other countries would help considerably. Machinery and other implements could be obtained either as gifts or for monetary exchange. Gradually the areas under cultivation could be increased. Agricultural schemes would play an important part. We could even repair and make use of some tanks.

Agriculture will thus open the gateway to progressive economic development. It will also solve the problem of unemployment. We could then say, and justly too, that we are really independent like the peoples of the past independent days of Ceylon. So that the arteries of our national life will pulse with newer vigour and we will thus march forward to a brighter, glorious and prosperous future.

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The Ferranti Electronic Computer.

A MACHINE named the Ferranti Electronic Computer is the latest "Brain" machine produced in Britain. The first of its kind that was installed at Manchester University proved a phenomenal success, its latest accomplishment being the "singing" of the National Anthem. The second has been shipped to the National Research Council at Toronto, Canada. It is claimed that the Ferranti "Brain" is not of course, just a stunt machine but the most powerful electronic computer in the world, according to its makers' claim.

The main advantages of the Ferranti machine over existing digital computers are the improved 'memory' system which enables it to 'remember' the relatively enormous number of sixteen thousand twelve-digit decimal numbers; the relatively small number of valves used in its construction and its autochecking system which plots the exact position of a circuit fault.

SUPER-HUMAN QUALITY

It can also make decisions. That is to say, it can decide at any stage in a calculation which of two or more contingencies has occurred, and determine its future course of operations accordingly. One super-human quality; it is even capable of automatically diagnosing faults in its mechanism and indicating their position.

Such is the operational speed of this computer that it can do far more arithmetic in a day than the average man can do in a lifetime, and without the same likelihood of error. It is estimated that a girl with a standard desk calculating machine can do about 600 multiplications of pairs of ten digit decimal numbers in an average working day. The machine will do the same amount of work in two seconds. To take another example: the Ferranti computer can add up a column of 500 numbers in the time it takes to pronounce the word 'addition' and it will compute the sines of a score

of angles, each to the twelve decimal places, while one says 'abracadabra'.

The machine first built by Ferranti is now working twenty-four hours a day on a wide variety of problems. It is being used to perform scientific and engineering calculations, which because of their complexity involve a vast amount of computation, and its use may be expected to speed up all large-scale figure work.

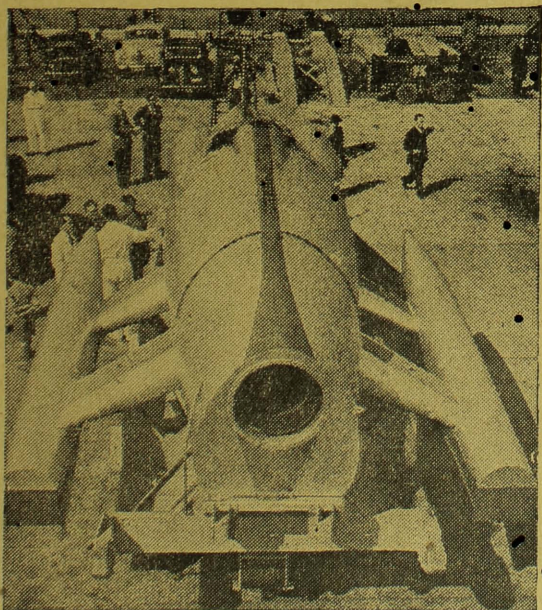
FOR EXPORT

The building of the Ferranti computers marks an important step because it shows that machine of this kind are now in production in Britain. The Canadian order itself is significant, for it means that the new production has also become a new export industry, and one with a big future. The field of application for those high-powered 'Brains' will be immense. Their tremendous advantages can be utilized with subjects such as aeronautical work, astronomy, physics and engineering—to name only a few. More important, perhaps from the export viewpoint, they will revolutionise work in the commercial world.

The Ferranti Electric Computer is the outcome of more than a century of ideas and developments, for the possibility of making machines of this kind was already conceived in 1835. Originator of the idea, and of the first machine, was Cambridge University professor of mathematics, Charles Babbage.

PIONEER

Babbage's ideas were far ahead of the available engineering technique and it was not until the 1930's that the machine incorporating all his suggestions were seriously projected. Since then the bridge between research and its practical application has been crossed, not only by the Ferranti production plan but also by the National Research Development Corporation. The Corporation has announced a substantial development programme for the electronic computer which is aimed to speed up its commercial availability. The Corporation already holds some eighty inventions dealing with these machines.

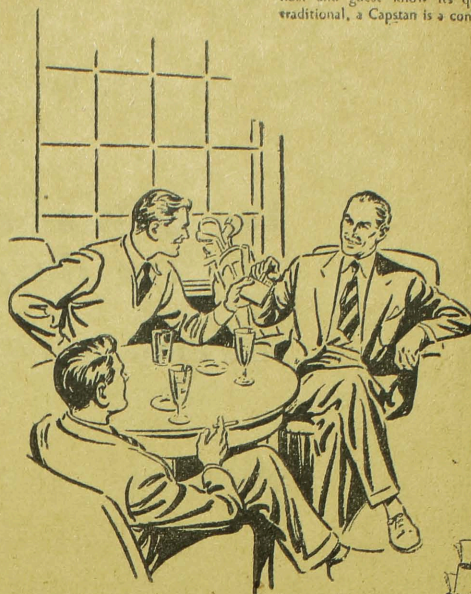


JOHN COBB'S NEW RECORD CHALLENGER

"Crusader", jet-powered boat with which veteran racing motorist John Cobb seeks to regain world's water speed record for Britain, leaves for its trials in Loch Ness, Scotland. Lake Windermere, scene of previous speed record attempts, is too small for the speeds for which the new craft is designed.

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