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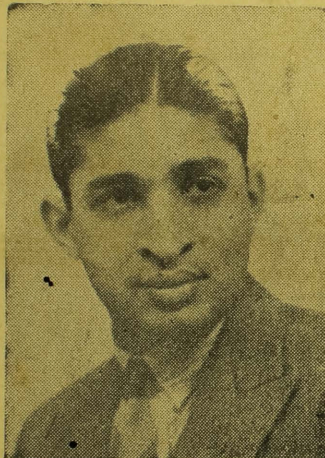
## Premier's Statement on London Talks

### International Pact on Commodity Prices Emphasized

THE Prime Minister, Mr. Dudley Senanayake, who led the Ceylon delegation to the Commonwealth Economic Conference that concluded last week in London returned last Wednesday. On arrival at the Airport, Ratmalana, Cabinet Ministers, diplomatic representatives, Members of Parliament, Service Chiefs, Heads of Departments, greeted him. The first to welcome the Premier back home was Sir John Kotelawala, Leader of the House of Representatives.

Shortly after his arrival the Prime Minister held a Press conference at Temple Trees in which Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, the Finance Minister, and Sir Kanthiah Vaithianathan were also associated.

In a broadcast in London which was relayed by the B.C.C. on Saturday last, the Prime Minister stated that Asian countries and the Commonwealth could be satisfied with the start they have made and can look forward to an era of greater co-operation and advancement. One might safely say that the fortunes of the sterling area was to a great extent the fortune of the Commonwealth as a whole and that the Commonwealth countries in particular were deeply interested in making sterling again, he said and added that if one were to survey the present world situation and wonder for a while on the troubles and the tribulations that many nations were undergoing at the moment, there was every reason for despondency and yearning for a better world.



Mr. Dudley Senanayake

#### RESURGENCE OF ASIA

A very important fact that had emerged recently in the world picture was the resurgence of Asia. Countries that enjoyed a high form of civilization centuries ago, and which had unfortunately gone through a period of subjugation were once again free to take their rightful place in the onward march of humanity.

He pointed out that if world problems were to be correctly appreciated with a view to working out lasting solutions that very important fact should not be lost sight of. The countries of Asia had won their freedom at a critical juncture of world history, and in spite of the innumerable difficulties—economic and political—were striving through the establishment of stable forms of Government to render to their peoples the fruits of freedom in the form of economic emancipation.

#### FLEXIBLE NATURE OF C'WEALTH

Referring to the Commonwealth of Nations, he pointed out that the strength of the Commonwealth lay in its flexible nature. Counting different races in different parts of the world, including Asia, were now equal members co-operating for the common purpose. If any model was required for co-operation and understanding between East and West in the wider world arena, some useful aspects of Commonwealth co-operation might thoughtfully be followed. The Commonwealth Conference which had just ended had provided the opportunity of examining Commonwealth problems and arriving at a common measure of agreement, regarding the path that would lead to greater economic

stability. However, he observed, that the full fruition of these schemes, needed the co-operation of other countries as well. He had no doubt that that co-operation would be forthcoming in shouldering the very busy task all of them owed to humanity and the world at large.

#### INCREASING ECONOMIC STRENGTH

A communique issued at the end of the Conference of Prime Ministers, stated that the Conference was convened with the aim to convert measures for increasing the economic strength of the Commonwealth countries, including the Colonial territories, and creating conditions in which their peoples can play their part in securing prosperity and contentment for themselves and the world. In recent years the sterling area had been faced with recurrent economic crises which had forced its members to take emergency measures regarding trade and exchange regulations.

The communique outlined the principles which governed the approach of the various problems discussed at the Conference. In the international sphere the Conference envisaged positive, international action for the progressive removal, according to circumstances, of import restrictions imposed for the purpose of bringing a country's external accounts into balance. On the question of finance, this conference was agreed that it was as important not only for the United Kingdom another sterling area but also over the rest of the world that sterling should resume its full role as a medium of world trade and exchange. It was also pointed out that the achievement of converti-

bility would depend fundamentally upon the continuing success of the action taken by sterling Commonwealth countries, the prospect that trading nations will attack trade policies conducive to the expansion of world trade, and the availability of adequate financial support through the International Monetary Fund.

#### IMPLICATIONS FOR CEYLON

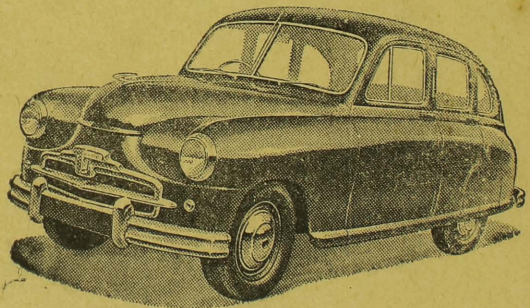
According to a Press Note issued by the Information Department, the implications for Ceylon of the conclusions reached at the Commonwealth Economic Conference which met from 27th November to 11th December, may be summarised as follows: Ceylon is a member of the sterling area; the greater part of its external assets is held on sterling

(Continued on page 2)



Mr. J. R. Jayewardene

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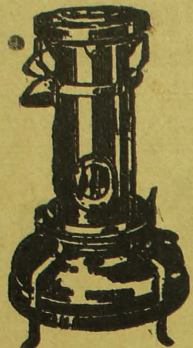
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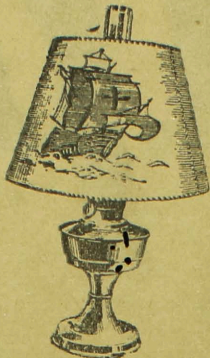
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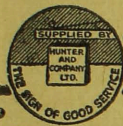
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# Premier's Statement on London Talks

(Continued from page 1)

and most of its external trade is conducted in sterling. Accordingly measures designed to strengthen sterling must redound to the benefit of Ceylon.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Ceylon will press on with the development programs already adopted by Government which have for their object the expansion of food production and the establishment of processing capacity in those lines in which Ceylon can eventually be internationally competitive. These will contribute directly or indirectly to the improvement of Ceylon's balance of payments with the rest of the world. It was in projects of this type that the conference agreed that development in sterling area countries should be primarily concentrated.

Development which would lead to either dollar saving or dollar earning was the main aim of the Conference, Ceylon, however, stressed that development plans should also provide for improvement in the standard of living which in addition to increasing the happiness of our people, is also a necessary foundation for further economic development; and further that some production, even though not strictly economic, was justified on ground of national security. The Conference accepted these views put forward by Ceylon.

### SOURCES OF FINANCE

Ceylon will have to rely largely on internal reserve such as domestic savings and budgetary surpluses to finance its development programmes. The Conference, however recognised the important contribution which overseas investors can make to economic development in sterling area countries and agreed that every effort should be made to create conditions which would encourage such investment. The United Kingdom have undertaken to make a special effort to provide additional capital for Commonwealth development by facilitating the financing of schemes in Commonwealth countries which will contribute to the improvement of sterling area's balance of payments.

### EXTERNAL CAPITAL

Ceylon stands to gain from inflow of external capital especially when it is associated with managerial competence and technical know-how. Government hopes to review its attitude to foreign investment and announce its policy in the light of the new proposals in this field.

Ceylon also made it clear at the Conference that a vital source of external finance for its development programme was the sterling assets lying to its credit, and that any prescriptions for strengthening sterling by requiring member countries to be in over-all balance, and thus to pay their way as they go, must allow for Ceylon's need to draw down its sterling balance to finance development. This was agreed to.

### COMMODITY POLICY

Ceylon emphasised the importance of stable and economic prices for primary commodities of the kind it exported in providing an assured export income both to finance development and also to promote rising living standards. The Conference recognised that there was no one universal remedy for the problem of instability of prices for primary commodities but that each commodity must be considered on its merit.

All Commonwealth Governments expressed their readiness to co-operate in considering commodity by commodity, international schemes designed to ensure stability of demand and prices at an economic level. They also recognised the need for agreed procedure for calling together the Governments concerned to consider emergency action in the event of surplus or shortage of commodities entering into inter-

national trade. Further progress must await discussions and negotiations at international level.

### IMPERIAL PREFERENCE

Ceylon opposed the U.K. proposal that all Commonwealth countries should join in seeking release from the "no new preference" rule in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Representatives of certain other countries also felt with Ceylon that such an approach would not advance the agreed objective of restoring world trade and the Conference, was therefore, unable to support it.

The Commonwealth Governments agreed, however, to co-operate with the U.K. Government in an approach to the other contracting parties to the GATT to meet particular difficulties in regard to U.K.'s freedom to impose tariffs on commodities of non-Commonwealth origin without having to impose corresponding duties on Commonwealth goods.

### STERLING CONVERTIBILITY

The Conference agreed that it is important, not only for the United Kingdom and the sterling area but also for the world, that sterling should resume its full role as a medium of world trade and exchange.

To this end, the Conference aimed to secure international agreement on the adoption of policies, by creditor and debtor countries, which will restore balance in the world economy on the lines of "Trade Not Aid" and will, by progressive stages and within reasonable time, create an effective multilateral trade and payments system covering the widest possible area.

An integral part of such a system is the restoration of convertibility of sterling by progressive stage—in other words, making sterling exchangeable into gold and foreign currencies without restriction. Ceylon strongly supported these proposals, as a multilateral trading system which promotes expansion of world production and trade cannot but benefit a country like Ceylon which depends so heavily on foreign trade.

(Continued on page 3)

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## In Lighter Vein

# THOSE CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS

By Eardley Gunasekera

IT was a fine Saturday morning. And I walked through the streets of Colombo with no intention of buying but just walking. Crowds jostled and hustled and amidst them I saw people from a great many walks of life. They had all come to buy, to buy for Christmas. To many of them 'buying for Christmas' was just conventional and that convention had to be maintained at all costs. To buy food, shoes, clothing and toys was a preliminary enjoyment because the major one was to be on Christmas day itself. It was a day of universal enjoyment and so all Christians must enjoy. That was the frame of mind most of them were placed in. I too thought that way and had a little money in my pocket perhaps to have a 'snak' in a hotel or perhaps to buy myself some little article that fascinated me. Strange to say I did not have that urge to buy so I walked and walked just observing.

The rich man passed in slow, rhythmic style clad in semi-stiff collar shirt, well-tailored clothes and gleaming shoes. He patronised the luxurious departmental stores buying a variety of things. The bonbon to adorn the Christmas table, the bacon and the cheese all to eat. That was how he was to enjoy and he could afford it. But, then again I saw the innumerable middle class families shopping. The teen-age girl scanning the shops searching for 'just that material' and the shoes with the low or high heels as the case may be. More often than never creeping through one door only to come out of the other because she could not get the 'stuff' that will match. She was determined to get the pair of shoes that will harmonise with the rest of the ensemble and she did not like wedgies. "It's out-of-date" I heard many say "I want a pair plain and simple without fancy work. I can't describe till I see", she explained. So she went on seeing and did little buying. Now pausing here now there to admire the shop-windows adorned by crafty shop-keepers. Then something would catch her eye and she would buy it not so much because she needed it but because she thought it pretty.

The youth too set about in a similar fashion. I saw many of them in the process of buying shoes taxing the patience of a salesman. He wanted a cheap pair but a good pair. It seemed so paradoxical but yet that was what happened. "Hiya chum" he said hailing his friend

and then the two of them would discuss the merits of the shoes placed before them. "I like the pointed pair" the first declared "Nomen, medium is better" the second said "Gotta go for the SPOTTER'S DANCE, that is why I wan't pointed, to dance no, plenty of dames men, so mus go in posh kit, have to buy a SPARROW shirt also. Fully worth men SPOTTER'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DANCE. Can have a rum time" he finally explains.

The little toddlers were, fascinated only by the toys that flood the market only during the season. They insisted on their parents buying them these little things and I frequently witnessed the usual controversy between mother and son when ultimately the son emerged triumphant. He would totter along again pestering his mother for something else that interested him. His toy hunger could never be appeased. It was a hunger that grew every time it was fed. They were not to be blamed after all. It was no fault of theirs because fanciful wants and desires are characteristic of small ones.

The older generation were more sober in their outlook. They had to buy the household requirements such as cake ingredients, large floral cretonnes to adorn the door and window, new lampshades etc. These had to be bought for it was Christmas time and many believed (if not all) that Christmas cannot be enjoyed without external manifestation. When visitors came it was customary to offer them cake and biscuits and soft drinks and if it was not done then they had violated a convention and more than that they will discuss their financial position. That was embarrassing and they did not like this topic to be discussed so they bought all these articles at any expense merely because it will be a shame if they were considered poor and failed to maintain convention.

That was part of the great drama of life I saw. It was ridiculous to see people empty large sums of money to survive a day or a couple of days when one had to survive the trials of the months to come. And behind this drama was the pathetic spectacle of men and women pawning jewellery, mortgaging and selling property, gambling and robbery merely to enjoy in false glory the Christmas season. It was not difficult to visualise the succeeding period of discontent and dissatisfaction; a period of unfounded incriminations against the government. They would complain of small salaries, insufficient living allowances and the high cost of living. But this government or as a matter of fact any government will not be able to solve the problems of a life surrounded by false values. After all Christ never decreed that his birthday should be celebrated by tormenting the purse it was only a matter of spirit he wanted.

## Premier's Statement on London Talks

(Continued from page 2)

### QUARANTINE REGULATIONS

An implication of a multilateral trading system, however, is that quantitative import restrictions on which countries have hitherto relied for the purpose of bringing their external accounts into balance should be progressively removed. Countries would have to rely on right domestic policies including fiscal and monetary policies appropriate to the prevailing circumstances in order to balance their external accounts.

It was pointed out by Ceylon that the abandonment of all import restrictions as an instrument for redressing a country's adverse balance of payments might impede economic development of underdeveloped countries. Ceylon further explained that it would have to continue to use its exchange resources in a manner which enabled it to carry out its planned development programs more effectively and that Ceylon should, therefore, continue to need certain import restrictions for this purpose. This was agreed to.

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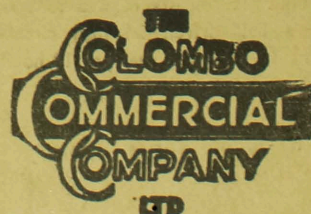


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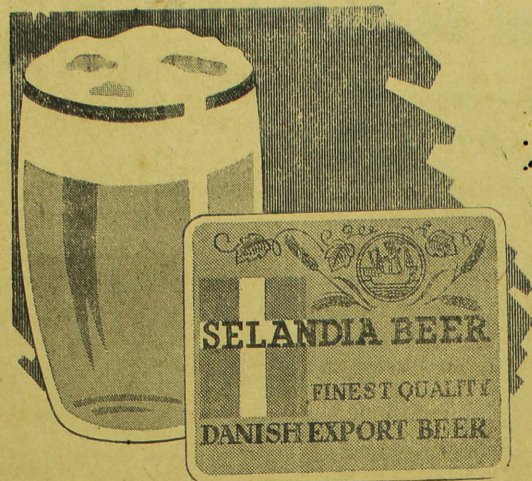
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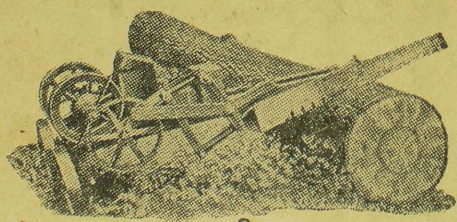
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## Behind The Headlines

By Ananda Tissa de Alwis

# THE COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE.

THE Conference of Commonwealth Prime Ministers and the Conference of the financial authorities of the Dominions are two of the most important events of the year. Of the discussions in London only part of it can be freely discussed.

There is one thing that is worthy of the closest attention. It is time that we realised the effect on our minds of the anti-British propaganda and the genuine anti-British feeling in which most of us were bred. In the political environment that existed in this country until 1947, it was correct and patriotic to adopt an aggressive attitude against the British Government because our Island was part of the "British territories overseas."

For two generations every educated Ceylonese of any standing and any degree of patriotism joined in direct or indirect campaigns against everything British because of our political subjection. We still have the backwash of the great tide of nationalism which was whipped up by patriots of Ceylon in order to sweep away foreign control of our country.

• Although we are now a free country we still find hundreds of people who are genuinely unable to realize the fundamental nature of the change that has taken place. In the old days when we attacked Government it was patriotic to do so because it was an alien Government. We will find however that many delighted in the continuance of that process. There are many who have the word "England" on their brain, and irrationally take up attitudes which are anti-British. This is a childish habit of mind form which we must free ourselves. When we discuss national problems and international news we must learn to have a grown-up and sensible frame of mind.

When we successfully do so we will see that it is very much in the interests of Ceylon to be a willing member of the Commonwealth of Nations.

WHY? Surely this country is too small to be able to afford to successfully defend itself against any likely aggressor. Our entire resources calculated on the present basis of taxation or even under the mad system that the Marxists wish to impose on the country, would be inadequate to have more than a couple of warships and a few score planes. If we put all the able-bodied men into uniform our army would be of microscopic dimensions in comparison with the legions that others can put into the field.

It would be good patriotism to cut ourselves adrift from our moorings, but it will also be good suicide.

In these circumstances the decision to remain in the Commonwealth is not a question of whether we are pro-British, anti-British, neo-British or anything of that kind but it is simply a question that rests on the self-interest of our country and our people.

Those who talk of the neutrality of Switzerland and say that Ceylon can enjoy the same immunity forget that Switzerland and Ceylon are countries with geographical and economic differences so vast that comparison from the point of view of neutrality is futile. We have a harbour which is the finest in the world, which can accommodate the entire British fleet. Surely no other country is going to think of high principle of guaranteed neutrality of Ceylon in times of war and then allow this key fort to fall into the hands of its enemies. Belgium and Holland were twice guaranteed neutrality and twice raped. If ever war should come into this unhappy world again whoever could get there first will get to Trincomalee, and whoever gets to Trincomalee will tell us where we get off.

At that time, such great patriots as we, of the Sinhala race, can hold many meetings and turn up the more glorious chapters of the Mahavansa, but we shall have no other alternative but to once more be under the heel of the aggressor.

When people address public meetings it is too easy for them to rouse the warm blood of the Sinhalese by reference to the admittedly glorious chapters of heroism from the past. It is true we were always a gallant, fearless and a hard-fighting people and for all our laziness we were always proud and we were willing to starve if need be without sacrificing our self-respect for power or comfort or money. At the same time we must realize that now we live in an atomic age when large world movements sweep over humanity like floods, and in such circumstances, no nation will be permitted to live in isolation.

Far better, therefore, to be in one strong group of nations which can jointly defend itself by its strength and keep in check any territorial ambitions of new and warring groups that may have sprung up in the world in recent years.

It is in this context that the Prime Minister of Ceylon would have weighed the issue of co-operation and collaboration in Commonwealth Affairs. It is mean and petty and dishonest for the Opposition Parties to accuse the U.N.P. of being in the pay of the British or of any other Power. When the U.N.P. adopts this policy of co-operation with the Commonwealth, the intellectual leaders of the Opposition know quite well what is at stake but, for propaganda purposes they expound the opposite point of view.

Party advantage must not be the criteria on which decisions on a nation's foreign policy should be based. The one thing that matters in any decision on such a thing is the interest of the continued independence and prosperity of the people and the land.

# THE MEANING OF THE PRAGUE TRIALS

By Stanley Morrison

A NEWS paragraph states:

"A group of leading intellectuals endorsed a recent appeal issued by the Congress for Cultural Freedom to the Secretary-General of the United Nations asking for the establishment of a special U.N. Commission to investigate the circumstances surrounding the recent Prague Trial". Among the signatories to this appeal are: Salvador de Madariaga, Gabriel Marcel, John de Passos, Bertrand Russell, Ignazio Silone, Upton Sinclair, Julian Huxley and Stephen Spender.

The Congress for Cultural Freedom is a world-wide non-partisan organisation of thinkers, writers, scientists and artists, whose purpose is the defence of intellectual liberties.

At last, the intellectuals of the Free World are awake. The protest of these men is a protest on behalf of the freedom of all men. Their minds are roused not only by the horror of the recent trial at Prague, but also by the appalling travesty of justice that was enacted in that city which was once the cultural centre of Eastern Europe. As the authors of this appeal state: "For twenty years monstrous trials and confessions have periodically announced bloody purges in the Communist regime. This time it is at Prague, in the heart of Europe, that terrible sport is being made of the elementary rights of man to dignity, truth and justice. . . . Neither their dossiers nor the bill of indictment, nor their supposed admission contain the slightest proof of their guilt. The only witnesses produced were those against them. Their own kin, whose existence was menaced by the disgrace, turned against them; wives accused their husbands; a son demanded death for his father. They never had a chance to defend themselves. All impartial observers were kept out of the hearings."

To the people in the Democratic bloc it is difficult to bring home the enormity of the threat to freedom which the Prague trial portends. But the spectacle of wives accusing their husbands and of a son demanding the death sentence for his father must cause the blood of every citizen in Asia to turn to ice, since it is in the East with its ancient civilisation, that the idea of the reverence of children for their parents and of the fidelity of wives to their husbands has been built up over the course, not of a few centuries, but of several milleniums. Any Asian has only to imagine the circumstance of a son giving evidence in a political trial against his father and demanding that his father should be given nothing less than the death sentence to realise how such a happening would be utterly out of keeping with the age-old traditions of Asia. In Asia a son or daughter could only be brought to give evidence against his father if the latter had caused the death of his mother or brothers or sisters. In no other circumstances would a son consent to appear in the witness-box against his father in a trial involving the death penalty. In Christian Europe, too, similar traditions have been built up over the past two thousand years of Christianity—hence the horror the Prague trial has aroused in the minds of Western Europeans.

But it must be remembered that even in Eastern Europe these traditions were a powerful influence until the Night of Communism descended upon it. In the worst days of the Hapsburg tyranny never was such a bloody farce enacted as a son demanding the death of his patriot father in a trial for sedition. But under the Barbarous Bloodstained Regime which the Kremlin has installed in Eastern Europe anything is possible—any blasphemy, any crime, any infringement of any human freedom (however sacred).

At any rate, the world—or at least that part of the world where civilised standards still are respected—now realises what it is up against. It may be said: "Why all this fuss

about a mere eleven men sentenced to death in Prague?" But it is not the number of men executed that matters, but the reasons that led to their conviction and execution. As the leading intellectuals who have signed the appeal have stated: "In view of the fact that the Prague trial is not the first of its kind nor in all probability the last, but part of a general pattern. Further threats to human rights and world peace may be expected unless the United Nations undertakes a full investigation in order to determine what international action is appropriate for the sake of the peace and freedom of all peoples."

The plain and brutal fact is that today the world is confronted with the most deadly tyranny the human race has ever experienced in the whole of its long history. Other tyrannies there have been in the past. But they were partial tyrannies from which escape was possible. Men and women were able to flee from the Inquisition in the

Middle Ages. The philosopher, Descartes, took refuge in the Court to Norway. Englishmen emigrated to America to escape the tyranny of the Absolute Monarchs of England, and millions of Europeans left the oppressive conditions that prevailed in Europe in the 19th century to swell the population of the United States of America.

However, from the worst tyrants of all—the blood-thirsty Butchers of the Kremlin—there is no escape except for a lucky handful who contrive to run the gamut of the guards along the Iron Curtain frontier. And the only State to struggle free of the iron chains of Stalin is Yugoslavia—and that too because Yugoslavia owed nothing to Russia for the freedom she had gained from the iron grip of the step-brothers of Stalin, the Hitler regime.

Let the Fellow-travellers in Ceylon and elsewhere make no mistake about it. The Prague trial is the sign-post on the road to the 'new civilisation' the Russian

oligarchs are building up for all the peoples of the globe. This civilisation is founded on the New Religion of Atheistic Materialism. If it wins, all the wonderful wisdom of the Vedanta Philosophy, of the Bhagavadgita, of Mohamedanism, Zoroastrianism and Buddhism will be thrown on the scrap-heap of history. In the new civilisation the older generation will be "bumped off" by the simple process of getting sons to accuse their fathers. According to the Communists that is the best evidence in a court of law.

And how can this menace be met? Short of the total destruction of the inhuman regime in the Kremlin, there would appear to be no other means of saving the world from the most horrible threat to its freedom that it had ever seen. The Hitler horror was a joke compared to this monstrous and obscene terror called the Soviet Communism of Russia. Will non-Communist Asia wake up in time in order to build up resistance to this Creeping Barrage of Slavery, or is an Atomic War the only alternative?

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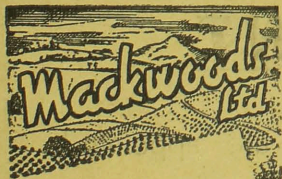
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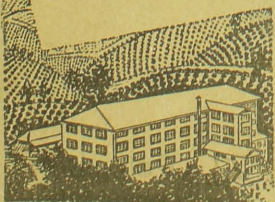


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Friday, December 26, 1952

### THE BUS PROBLEM

The daily press has carried a great deal about bus transport. In fact we see that more appears in the press about bus transport in Ceylon than on any other subject, barring world news. When we examine the newspapers of other countries like America and Britain we notice that hardly a line appears either in the form of an editorial or as news items on this subject. This silence of the press on bus transport was broken only when the subject of nationalisation of transport came to be the issue between the Socialist Labour Party and the Conservatives under Churchill.

We invite the attention of bus operators in Ceylon to this aspect. Some of them have travelled fairly widely and will admit that there is much to be done before the same efficiency could be achieved in Ceylon.

We are glad that the Minister of Transport and Works, with characteristic consistency, stood firmly on the side of the passenger in deciding on any transport matter. We learn that he has not only resisted the strong efforts to have bus fares increased but has also been able to stand up to certain pressure moves by influential bus operators who have been known to adopt the attitude "take it and run it if you like".

The Motor Traffic Act made wise provision against this kind of move when the Commissioner of Motor Transport was given power to call on any transport operator to supplement the service wherever the Commissioner felt that the existing service was unable to cope with the traffic existing. We suggest now, that while the present operators of most of the bus services should be given renewals of licences, part of their present routes should also be thrown open to others who should be invited and authorised to carry traffic on them. It is clearly obvious that in many routes the present operators find it quite impossible to give a service satisfactory from the point of view of the travelling public, which must be the final arbiter in matters of this nature.

For reasons of efficiency we are strongly in favour of continuing the system of large companies running buses on

particular routes, but it does not take much probing to realise that at certain hours of the day neither the resources nor the ingenuity of the present operators could possibly move the increasing traffic that seems to offer on our roads. If we remove the company system we shall produce chaos, for it is not possible for a number of small owners, however public-spirited, they might be, to render as economical a service as can monopoly companies. This is the only reason why the sensible travelling public is prone sometimes to take up the parrot cry of the unthinking Marxist political parties. It is not in the interests of the passenger himself to break up transport into fragments.

The fact that some of the shareholders and directors of bus companies are rich men is beside the point, for nobody in his senses is likely to be in business for the health of somebody else. Thinking people will realise that if there is a continuous bitterness today against wealthy bus shareholders and directors, that bitterness has been created by long hours of waiting in queues.

We should like to suggest that the phenomenon has yet to be witnessed in this country of public officers in charge of the supervision of these public services travelling by bus themselves to investigate at first-hand the conditions that exist. We see District Road Transport Officers, burdened with other duties in their woefully overcrowded departments, checking bus timetables from their cars, but we have never yet seen or heard that the Commissioner of Motor Transport took his place in a queue and travelled unknown and unheralded. We have never heard either of a Ministry of Transport official using this direct method of getting at facts. It is a comic interlude to stick up a notice in a bus to find out what the public thinks of the existing services. This is, in context to modern Ceylon, as ludicrous as it would be if the Director of the Colombo Observatory put up a notice asking the public to inform him as to whether the sun did rise at all the previous day. The main responsibility of the Commissioner of Motor Transport is to give the public satisfactory service.

It is unfair by the Minister of Transport to expect of him that he alone should be able to act with firmness and decision. Those in direct administrative charge must deliver the goods. With a new Commissioner at the helm of affairs we hope this new drive will be forthcoming.

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# THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT IN CEYLON

## Workers Conscious of Its Value

THE introduction of the Trade Union Amendment Act in 1948 indicated a noteworthy landmark in the growth of the Trade Union Movement in Ceylon. This Act made special provision regarding the registration of Trade Unions of public servants. Up to the end of 1951 as many as 129 Unions of public servants were functioning and the number of such Unions registered since is 35 making a total of 164 Unions functioning today.

### RAPID GROWTH

The rapid growth of the number of unions indicates that workers are becoming increasingly conscious of the value of association in furtherance of its objects. In this connection it is gratifying to note that there is a welcome tendency on the part of the employers and their well run organizations to recognize the workers' organizations. Employers are fast-realizing that they are better able to allay the discontent and its attendant evils through the agency of well-organized Trade Unions than with individual workers.

The total membership of workers' unions at the end of 1952 was 233,653 as against 127,809 at the end of 1950, which gives a density of 15.57 per cent. if the total number of organizable workers in the country is assumed to be 1,500,000. In the United Kingdom, the density for 1950 was 39.71 per cent. and in Australia it was more than 50 per cent. The largest membership of unions was in the plantation industry, which had 159,408 union-members, which means that more than 69.45 per cent. of all trade unionists are in the plantations.

### INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

One of the chief functions of the Department of Labour is the maintenance of industrial peace and to achieve this, the Department derives its powers from the Industrial Disputes Act, No. 43 of 1950 which re-

placed the Industrial Disputes (Conciliation) Ordinance as from September 1, 1951.

The Act envisages three stages in the investigation and settlement of industrial disputes. They are—

- (i) Conciliation by the Commissioner of Labour or his Assistants or Authorised Officers utilising the provisions of the law or otherwise.
- (ii) Voluntary arbitration by Arbitrators jointly nominated by the parties or, in absence of such nomination, by the District Judges in the Districts in which the disputes exist.
- (iii) Compulsory arbitration by Industrial Courts in the case of disputes in "essential industries" (declared as such by order made by the Minister) public utility services and in other cases in which the Minister considers it necessary or expedient to do so.

### FURTHER PROVISION

The Act further provides for giving legal effect to collective agreements and the extension of the application of such agreements. Where they are entered into between representative organizations of employers and workers (who are not themselves parties to the agreement) in the same district. Under this Act it is unlawful to commence or strike or lockout in "essential industries" without giving 21 days' notice. The Industrial Disputes Regulations, 1951, made by the Minister under the Act were approved by the Senate and the House of Representatives and published in the Government Gazette of September 29, 1951. Most of the disputes which arose during the year were settled by agreement between the parties at conferences arranged by officers of the Department of Labour. It was only when such negotiations failed that recourse was had to the machinery available for conciliation and arbitration.

### NEGOTIATING MACHINERY

The successful negotiation of an agreement on the requisite machin-

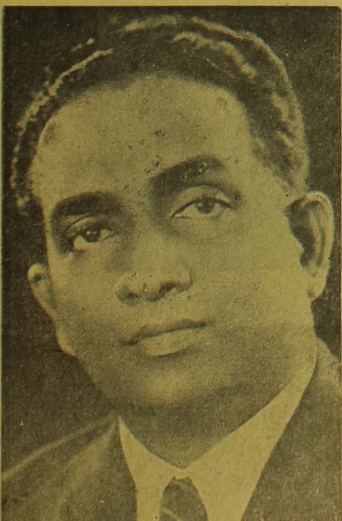


THE QUEEN AND THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH — H.M. Queen Elizabeth II and H.R. H. the Duke of Edinburgh, photographed in the Throne Room of Buckingham Palace. Her Majesty is wearing her Parliamentary Robe—a dress of gold lace, and a tiara of diamond and pearls. His Royal Highness is in the uniform of a Lieutenant-Commander of the Royal Navy. Both are wearing the Collar of the Garter and the Garter Star.

ery for the peaceful settlement of disputes as arising on plantations, was a landmark in the history of employer-employee relations. There were disputes between the Ceylon Estates, Employers' Federation and the Ceylon Workers' Congress, which were settled by negotiation. Lightning strikes on plantations have been almost eliminated by this agreement, which came into force on August 1, 1951. The agreement requires 7 days' prior notice of an intended strike. This period pro-

vides further opportunity for negotiation and conciliation, with the result that the dispute can be settled or steps taken towards that end without resort to the strike weapon itself. The year 1951 was a relatively quiet year, and the extent of industrial disturbance was less than in 1950. The number of man-days lost was, however, higher than in the previous year, which was almost entirely due to a prolonged strike on one estate and widespread token strikes, lasting only one day, on a large number of estates.

## Reception to the Prime Minister and Major T. F. Jayewardene



Major T. F. Jayewardene

THE residents of Narahenpita and Thimbrigasyaya, are according a Public Reception to the Hon. Mr. Dudley Senanayake and Major T. F. Jayewardene, M.P., Colombo South, on the 28th December, 1952, at the Sri Abhayarama Vihara premises.

The Prime Minister and Major Jayewardene will arrive at Thimbrigasyaya Junction at 2.30 p.m. and will be received by the President of the U.N.P. Branch of Thimbrigasyaya, Ayur. Dr. J. P. Elvitigala, and conducted to the venue of the public meeting in a procession comprising of elephants, and a number of up-country and low-country dances.

The meeting will be addressed by: Hon. Mr. C. W. W. Kannangara, Hon. Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, Mr. R. Premadasa, Mr. M. D. Kitchilan, Major T. F. Jayewardene and the Prime Minister. All are cordially invited.

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## What Moral Re-Armament Means to a Youth from South Africa

By KENNETH GLADWIN

IT was during the time that I was studying at the University of Cape Town that I met the force of Moral Re-Armament. I attended a meeting which was being held in the City. I was immediately attracted by the great sincerity of the members of the Team who had come from many countries to bring a vital answer to the problems of my nation. They seemed to have found a freedom in their hearts which made their whole message very real. They had discovered the basic answers to the divisions across the World because they had gripped the problems in the hearts of men.

This programme of M.R.A. captured the passion in my life for wanting to have an effective ideal which could build unity in my country and the world. It was a revolutionary conception to me to realise that the way I lived could effect the living of my nation. I saw that I could be part of the disease which caused the problems in my country or I could be part of a way of life which could build unity. "As I am so is my nation". M.R.A. stands for the four basic principles of Absolute Honesty, Purity, Unselfishness and Love. When I put these standards into operation in my living then I began to see the whole relevance of what my life could mean. It became real to me that when I could be honest and build unity with my own family and friends then I could think about unity for my nation.

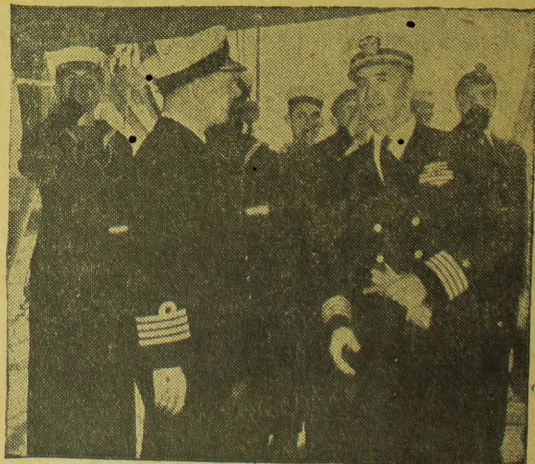
I remember that one of the first things that I had to do when I thought about Absolute Honesty was to tell my mother about a licence for my bicycle which I assured her that I had procured but which happened to be completely untrue. It also meant that I had to be honest with the authorities and buy the licence which I had tried to evade. I soon began to realise that it was thousands of dishonesties like these, which seem very small, but which could effect the whole budget of a community or nation.

M.R.A. makes ideals which are planned over conference tables be-

come a reality because it puts these ideals vitally and effectively into action through the lives of people. Unity is certainly not an idea but it is born out of people becoming different. When I am willing to put right the divisions which occur between myself and other people then I am living the things I talk about. I have found that there is never an occasion when I feel divided with someone that there is not something that I can do about it. I know that too often I want to see the other fellow change. M.R.A. made this clear to me for I was told "Everyone wants to see the other fellow change; Everyone wants to see the other nation different, but everyone is waiting for the other to begin. Yet the best place to start is with yourself and your own nation."

It did not take me long to realise that here was a World Force which is for everyone everywhere and which is above party, class, race, creed, point of view or personal advantage. My religion and faith suddenly became alive for me and I realistically understood that there is a Force, God, which could operate through my life each day. That as I open my heart in quiet each day thoughts do come to me which can give a whole direction and plan for my life. I have found that the more I am willing to accept change in my life as mirrored by the four Absolute Standards then the more real does the guiding power of God become in my life. It certainly makes life thrilling when we can operate through a guiding factor in our hearts rather than under our own human effort which has so far failed to unite the world.

The greatest realisation that I have come to understand is that it is the superiority in Europeans like myself that is causing the bitter divisions between the races in my country. As an European South African I want to say how sorry I am for this superiority and I have dedicated my life to working with all races on the basis of M.R.A. It is a tremendous privilege for me to be travelling with the Task Force of M.R.A. in Asia. The great warmth in the welcomes which we have received in the different countries has endeared my heart to all the people. I believe that the youth of today hold the key to the second half of the twentieth century and I want to give everything in selfless living so that there will be peace across the world.



COMBINED EXERCISE OF NORTH ATLANTIC FORCES—Land, sea and air forces from eight member nations of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation took part in 'Exercise Mainbrace' held in Northern Europe. The exercise was conducted by Admiral Sir Patrick Brind of the Royal Navy, Commander-in-Chief, Allied Forces, Northern Europe, under the joint overall command of the two N. A. T. O. supreme commanders—Admiral L. D. McCormick, Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic, and General Matthew B. Ridgway, Supreme Allied Commander, Europe. Captain J. S. S. Litchfield, O.B.E., R.N., Commanding H. M. S. 'Vanguard', welcoming Captain Foley, U.S.N. of the U.S.S. 'Winconsin' aboard for a conference.



# Wanda Lan ows a Piano High Priestess

THE good citizens of quiet Lakeville, Conn. go to bed early—with one exception. But even the rare, late-homecoming villager is no longer surprised at the single globe of light shining from the ungainly green-and-yellow hilltop house which broods over the main street. He knows, along with those of his neighbours who have seen it, homeward bound from a church supper or Saturday-night movie, that Mme. Wanda Landowska is at her devotions: her altar, the harpsichord.

Pint-sized (4 ft. 8 in.) Mme Landowska, 73, is unchallenged high priestess of the plucky double-keyboard instrument for which Bach wrote, before the piano supplanted it in the 18th century. Under her dedicated leadership, the harpsichord is having something of a revival, and her recording of Bach's *Well-Tempered Clavier* is already a modern classic. Next week RCA Victor will release its fifth album, leaving her one album still to do.

Even when she works into the small hours of dawn, Mme. Landowska wakes at 8. Coffee and correspondence are brought to her bed by Denise Restout or Elsa Schunicke, who for years have served as adoring disciples, companions and helpers to "Manusia" (Polish for mummy).

When she has answered her letters Wanda Landowska is ready to descend. She loops her long, still-black hair, only sparsely greyshot, around her head, dons her blazing red corduroy robe ("red is for violence, like Bach, sometimes"), her flat, gold-mesh slippers and goes down to the kitchen for a breakfast of figs, dates and lettuce.

Several hours at the harpsichord later ("I never practice, I always play"), Mme. Landowska takes an hour's walk around the countryside. Neither rain nor snow stops her from venturing outdoors among the Berkshire foothills she has loved since first she came in the summer of 1947.

In cold weather, cocooned in several layers of shawls and scarves, and wrapped in a huge old overcoat, she sallies forth. Her hands nest mandarin-style in the large sleeves. Each day's walk ends the same way—with a visit to her "last sweet-heart," an 80-year-old carpenter of Lakeville. "I spend my relaxation with him. We understand each other—we are both craftsmen, he loves his carpentry as I love my music. Our conversation is very condensed." With a birdlike flutter of her thin-boned hands, Landowska adds: "But his niece—she is too bourgeois. She does not understand why I am there every day. She is shocked, even now."

In Warsaw as a child of four, Landowska expressed herself on the piano while other children were learning to talk. Her first teacher, recognizing her precocious virtuosity, let her play whatever music pleased her. But "a stern, dry man" took his place, and "my delightful roamings through the gavottes and bourrees of Bach were at an end." She was very unhappy. "I dream only one thing, when I am grown to play only Bach, Haydn and Mozart." She sealed this vow in an envelope to be opened "when I am a big girl. But I opened it the next day, of course."

She graduated from the Warsaw Conservatory of Music at 14, an accomplished musician whose professors agreed that they had nothing further to teach her, and set off on her own, giving concerts throughout Europe. But Landowska had no desire to dazzle concert audiences in the accepted manner. "I have

always been in revolt." Her beloved cantor of Leipzig, Bach—and his contemporaries—had vanished from the piano repertory. Instead, performers who believed that the old master had no notion of the keyboard's capabilities served up a hybrid fare under the names of Bach-Liszt, Bach-Tausig, or Bach-Bulow. "They put Bach, Mozart, Handel back on the loom," Landowska buzzed in her book *Music of the Past*. "And after calumniating the greatest masterpieces, they dare couple their obscure names with those of our supreme masters. . . . What would sculptors say if a mason undertook to cut away some marble from the Venus de Milo to give her a wasp waist, or if one tried to twist Apollo's nose in order to give him more character?" The first thing to do was to remove the overstuffed romantic unholstery from the original music. The second was to rediscover the true harpsichord in place of the "little gavotte players, toys for wealthy amateurs" constructed at the turn of the century.

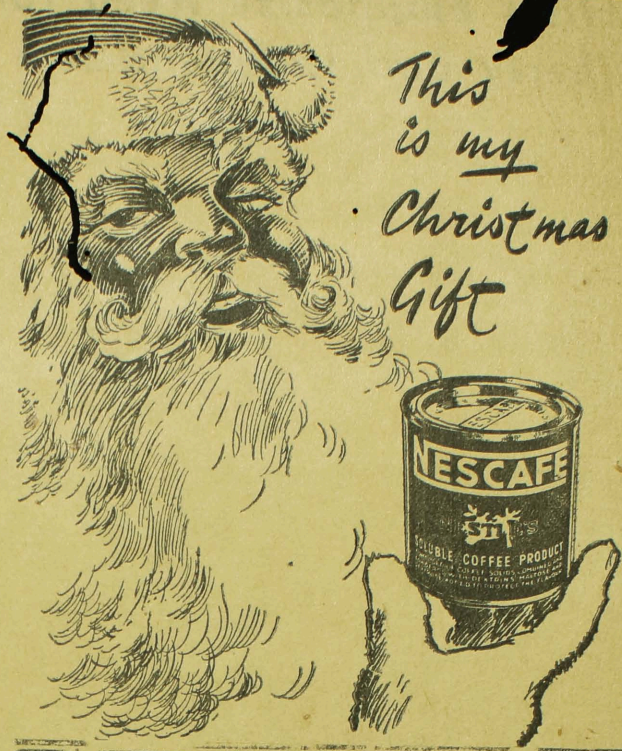
Together with her husband, Henri Lew-Landowska, who hyphenated his name and identity to hers, and was a folk-lorist, an amateur musician, "an excellent cook" and her personal court jester, Landowska began collecting manuscripts and examining old harpsichords in all the great museums of Europe. She brought the results of her researches to the Pleyel firm of Paris. In line with her suggestions, they built an instrument, "capable of greater brilliance and more tonal variety—the first modern instrument to give full justice to the 16-foot register, that essential set of strings for a deep resounding bass."

In 1907 Countess Tolstoy heard her play in Moscow and invited her to her estate for the Christmas season. The count sent two sleighs to the railway station, one for Landowska, the other for the harpsichord which has followed her everywhere, sometimes on gondola and camelback. She returned again for the Christmas of 1909. "My music was a revelation to Tolstoy. I played for him; he talked to me."

For 20 years, the jangle and warble of her strings was heard at Saint-Leu-La-Forêt, a green suburb of Paris where Landowska established her Ecole de Musique Ancienne. Here she lived, after her husband's death in 1919, among her 10,000 books and manuscripts, her pupils, her ancient instrument and nine dogs. Music lovers from all over the world came to her villa and concert hall. The 2 o'clock train that left Paris every Sunday for Saint-Leu, 30 minutes away, was referred to by station guards as "Mme. Landowska's train."

In 1940, she fled the Nazis who looted Saint-Leu of everything she owned. She escaped to the south of France with only some photographs of Tolstoy, several sketches given her by Rodin and the clothes on her back, and went to live at Banyuls-sur-Mer near her friend, the sculptor, Aristide Maillol. The only instrument in her pension was a battered old upright piano. Late one night, when everyone else was in bed, she sat down and played until morning. When the proprietress came down, Landowska inquired whether her playing had disturbed her. "But no," she replied. "I do not sleep well since the war, but your banging put me to sleep."

(Continued on page 10)



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# Artists Emphasize Need for Liberty and Independence

THREE hundred artists from 44 countries have concluded their discussions at the International Conference of Artists called by Unesco in Venice to examine the economic and social obstacles to the independence of the creative artist in modern society and his relations with the public, the State and international bodies.

The Conference, which was held under the chairmanship of the Italian composer Ildebrando Pizzotti, approved a series of resolutions emphasizing the artists' need for liberty and independence and strongly condemning censorship in all its forms.

In the field of literature, the artists came to conclusions which offer writers and authors new guarantees of their moral rights and the integrity of their work. More reliable and more numerous translations were also urged. On matters of copyright and public use, lively discussions took place between the delegates, who have called for more fellowships for young writers and financial aid for the publication of important works.

As for the theatre, the delegates sought the means of ensuring freedom and success to the dramatic art. All speakers recognized that the theatre needs to be subsidized and asked Governments to provide for such aid. But a warning was sounded that assistance should be unconditional and compel no one to make ideological concessions.

The main problem taken up by representatives of the plastic arts was the setting up of an interna-

tional association. A preparatory commission was, therefore, named; its committee includes Henri Billings (United States of America), Marco Celebonovic (Yugoslavia), Charles Lepallo (Belgium), Andre Lhote (France), Gino Severini (Italy), Otto Skoll (Sweden), Graham Sutherland (United Kingdom), Douglas Dundas (Australia), Y. Masuda (Japan), Coert Steunberg (South Africa). The most important features of art problems were discussed in exposes made to the Conference by Le Corbusier, Lucio Costa, Jean Lurcat and Jacques Villon.

Musical education was studied by composers, who expressed their readiness to help music teachers and urged greater international exchanges. They suggested, therefore, an extension of the International Music Council and the development of the free circulation of music material. In this connexion, they urged all Governments to ratify the agreements prepared by Unesco to this end. The best means of helping young composers were also surveyed.

In the film field, leading personalities expressed the view that governments could and should help in the development of the film industry by reducing taxes and contributing in the support of production as well as of professional training. In addition, they asked that film libraries be set up everywhere for the safe-keeping of a copy of every film produced.

In conclusion, the artists showed their determination to develop not only a more intense co-operation between artists of different countries but also closer relations and integration between the various disciplines of the arts.—("UNESCO News").

# An Appreciation of Kiriella Women's League

By Miss Soma Perera

THE Association deserves praise and commendation for recommending the following resolutions to be moved at the U.N.P. Women's League.

In the first instance, it was felt by the League in 1950, that women should be permitted to enter the Ceylon Police Force, which has today borne fruits. The primary need arose as men though able were not naturally competent enough to deal with offences committed by women.

The other request sent in 1949, sought to entitle women to enter as Inspectors in the Co-operative Department and already six have been

selected. The last requested the Government to appoint women as supervisors of Milk-Feeding Centres, which is now under consideration.

In recent times, the question of granting equal status to women formed a debatable problem. U.S.A. and most of the advanced countries of Europe have acceded to this request. It is, I firmly believe, in the interest of the country to remove all restrictions placed on women. This would inevitably lead to the advancement of our Nation, socially, economically and politically. May all other Women's Associations follow this noble example set by this League.

# Wanda Landowska Piano High Priestess

(Continued from page 9)

Since Mme. Landowska came to the U.S. her favourite harpsichord, the Pleyel, made especially for her and inscribed with her name, has been found in a Bavarian castle.

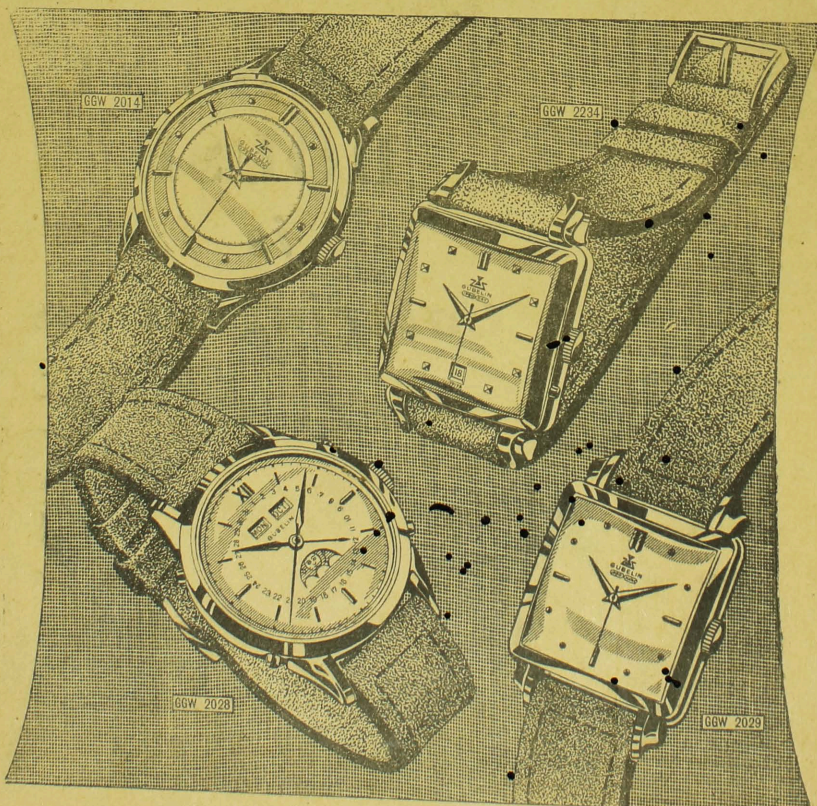
Although she has made as many as 150 concert appearances in a season, Mme. Landowska now rarely appears in public. "At last I have learned the key to the mystery. I must be concentrated about my work." Most of her time is dedicated to making her recordings of Bach's Well-Tempered Clavier, her "last will and testament."

Landowski's brown eyes still kindle in the ashes of her face at the mention of her "ghosts." This small empress in exile from her time has lived with them for most of her life. For her they are alive. And it is entirely conceivable that if one day her door should open, bringing a visitor named J. S. Bach into her instrument-cluttered, timeless room, Wanda Landowska would not so much as lift her bird's-wing eyebrows in surprise. She would probably continue the conversation she has been having with him across the strings for the past half-century.—("Time").

## Prime Minister Uses a Gubelin Watch

Mr. Dudley Senanayake, the Prime Minister of Ceylon, is among many statesmen all over the world who use the Gubelin watch. The reason is not far to seek. As an accurate timekeeper in all climatic conditions it has hardly a peer. In point of elegance too it stands in a class by itself.

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# THE CHILD AND CEYLON

WHAT is a child? This question conjures in the mind of even an unimaginative person a variety of pictures, each showing the child in one of the many varied and vivid aspects of childhood. We have all to pass through that stage of life called childhood. It is the age of longing, the age of desires, age of ambition, each helping to increase the happiness of this helpless stage. Some of us have had a happy childhood, while others less fortunate have had to forego a great deal of joy.

Philosophers, poets and statesmen have always paid tribute to the child. He is the father of man. On him depends the future of the race. "Suffer the little children to come unto me", said Christ, "for theirs is the kingdom of God". Yes! countless are the praises of childhood, immeasurable is the love that is extended to the child.

Despite this chorus of praise and natural love towards children, they are often neglected and exploited. They are the helpless victims of poverty. Injustice is heaped on the child in a most degrading manner. They are the first victims of famine and wars. No country may be said to be blameless in this respect.

Social conscience was rather late in awakening and realizing the injustice heaped on children. It was just over a century ago—in 1842 to be accurate that Britain (for example) saw how inhumanly and unjustly children were treated in factories and shops. They were subjected to the worst cruelties of the industrial age. They were paid inadequate wages and forced to work for long hours under horrible conditions. These, of course, had their invariable result. Yet even today, in Communist countries, children are subjected to ruthless political indiscriminations and grow up, not as individuals but as members in a system.

Let us consider the position of Ceylon in relation to this problem. We find that we must (together with many other countries) say "mea culpa" and strike our breast.

This is quite evident, and glaringly too. The daily papers and our own eyes provide ample testimony to this fact. However, it must be emphatically mentioned, that, the position of the child in Ceylon is exceedingly good when compared with that totalitarian countries (as Soviet Russia).

How has this condition been brought about? This is a question, the answer to which depends on a variety of reasons. War and poverty are two main causes. For instance the last world war displaced and made destitute, millions of children all over the world. The poverty-stricken villager is forced by circumstances far beyond his control to treat his child as an economic asset from a very tender age. Thus he either sells his child, or, diverts him or her to an occupation. This means a denial of elementary education and the loss of opportunities to grow into healthy manhood. These conditions lead to the related problem of juvenile delinquency.

The rehabilitation of children is an urgent and pressing task that challenges, not only Ceylon, but the whole of civilization. Only the state and society can tackle a problem of such vast magnitude. We are glad that the state has taken steps in the right direction (by legislation). It remains for society to play a major role in this connection.

Let us all unite and give the child its due. Let us aid this helpless being, who is sometimes brought to the state of a beast by his inability to speak for and ask for his rights. The reins that will guide and direct the future generations will pass into the hands of the children of today. Let us put aside the barriers of race and creed and help to build up the future by building a nation of fine, healthy and educated children. Let us make (or even try to make, if it sounds rather optimistic) such things as juvenile delinquency and child slavery things of the past. Only then can the future of the country and its people be said to be in safe hands. Yes! hands that have been roughened and toughened and can weather the severest storms, not unlike those which have guided Ceylon thus far.

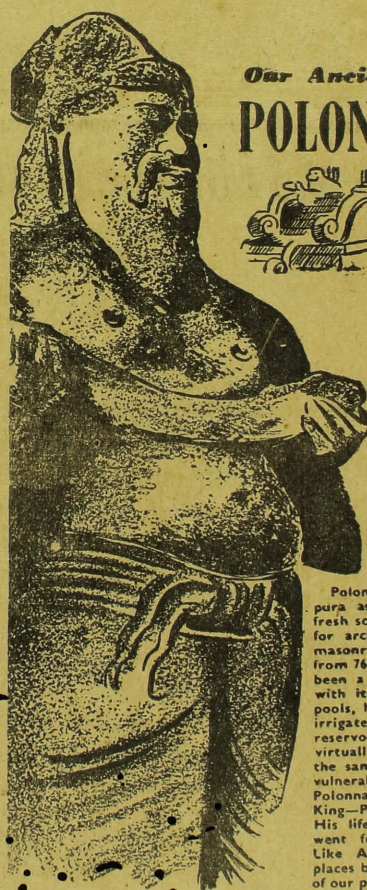
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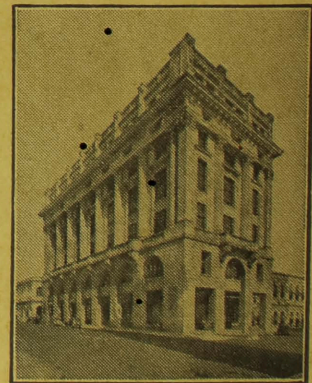
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