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Distortions and Misrepresentations in Indian Press

CEYLON ENVOY'S STRONG PROTEST

THE suggestions in the Indian Press that Ceylon was following "a squeezing out policy" against the Indian population in Ceylon, evoked a strongly-worded statement of protest.

In the course of the statement, Mr. C. Coomaraswamy, Ceylon's High Commissioner, says: "It is regrettable that every action taken by the Ceylon Government in the interest of the permanent population of that country, when it affects some Indians, should be given publicity in the Indian Press in a manner calculated to cause dissatisfaction against the Government of Ceylon. The latest instance is the misleading headlines in the local papers regarding the issue of new ration books in Ceylon.

It is a well-known fact that the rice situation in Ceylon is unsatisfactory and every endeavour has been made by the Government to find the required rice for the issue of rice rations to the people permanently settled in Ceylon. It is also a well-known fact that there has been a large number of illicit immigrants into Ceylon during recent years despite the vigilance of the Governments of both Ceylon and India. No reasonable person will consider unjustifiable any action taken by the Ceylon Government to see that illicit immigrants are not issued with rice ration books.

November 1, 1949, is the date when the Immigration Act was promulgated. Therefore, the Government has fixed this date for the refusal of rice ration books to people who illicitly went to Ceylon after that date.

UNFAIR TO CEYLON

This is certainly a measure against illicit immigrants and if anybody wants to use the word "discrimination," it is certainly discrimination against such people, prohibition of whose entry into Ceylon has been supported by the Government of India itself between whom and the Ceylon Government several conferences have been held on the subject.

But simply because illicit immigrants happen to be Indians, to brand such steps in glaring headlines as steps taken to squeeze out Indians in Ceylon may be providing

something sensational to newspaper readers, but is neither fair to Ceylon nor helpful in creating good relations between the two countries.

PREMIER CLARIFIES POSITION

In reply to Opposition speeches on the issue of the 13th series rice ration books the Prime Minister said that members of the House were all well aware of the fact that there was a "big racket" going on in ration books. They were well aware of the fact that the deserving as well as the undeserving had ration books. He did not think any one would deny that fact. It may be that the administration would be blamed for it, but the fact was that there were more ration books in circulation than there ought to have been, according to the strict merits of each particular case. The result was that it was not a question of the needy person getting his food at a subsidised price. Everyone was well aware that there was a big business going on and a big turn-over being made in the collection and buying of ration books, and in transporting the rice.

RATION BOOK RACKET

Big sums of money were made on account of this. Even if it were a fault of the administration, faced with the fact, he thought that it was absolutely necessary to see that only the deserving person got a ration book. There was an outcry in the Press and editorials bringing to the notice of the public that there were almost as many ration books over again as the population of Ceylon.

"Therefore," added the Prime Minister, "I personally directed the Minister of Food and Agriculture to go into the whole question and see that only the deserving person received a ration book and partial producers received coupons not to the full extent but according to what they had to buy, taking into account their own individual production."

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION DENIED

The next point which the Prime Minister dealt with was the alleged racial discrimination. As far as estate labour was concerned, who comprise the largest body of these so-called Indians or Ceylonese of Indian origin, he said that on the certificate of the superintendent everyone of them received his or her rations. There is no discrimination at all.

Continuing, the Prime Minister said, the estate labourers formed the largest body of Indians in Ceylon. Then the non-nationals who, in householders' lists have been certified to have been here before 1949, all such persons, without a question, got their ration books. It is evident from the interruptions from the Opposition side of the House, that the occasion is being used only for propaganda purposes rather than to obtain information.

"I am not going to allow any further interruptions. We have had too many and there must be a limit," was the Speaker's stern reminder at this stage.

Continuing, the Prime Minister said: "The position is that we are trying to stop illicit immigration on

the one hand, but here, on the other hand, we are asked to encourage further illicit immigration by giving illicit immigrants rice at the subsidised rate of 25 cents a measure, and say, 'come, we will always give you rice even if you are illicit immigrants!'"

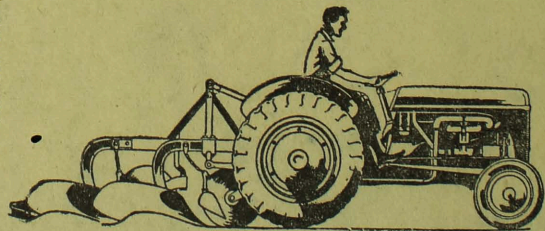
The Opposition members, he said, spoke of non-issue of rice ration books meant starvation. It only meant that subsidised rice was not available. All those cases where rice ration books have not been issued are being examined and if any injustice had been done, matters would be put right. There was no discrimination against a race. It was certainly discrimination against breakers of the Law—the Immigrant Law.

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British University Debating Team to Visit Ceylon

A DEBATING team of three British University graduates leaves Britain early this month for a 10-week tour of universities in Ceylon, India, Pakistan and Singapore. The members of the team will be

Mr. Derick Torr, of Birmingham University; Mr. James Forrester of Edinburgh University; and Mr. Alan John Smith, of University College, London. The team is expected to arrive in Colombo early in March.—(U.K.I.S.).

THE ORIGIN OF SINHALESE SHORT STORIES

By *Wilson Siriwarnasingha*

IN the days of old when Sinhalese prose literature was employed as a medium of propagation of Buddhism the one and the only type of short stories prevalent in Ceylon was "Jataka" tales—stories depicting the various births of the Bodhisatva. Some researches into the past culture of our Island, Lanka, have revealed the fact that the earliest type of short stories we had were these "Jatakas." Modern critics of Sinhalese literature are unanimously of opinion that the origin of Sinhalese short stories was undoubtedly the "Jataka" stories that flourished during the period that immediately followed the introduction of Buddhism into Ceylon.

In the early periods of the history of Sinhalese literature the art of writing was chiefly in the hands of Buddhist monks and the works they produced were of a high-flown style, unintelligible to the general public. As a result the appreciation of the then current literary achievements proved to be a monopoly of just a handful of the people. Even those educated few who had nurtured a liking for reading, according to some modern investigations into the ancient Sinhalese literature, must not have sufficiently and popularly understood them—the language was so difficult and beyond comprehension.

The monks who only were given to writing confined the subject matter they drew up for writing stories to religion alone, thus ignoring the social life around them. Some critics hold the view that the absence of social conditions in "Jataka" stories of early times was due to the fact that Buddhist monks were ignorant of them as they were forbidden to move about freely among the common folk. On no ground can we take this for granted for the standards of social life have vividly been reflected in the

"Jataka" tales written somewhere about the middle of the 14th century by Dharmasena who was also a Buddhist monk.

Between the period from the end of the twelfth century and downwards it was very seldom that a lay writer cared to try his hand at producing something of literary interest. This, according to some contemporary critics of Sinhalese literature was the chief factor that contributed towards social life being far removed from the folk-lore and legends woven in primitive times.

The prose style the monks of the tenth and eleventh centuries adopted to write down their stories was to a greater degree monotonous and philosophical. The stories they wrote were meant to be read aloud by someone for the edification of a group of listeners and therefore the individual reader could not find any sort of delight in them.

The sole object of the monk writers of very early times was to disseminate and popularize Buddhism through the medium of what they wrote and not to create a literary interest in their readers. To a greater extent they employed Sanskrit words in writing their stories. Sometimes the stories they wrote were direct translations from Pali and Sanskrit texts.

After centuries of darkness in the history of Sinhalese literature it began to prosper towards the end of the 12th century. Talented writers began to appear and interesting "Jataka" stories came down into the hands of the reading public. The style with which they had been treated could be easily understood and was no longer monotonous and unintelligible.

By the 13th century several dextrous authors got into the literary world. One of those authors whose productions of literature and inherent literary talent that contri-

buted greatly towards the kindling of a taste for reading in the people was Gurulugomi, the celebrated author of Sinhalese literature who wrote hundreds of years ahead of his time.

Gurulugomi had special genius with regard to the literary field that towered distinctly high above that of all his contemporary writers. Something which led to Gurulugomi's popularity as an author was that he avoided almost completely introducing miraculous occurrences and myths which were very common and found in abundance in the works of ancient writers. Amavatura is the most important book among the diversity of works which came from his pen. The remarkable success of Gurulugomi in his Amavatura greatly depends on the fact that he avoided to a greater degree or altogether the hackneyed prose style of expression employed by ancient writers.

The Amavatura has been written in such a charming style that it can be read and re-read without the slightest diminution of delight. The author has consciously managed to maintain the style he invented for the purpose all throughout the book.

Something deserving mention in this comment of his book is that unlike in works of literature including folk tales and legends of primitive periods the "Jataka" stories in his book provide much incidental information relating to the social conditions prevailing at its time. This, we may say, is one of the most striking features that led his work to be regarded as a long living masterpiece of Sinhalese literature.

Although Gurulugomi's style of language proved to be of some difficulty to be understood by the semi-literate man it showed considerable success in resurrecting the half dead Sinhalese literature along with the "Jataka" tale.

Vidyachakrawarti and Dharmasena were two other prominent personalities whose contributions towards the maintenance of Sinhalese literature and the bringing of literature within the reach of the common man are highly esteemed. These two authors who thrived in the 13th century made every possible attempt to revive Sinhalese literature. These attempts to a greater extent were successful.

"The Jataka stories Vidyachakrawarti wrote were of a very superior quality. He created an independent style of writing which in later times came to be widely followed by Sinhalese writers.

Vidyachakrawarti's style of expression which came to be known as "Misra Sinhala" (mixed Sinhalese) not only was appreciable but also easily intelligible to a wider circle of readers. Simplicity of style was the predominating feature in his works. This is undoubtedly why he won an extraordinary and everlasting popularity as a literary genius.

Dharmasena's style was still simpler. The subject matter of nearly all his Jataka stories was drawn from the everyday life. Dharmasena being well versed in the experiences of the life of the common folk was able to produce stories suitable to the tastes and interests of all. His books teem with colloquial terms of speech and idiomatic phrases resorted to by villagers. Saddharmaratnawaliya is a shining instance in this connection. He gave his readers a close-up of the social activities prevalent at his time. He did not exaggerate things. It is apparent that all his works were directed towards the target of instilling into the reader, reality in its most genuine form.

It is a fact we are fully aware of that the Jataka story, the earliest type of Sinhalese short story, had assumed a religious outlook. The short story of today is very much different from the Jataka story. This is due to two major reasons.

In the first place the early influences of Buddhism on it gradually disappeared as it steadily progressed with time towards the modern age. Secondly, Sinhalese short story writ-

ers who came in close contact with foreign short stories, especially Russian and French stories, clothed the old Sinhalese short story with costumes they borrowed from foreign sources. Consequently the fashion of our old short story began to dwindle away rapidly until not a single characteristic pertaining to it was left. The gap existing presently between the modern short story and the old is such a long separation that it is almost impossible for one to conjecture that the Jataka stories appearing in ancient Sinhalese literature books were the origin of the short story we have in Ceylon today.

"It was a terribly dark night. After dinner I was lying on my bed absorbed in a fascinating novel when I heard a gentle tap on the door....."

This is how a modern short story begins. But a 13th or a 14th century writer would commence writing his story thus.

"Once upon a time when the Buddha was residing at Kusinara, there lived in a remote spot of the country side in India a humble farmer and his beloved wife who were gifted with a pretty looking daughter," etc.

If we compare these two beginnings with each other we can at once realize what a vast difference is there between the modern and the old short story.

"Agriculture is the backbone of a nation." Thus runs a Sinhalese slogan. I wonder it is exaggeration if we are to say "Short story is the backbone of literature." By the first slogan we mean that agriculture is indispensable to a nation. Surely it is the same with the second; for no literature can exist without the short story—it is the support on which a literature rests. Therefore by no means can we be exaggerating when we say, "Short story is the backbone of literature."

We know that there was only one type of short story in ancient Sinhalese literature. It is not the same with the short story of this modern age.

The historical short story also occupies an outstanding place in the modern field of Sinhalese literature. Until very recently, before the detective story won popularity the historical story had been considered the best types of short story.

The aim of the historical short story is to kindle in the reader the fire of patriotism and portray the valour and bravery of our ancient national heroes.

Mr. Martin Wickramasinghe, T. G. W. de Silva and W. A. Silva are three of the most prominent and promising Sinhalese short story writers we have today. They are equally efficient in their respective modes of writing.

Mr. T. G. W. de Silva of Matara is undoubtedly the most well known Sinhalese short story writer of this modern age. Keats, the famous poet of English literature, lived for poetry alone; Mr. W. de Silva lives for the short story alone. His prominence vastly depends on the success of his sarcastic short stories that occasionally appeared in the "Silumina." One of the most distinguished stories among Mr. de Silva's works is the "Midnight Woman" that was recently published.

Mr. W. A. Silva, though, was a novelist gained popularity and fame as a short story writer. This, certainly is on account of the fact that his short stories were more enamouring and exciting than his novels. Even the casual reader who will plunge into his stories, especially "Hinganakolla" (Beggar Boy), and "Lensuwa" (Handkerchief) will come to know how great a proficiency he possessed at weaving fiction and short stories. Mr. Silva in most of his stories attempts successfully at displaying various domestic difficulties that confronted middle class families in urban areas and the habitual dissent of westernized Sinhalese damsels to the marriage proposals their parents

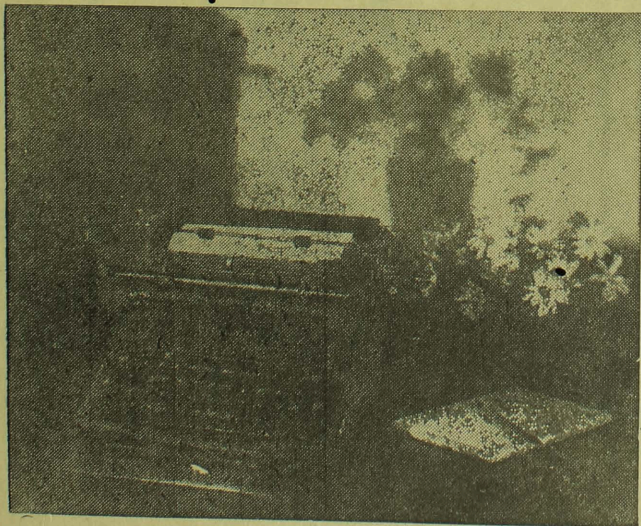
(Continued on page 3)

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CAN THE SOCIALISTS SAVE ASIA?

By Stanley Morrison

A NEW organised political force has entered the Asian scene in an effort to save what remains of non-Communist Asia from Communism. That force is the newly-created Asian Socialist Organisation. Will it succeed? I personally believe that it will succeed only if it develops a dynamic of its own as powerful as the driving force behind Communism. In the past Socialism in Asia has completely lacked that motive power. It has been a weak, anaemic thing, floundering amid an undergrowth of sentimentalities. Never did Asian Socialists present a less edifying spectacle than when the once powerful Indian Socialist Party under its one-time inspiring leader, Jayaprakash Narain, suffered ignominious defeat at the last All-India General Elections. After that tragic eclipse of a once great party Socialism became in India a by-word for indecision, for paper formulas and the mere high-sounding sentiments of its leaders, who were themselves at sixes and sevens over the framing of a properly integrated policy.

But is Asian Socialism now to be rejuvenated? Is the Rangoon Conference a portent of on-coming defeat by the forces of Communism or does it herald the upsurge of a new and live political movement in the Asian scene? There is no doubt that the intellectuals behind the movement, particularly the Indian Socialists, are well qualified to lead the Asian masses. But for some reason or other, the Indian leaders have lost their grip on the Indian masses and a long period of struggle lies ahead of them if they are to regain a hold of the Indian working and middle classes. Meanwhile the Indian Communist Party has forged ahead and appears to be making headway still with the intellectuals as well as the working and middle classes in that country. In Pakistan, too, conditions do not

appear to be as propitious as they seem on the surface. The riots that have just occurred in Karachi are said to be Communist-inspired, and the amazing courage with which the rioters, particularly the students, fought the Police and armed forces must give the authorities there food for thought and open their eyes to the existence of a hard core of resistance to the present regime in Pakistan. Coming hard on the heels of the announcement of the forthcoming creation of a really democratic constitution for Pakistan, the riots in the capital are a warning sign that all is not well with this new-born Muslim State.

And soon after the riots flared up in Karachi, there occurred a virtual police revolt in Madras City. Is there A LINK BETWEEN the two events? If there is, then it would appear that the underground links between Indians and Pakistanis, who owe a common political allegiance, have already been forged. Thus, while the problem of Kashmir continues to divide India and Pakistan, the two countries seem to be united underground.

All these alarms and excursions across the Palk Straits must naturally cause great concern to little Ceylon—where still peace abides. But for how long?—That is the question. Not for long, I believe. If the present depressed conditions are to continue in the Island's staple industries. Labour unrest may grow, and the Leftists will be the only beneficiaries under such a state of affairs. The depression in the countries' staple industries are a Commonwealth responsibility and if nothing is done soon to rectify matters and to persuade the U.S.A. to stop using synthetics as a counterweight to the natural rubber industry, mere military measures to block Communism in Asia would be utterly futile, because starving, unemployed people with despair in

their hearts and desperation in their minds will naturally turn towards the Communist leaders for relief. In Asia, therefore, the most important and effective check on Communism is the economic weapon. Already as a result of the American emphasis on the synthetic rubber industry, there is widespread distress among the masses in Malaya and Indonesia. And now it is reported that General Eisenhower has a plan for coupling up Communism within the borders of China and preventing it spreading out among her neighbours. But unfortunately it is said to be a military plan. Unless, however, it is linked up with an economic plan for finding profitable markets for the raw materials already being produced in South-East Asia, a military plan is bound to fail, because the enemy within the South-East Asian countries can upset all the best-laid plans of Western generals. By the "enemy within" I mean the vast masses of half-starved people whom a slump in the markets for their produce would drive to desperation.

Out of this mass the Communists will obtain a horde of willing recruits for guerilla warfare and for organised acts of sabotage. In every country in South-East Asia, therefore, there will be two armies—the armies of people loyal to their respective governments and the armies of the underground loyal to the dictates of the Communists. Thus, the economic factor is vital and if the Western powers ignore that factor or do not give it prime importance, they are likely to see South-East Asia go the way of China.

Besides, there is another highly important consideration. That is India's attitude towards a military plan. There is not the slightest doubt that no American persuasion will succeed in obtaining Indian adherence to the Western Bloc's military schemes. Apart from Mr. Nehru's repeated avowal of friendship for China, public opinion in India still stands opposed to India being lined up with any power bloc either of the Left or Right. Any attempt to interfere with this decision of India's will lead to disaster and to a permanent estrangement between India and the West.

The Origin of Sinhalese Short Stories

(Continued from page 2)

arrange for them. However, Mr. Silva is not the sort of short story writer who tries to condemn women-kind. Never does he go to transform his story to a sermon intended for the reformation of society.

Mr. Martin Wickremasinghe of Malalagama, the well known critic, has gained an islandwide reputation as a short story writer. Mr. Wickremasinghe first came into prominence in 1924 with the publication of his book of a series of short stories entitled "Geheniyak" (A woman).

In his short stories Mr. Wickrema-

singhe provides the reader with a close critical study of the various social aspects in villages. He rakes up the defects of the countryfolk and tries to create in the reader the impression that they are the reactions to social and economic influences.

Among the very large number of short stories he wrote, prominence has been given to "Diyamanti Malaya" (Diamond Necklace), "Magul gedera" (The wedding and "Meeyage Maranaya" (the death of the mouse), all of which were written between 1924 and 1939.

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TEMPLER OF MALAYA "The Smiling Tiger"

ONE evening last January, in the pale green dining room of Ottawa's Rideau Hall, Winston Churchill sat at a banquet table, ruddy-faced in an atmosphere redolent of brandy and cigars. He was Prime Minister again, and enjoying it. Sitting near him were Lords Ismay, Cherwell and Alexander. Among the forty guests, few noticed the tall, slim British general seated down-table. But suddenly Churchill waved a brandy glass at the officer and bellowed:

"Templer! Malaya!"

The buzz of conversation, momentarily suspended, was resumed. Five minutes later, Churchill bawled:

"Templer! Full powers!"

Ten minutes later his gruff voice cut through the cigar smoke again:

"Full power, Templer. Very heady stuff. Use it sparingly."

There had been a council of war at Rideau Hall over Commonwealth defences. Most urgent subject: the 3½-year "state of emergency" in Malaya, where Communist terrorists (1) had taken more than 3,000 lives; (2) were costing 150,000 dollars a day to combat; (3) threatened tin and rubber production, Britain's best dollar earners. A few months before, Communists had ambushed and killed High Commissioner Sir Henry Gurney, the top-flight colonial administrator who had been sent out to put order into Malaya's civil service. Said the London "Daily Telegraph": "The trouble (has been) not only murder, but mugwumpery."

Churchill ran a broad finger down Britain's army list and halted at the fifth name: General Sir Gerald Walter Robert Templer, K.C.B., K.B.E., C.M.G., D.S.O. A message to Cobham, Surrey brought 54-year-old General Templer flying to the banquet room in Ottawa. Three weeks later he was in Malaya, with such military and political powers in his kit bag as no British soldier had had since Cromwell.

POLO AND PALESTINE

The dragon-boot soil of Northern Ireland has farrowed a fine litter of Britain's great generals—Montgomery, Alexander, Dill, Alanbrooke, Auchinleck. It also farrowed Gerald Templer, a thin, deceptively fragile-looking, tough soldier. His father, a dedicated officer in the Royal Irish Fusiliers, had some discussion with his mother about what to call the child, but there was no discussion about his career: it was Wellington, Sandhurst and the army. Says his mother, now in her 80s: "He always wanted to be a soldier, and I did my best to make him so."

So did he. He scraped into World War I as a subaltern at the age of 18, made the retreat from the Somme. In 1919 he was part of a hush-hush force in the Caspian Sea area which helped defend the White Russian fleet from Bolshevik attack: "All pretty unsatisfactory from a political point of view, though great fun for a young officer." Now he likes to say that he is the "only senior British officer who ever fought the Russians." Between the world wars, he played polo and rode to hounds, became bayonet-fighting champion of the British army, made the 1924 Olympic squad as a 120-yard hurdler. He also saw action in Palestine, where he won a D.S.O. In guerrilla skirmishes against the Arabs, Palestine taught him "the mind and method of the guerrilla," and introduced him to the Arab-Jewish problem: "I can remember lying in bed weeping about the tragedy of it."

In World War II, in the retreat to Dunkirk, he was operational commander of "Mac Force," the improvised formation covering the British right flank, and was mentioned in dispatches. Back in England he shot up to be the youngest lieutenant general in the British

army. Believing he had risen too quickly, he asked for and got a combat command.

RESTLESS ENERGY

In Italy he soon won a reputation for restless energy, drive and impetuosity. When patrols went out, he sat up and waited for their return, so that he could interrogate the patrol commander himself. At a critical moment on the Anzio beachhead he ordered every man available—sappers, cooks, clerks—into the firing line. "He acted like a red-hot poker," says one of his officers. "He always impressed you as a man who was inevitably heading for a tremendous crack-up," says another.

Speeding along the road toward Florence one day, he met a truck coming from the front with a looted baby grand piano. Seeing the general's stars, the truck driver pulled aside to let him pass—and hit a land mine in the ditch. Part of the piano, came hurtling down on Templer's back, seriously injuring his spine. When he recovered the war was almost over. ("Only general ever wounded by a piano," he says, savagely). Appointed first military governor of the British Zone in Germany he announced that he intended to be "firm to the point of ruthlessness....I have still to meet a German who says he's sorry. But that's the nature of the beast."

CLARET AND CRYSTAL

War's end brought Templer full generalship, knighthood and elevation to the Imperial General Staff. But his proudest preferment is his colonelcy of the Royal Irish Fusiliers.

Templer's father had started a collection of regimental trophies, flags, uniforms and weapons at Loughall Manor, Armagh. Templer set up a regimental museum, restored to the regiment its original war trophy: Napoleon's eagle-headed standard which an Irish rifleman had captured in the Peninsular War.

Templer is the perfect picture of a British regular soldier: an austere, stiff-backed autocrat in uniform—and in mufti a bit of a dandy. He lived elegantly in London's Belgravia and became a connoisseur of claret, crystal and 17th century books. But in the company of his old war comrades he could relax. Says one: "He'll bring along an elderly fellow in civilian attire and introduce him to the officers as 'You remember Sergeant So-and-So. He and I fought together at So-and-So! Sometimes if you happen to mention the name of a ranker he'll slap his thigh and declare: 'I knew him before his mother's milk was dry on his lips!'"

It was not surprising that such a man should say to Churchill: "If I make a mess of it I want to go back to the army. If I don't make a mess of it I want to go back to the army." In the Malayan jungle, fighting a cruel war, there were moments when many thought he was making a mess of it.

THE NEUTRAL JUNGLE

The basic fact about the war in Malaya is the jungle. "The thing that astonished me most," writes Colonel F. Spencer Chapman, an Englishman who spent three years there in World War II behind the Japanese lines "was the absolute straightness, the perfect symmetry of the tree trunks, like the pillars of a dark and limitless cathedral. The ground itself was covered with a thick carpet of dead leaves and seedling trees. There was practically no earth visible, and certainly no grass or flowers. Up to a height of ten feet or so, a dense undergrowth of young trees and palms, but out of this wavy green sea of undergrowth a myriad tree trunks rose straight upward.....for 150 feet before they burgeoned into a solid canopy of green which almost entirely shut out the sky."

Four-fifths of Malaya—a country about the size of Florida—is tropical forest covering mountains up to 7,000 feet high. In this jungle, inhabited by tigers, elephants, bison,

TRIBUTE TO LATE PREMIER

AT the unveiling ceremony at Ceylon House, London, of the oil painting of the Rt. Hon. D. S. Senanayake, the late Prime Minister, which was performed by his son, the present Prime Minister, a glowing tribute was paid by Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, Finance Minister, on that occasion, the full text of which is as follows:

Mr. Prime Minister, Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen—

It falls to the lot of a few indeed to witness the realisation of the ideals they have striven to achieve. One of these was the late Rt. Hon. Don Stephen Senanayake, who strove to achieve the ideal of a free, united and democratic Lanka.

With a resistless flame, he kindled the thoughts of his countrymen towards the creation of a free Lanka and liked to be chosen as its first Prime Minister. He welded the diverse races that lived therein into one nation. To preserve this newly-won freedom and to safeguard the liberty of its citizens he established a government of the people through democratic institutions.

He also laid the foundation for the future welfare of our land by the inauguration of the great schemes of agricultural regeneration associated with his name. He did not live to see their ultimate fulfilment. Before he died, however, he knew that under the wise and conscientious guidance of his son as Minister of Agriculture that that fulfilment was assured.

The tributes that flowed in from all parts of the world at his death showed that then none knew him but to love; none spoke of him but to praise. It may truly be said that "the elements so mixed in him that nature may stand up and say to all the world 'this was a man!'"

The inherent necessity of dissolution "anicca wata sankhara," has torn him away from us, but not before his name was inscribed in letters of gold in the ancient scroll of Lanka's distinguished sons. The record of his service, wherein lies his chief fame, will withstand the corrosion of time, and "at the going down of the sun and in the morning the people of Lanka, whom he loved so well, will remember him."

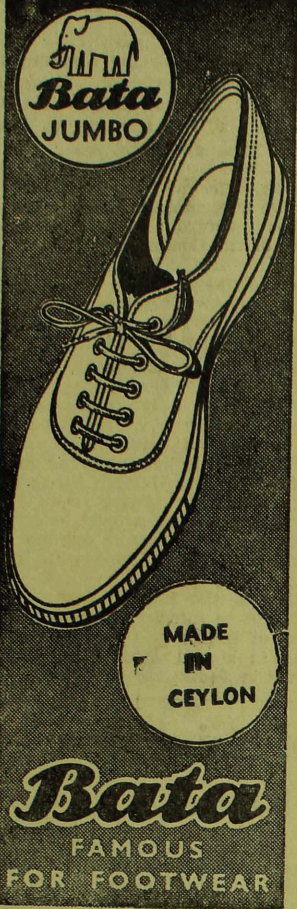
Co-operation the Solution of Labour Problems

"BROTHERHOOD is what every religion teaches. Such manifestations unfortunately are completely non-existent in the relationship between employer and employee and it is this aloofness which is responsible for much of the differences that exist between the two parties," declared Mr. H. E. P. de Mel, M.P., when he entertained the employees of the Lanka Light Match Factory, Moratuwa, on Friday, the 2nd January.

Continuing, he said that the workers of Free Lanka had a very great responsibility in the matter of production of manufactured goods required by their people. Co-operation and better understanding and united efforts of both employer and the employee were essential. It should be the duty of every employer and the employee to render their obligations to the country and work for economic stability and social progress.—(Cor.)

monkeys, gibbons, deer and bear, alive with all manner of insects, including malaria-bearing mosquitoes, bloodsucking leeches, pythons and multi-coloured birds, where orchids and rhododendron flourish, there is hidden an army of about 5,000 Communist guerrillas.

(("TIME").



U. N. P. JOURNAL
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What Moral Re-armament Means to a German Communist

THERE are three types of Communists. Those who are ready to give their lives and everything they have. Those of high intelligence who have been gripped by the fascinating theory of Communism; and the masses, who waver this way and that, and whom Fascism also succeeded in winning over.

For over 25 years I put my whole faith in those who were ready to give everything to build a new world and on them only.

The hard conditions in which I had to live forced me to think about society. I had the feeling that my work was not rightly appreciated and regarded, for however hard I worked I was poor. We could not afford to buy new things, and to bring our standard of living on to a bearable level.

For example, Christmas in my childhood was certainly a time of joy, but I never was given a toy. We made big eyes with delight if we were even given an orange. My stepfather turned most of what he had into alcohol. It would have been a little better if he had saved more. But often a worker became bitter and took to his bottle.

Even while I was still at school, I went through the bitter experience of feeling that people, who were calling themselves religious, were in reality the opposite. Their ideas and their lives contradicted each other. For this reason I lost my faith although I had had a religious education.

At that time the Communists were the only people who offered the workers an answer. In 1918 I joined the workers' movement. Marxism appealed to me because so much of what Marx said was true.

COMMUNISTS GIVE EVERYTHING

I took part in strikes and demonstrations which the police tried to prevent. We were beaten with truncheons. There were broken windows and dead and wounded. During the war, in which I fought as an anti-Fascist, we Communists met at the risk of our lives. I remember with gratitude many honest comrades who gave their lives from the depth of their conviction that this was the way to fight for a new world. My own brother was tortured by the Nazis, but this did not soften us. On the contrary it hardened us and made us more determined revolutionaries.

THE CLASS SYSTEM

After the war I was sent by the Communist Party to the Party training school in the Eastern Zone of Germany.

There were three classes in the distribution of food, in sleeping and living quarters. However my fanaticism after twenty-three years of fighting let that go by, and when I returned to the Ruhr I was given the job of secretary for training and propaganda in our area.

THE FORGOTTEN FACTOR

Shortly after this a play called "The Forgotten Factor" came to the Ruhr on the invitation of our boss, Dr. Kost, who is also chairman of the German Coal Board. We had to distribute the tickets, which I did not like, because I thought, "anything the employers support cannot be good."

But I was surprised when one day one of the actors turned up with his wife in my home. That was my

first contact with people who demonstrated in theory AND in practice unity, brotherhood and living above class. The play plus the actors, with their caring and deep comradeship which they lived everywhere, not just on the stage, impressed me deeply. About that time I fell ill, and in the hospital I was visited by many M.R.A. people and by very few of my Communist comrades.

CAUX

Some time afterwards I was invited to Caux, the international training centre of Moral Re-Armament in Switzerland. I went very critical. In the meetings no great scientific lectures were given, but living evidence and a basic philosophy of life. A philosophy of life founded on the revolutionary effect of a change of motive in individuals. I saw at once that here was something which the Marxist scientific structures lacked. We had forgotten man. We had not allowed for the force of moral values. We only planned revolution with our heads, whereas here was a revolution of the heart.

I was struck by the employers I met there. They did not talk much, but gave proof that they were parting with their money, not only for this revolution, but also to create better social conditions for their workers. These were results which we aimed to achieve through socialism. When I examined Marxism from this angle, I remembered that Marx was the son of a Jewish Merchant, and Engels, the son of a capitalist. Their readiness to sacrifice everything had made it possible for millions of workers to achieve what freedom they enjoyed to-day. Now I know that the positive forces in every class, nation and race can and must be united to build the new society.

I understood the basic structure of Lenin's ideas. But it occurred to me that I had never really thought out the means by which the class war was going to be carried through. In its final stage class war becomes world atomic war, which utterly destroys any economic basis upon which we would build Socialism. I realised that we need an ideology which adequately meets the claims of the atomic age.

I found at Caux an international organism which was lived, whereas I as a Communist had known only a song called the Internationale, which was sung.

MRA is the true synthesis between Capitalism and Socialism, I learned this from Frank Buchman who taught us that the true causes of the crisis we see in Socialism, in the family and the nations, spring from sick motives, materialism or selfishness.

REVOLUTIONARY CHANGE

I talked unceasingly about the unity of the working class. But all the time I had no unity with my seven colleagues in the works council room. My obstinacy and my determination, as an old Communist, always to be right made a unity with them impossible. But when I began to live the principles of M.R.A., my greatest political opponent became my friend and partner. He said to my boss, "I get on wonderfully with Kurowski now. Not because he has changed his political beliefs, but because the fellow himself has changed. He does not lose his temper and he trusts me as a comrade. Perhaps I also must put some things right."

So I found that the unity of the working class is something that must be lived.

Paul Kurowski

In unfamiliar places..
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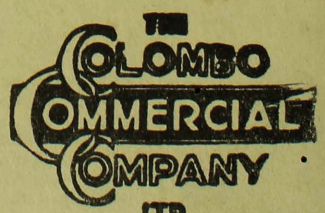
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See Page 3

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Friday, Jan. 16, 1953

MISSION TO INDIA

The Press Note issued from New Delhi by Ceylon's High Commissioner on the subject of the misrepresentation of Ceylon affairs in the Indian Press is certainly an unusual event. It is rarely that a diplomatic representative uses language as strong as that in which the High Commissioner's note was worded. The situation, therefore, must be really serious for such a step to have been considered necessary. The general reader and the average citizen in Ceylon may not be aware that in most circumstances there will always be one section of the Press of a country which will act in an irresponsible and mischievous manner. It is not only in India that one can find that kind of journalism. Some little known sections of the Press in Great Britain, or America or Australia now and again indulge in reader-exciting news splashes. These outbursts are kept in check by the admonitory and dignified editorial comment of national newspapers in those countries.

In Ceylon, also, we have some half-baked journalists on some of our weeklies who go right down to the level of their kind of readers and seek to inflame a highly excitable people. Responsible journals, however strongly they may state a case, are always careful to check their facts.

In India we must remember that the better known national dailies have maintained a more or less objective attitude to Indo-Ceylon problems.

There is, however, a history of deliberate distortion behind the latest outbursts by a certain section of the Indian Press which have provoked our High Commissioner to issue his latest Note. There is a section of the Indian Press that believes in whipping up expansionist madness among a section of the Indian people. The technique they adopt is lifted straight from a text-book of propaganda that Dr. Goebbels

Co-op. Agricultural Society at Haburugala

PITIGALA, Friday

At a largely attended meeting held at the Government School, Haburugala, presided over by Mr. K. D. S. Kumarasingha, Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Pahala Gamhaya, a Co-operative Agricultural Production and Sales Society was formed for Haburugala and Dedduwa.

Outlining the objects of the meeting, Mr. Kumarasingha said that as the Government is prepared to give any support for the food drive it was their duty to do their bit by bringing under cultivation as much land as possible in order to

might well have written. We who have followed this trend in India since independence remember that before Sardar Vallabhai Patel marched into Hyderabad that section of the Press we have in mind published most lurid stories about atrocities being committed in Hyderabad against Indians. These papers screamed that innocent Indians were being raped and burned and tortured. When the Indian armies occupied Hyderabad this screaming ceased.

Since then the same technique was used in the attack on Portuguese Goa. It is still going on in reference to French Pondichery, and now it seems to be the turn for Ceylon to receive the attentions of this kind of yellow journalism.

We can assure the High Commissioner that the truth will never be published in the columns of such newspapers. There is, however, the informed, just and highly responsible section of the Indian Press which can be depended upon to give the facts. To that section must be directed the attention and energy of our Foreign Office. Press relations are not as easy to maintain as they are to establish. The ideal Press Officer is hard to come by. One of the best of them that the Government of Ceylon ever had is in too exalted a position for the day-to-day attention to this subject in India. We refer to Sir Kanthiah Vaithianathan, who is Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of External Affairs and Defence. We have, however, in Mr. H. A. J. Hulugalle, the head of the Information Department, a most competent journalist who should be used before he is moved elsewhere. It is extremely vital to prevail upon him to serve his country by immediately setting out on a One Man Mission to the Press of India. He should have the full authority of a visiting diplomat if he is to make headway. He has the know-how and the tact and has achieved the top level as a journalist to handle this difficult job as it needs to be handled. We hope that the Government will seriously consider the importance of this suggestion. Much anguish can be avoided if we take early steps thus to counter the war-mongering mischief in which some sections of the Indian Press is now engaged.

achieve self-sufficiency in food. As there are over 2,000 acres of paddy fields at Haburugala and Dedduwa the formation, the co-operative effort of such a Society would bring them many benefits.

Mr. K. T. L. de Silva, Food Production Officer, Kosgoda-Bentota, explained the usefulness of a Co-operative Agricultural Production and Sales Society whose members are eligible for concessions such as loans, planting materials and implements, etc., etc.

The following office-bearers were elected:—

(Continued on page 7)

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PHENOMENAL PROGRESS OF POST OFFICE ACTIVITY

Substantial Advance in Telecommunication

"AS a national institution the Post Office makes an active and important contribution to the progress and welfare of the State and its people. Its services are no longer confined strictly to postal business. It is a medium of close contact between the Government and the community and the volume of business passing through the Post Office is a general idea of the commercial life and the prosperity of the country. The volume of mails handled by the Post Office has been growing steadily year by year and the financial year 1950-1951 saw yet a further

increase in the volume of all classes of mail matter. The extensive measures adopted by Government under the First Six-Year Plan to raise the agricultural, industrial and social standards of the country have all been reflected in an increase of business in every sphere of Post Office activity."

The above is the introductory note in the Administration Report of the Postmaster-General and Director of Telecommunications for 1950-51.

The following table indicates the increase over the previous year in respect of articles of correspondence, parcels, money orders, telegrams and telephone calls:—

	1949-1950	1950-1951
Articles of correspondence	227,808,725	256,666,061
Parcels	2,251,994	2,578,431
Money Orders issued and paid	3,101,340	3,472,999
Telegrams dealt with	3,910,729	4,421,607
Telephones (Colombo trunk and call offices)	25,329,869	30,523,303

The opening of new offices, boom trade conditions and the various development schemes of Government have contributed to the general increase of work in all Post Offices in the Island.

While the air mail service is being generally used for light letters and small parcels (to certain countries) the surface mail service continues to be well patronised for the despatch of bulkier mail matter. Certain classes of mail matter received from New York were found to be greater in volume than the corresponding mails received from the United Kingdom.

It is not well known by the public that a large volume of work is thrown on the department owing to insufficiently or incorrectly addressed mail matter. Such articles are sent to the Returned Letter Office, where they receive special attention of trained staff who are able in most cases, to trace the sender or addresses and effect correct disposal.

AN IMPORTANT EVENT

An event of importance during the year was the purchase by the Ceylon Government of the local assets of Cable and Wireless Ltd. and the assumption by the Postal Department of the functions of Ceylon's "National Body" for the operation and maintenance of the external telecommunication services. Ceylon was represented at the extraordinary Administrative Radio Conference of the International Telecommunication Union held in Geneva.

MAIL SERVICE

The period under review saw the restoration of the Foreign Surface Mail services by fast passenger steamers as in pre-war days.

DO YOU KNOW

That during the period under review a total of 9,070 registered articles and 538,277 unregistered articles were handled.

That the corresponding figures for the previous period were 5,990 and 407,886.

That money orders, postal orders, cheques, cash and stamps to the value of Rs. 212,920 were found in undelivered letters.

That about 95 per cent. of this sum was returned to the senders, the balance being held in deposit pending claims.

That a sum of Rs. 934.20 was credited to revenue from the sales of contents of unclaimed postal articles.

PREMIER'S TERSE AND CRISP REPLIES

To Opposition Leader's Motion

MR. S. W. R. D. BANDARANAIKE, Leader of the Opposition, filed a private motion asking the Prime Minister for his policy on six specific issues about which his party was not certain. These had been discussed at a meeting of the Party.

The Prime Minister replied to the six points at issue, in Parliament. The questions and answers were as follows:—

Q. 1. Why did not the Prime Minister seek the approval of the House before the drastic variations of the budgetary proposals set out in the Appropriation Act were implemented?

The Prime Minister in reply, said it was not necessary to seek the approval of the House as no cuts had been made on the items of expenditure passed by the House. Certain items of expenditure had been merely reserved and he mentioned that those items had been tabled in the House.

He added that a Minister need only seek Cabinet sanction in respect of any of the items of expenditure which had been reserved to utilise the funds voted for that purpose.

LONDON CONFERENCE

Q. 2. Will the Prime Minister make a statement with regard to the recent Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference and give the House an opportunity of discussing that statement?

The Prime Minister replied: "My report is before the Cabinet and will be considered when the Cabinet meets next. Till the Cabinet has approved of it I could not possibly make a statement."

"I shall certainly make a statement once Cabinet has approved it."

THE QUEEN'S TITLE

Q. 3. Will the Prime Minister make a statement on the title which he had recommended to be assumed by Her Majesty the Queen after the Coronation?

The Prime Minister replied that he would certainly do so.

CHINA PACT

Q. 4. Will the Prime Minister afford the House an early opportunity to discuss the long-term Trade Agreement with China and the necessary steps which should be taken in consequence thereof?

The Prime Minister replied that it was the practice to table Agreements in the House. When the Treaty had been printed, he said, he would table it and then the House could decide whether a discussion was necessary.

WORLD BANK REPORT

Q. 5. Will the Prime Minister afford the House the opportunity of discussing the report of the World Bank Mission prior to decisions being reached on its recommendations by the Government?

The Prime Minister replied that the Cabinet had appointed a sub-Committee to consider the World Bank report. The Cabinet would then frame its budget on the recommendations of the World Bank mission proposed by the sub-Committee and accepted by the Cabinet. Once the budget was presented in the House, the Members could discuss it and the recommendations of the World Bank Report incorporated therein.

Mr. Bandaranaike wanted a discussion on the whole report of the World Bank mission.

The Prime Minister replied that a debate on the voluminous World Bank report with its numberless recommendations would be a farce especially as all the recommendations may not be accepted by the Cabinet.

KANDY PEASANTRY

Q. 6. Will the Prime Minister grant the House an early opportunity of discussing the report of the Kandy Peasantry Commission?

The Prime Minister replied that the Cabinet would have to consider the report first after which the House would be afforded a discussion.

Co-op. Agricultural Society at Haburugala

(Continued from page 6)

President: Mr. K. D. S. Kumarsinghe; Vice-President: Mr. M. K. W. Gooneratne, Village Headman, Dedduwa; Secretary: Mr. M. D. P. Muniratna; Treasurer: Mr. D. N. Abeywickrama and a committee of seven more members including the well-known social worker at Dedduwa, and Mr. U. K. S. Samara-weera, Ayurvedic Physician.

A resolution requesting the Government to register the Society and to grant loans up to a maximum of Rs. 14,000 was unanimously passed.

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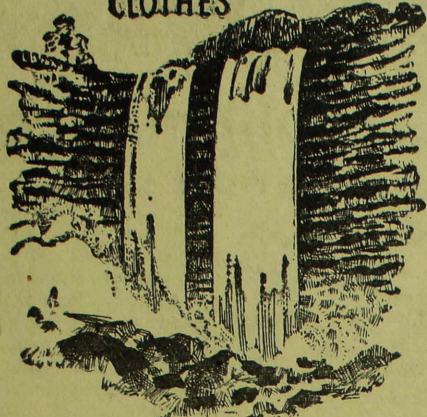
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SOLVING CEYLON'S HOUSING PROBLEM

144,822 Urban and 128,500 Rural Houses Needed

ONE of the recommendations made by the sub-Committee appointed by the Ministry of Local Government, to report on the steps that should be taken to increase the output of dwelling houses in Ceylon, was the erection of low cost houses for demonstration purposes under the direction of an Advisory Committee. This proposal involves the investigation of inexpensive building materials and methods of construction and the erection of prototype houses for demonstration purposes on a block of Crown land in Colombo, utilizing such of these materials and methods of construction as are found to be the most suitable and economical. By this method it would be possible to evolve suitable types of low cost houses for adoption of house building schemes resulting in considerably reducing the expenses of housing.

This matter was discussed with Mr. Ernest Weissmann, Head of the Department of Housing and Town Planning of the U.N.O., who visited Ceylon in October last and it was decided that the best results could be obtained if the proposed investigation and construction of the demonstration houses were carried out with the assistance of a specialist with wide experience in tropical housing and in the manufacture of building materials from local sources.

HOUSING NEEDS

From statistics compiled by the Economic Research Department of the Central Bank of Ceylon, it is estimated that to provide a separate house for every family in Ceylon on the basis of 4.84 persons per house, which is considered to be the average sized family in Ceylon, 144,822 new houses will be needed in the urban areas and 128,500 in the rural areas allowing for the increase in population in the next four years. Of the new houses needed in the urban areas it is estimated that 85,665 are required for families unable to pay a rent of more than Rs. 20 per month. The number of new houses needed in the City of Colombo for families unable to pay a monthly rent of Rs. 20 is estimated at 26,000 and those above the Rs. 20 rent level total 15,600. Besides these it is estimated that 52,000 houses in towns and 300,000 in the rural areas need replacement or improvement.

ONE LAKH FOR INVESTIGATION EXPENSES

The expenses in connection with the investigation of inexpensive building materials and methods of construction of low cost houses are estimated at Rs. 100,000. The expenditure will be on testing of walls of compressed or stabilised earth sun dried bricks and improved types of wattle and doubt, lighter timber framing for roofs; concrete door and window frames and new types of windowsashes; purchase or hire of plant for constructing new types of walling, payment for skilled and unskilled labour directly employed on the experimental works and the erection of several prototype houses and the subsistence and travelling expenses of the specialist sent out by the U.N.O.

One of the chief causes of the present high cost of building is that the demand for building materials exceeds the supply. Of the local materials on short supply it is envisaged that timber will be the most difficult to obtain. The potentialities of raw materials available in Ceylon for use as building materials have not yet been fully explored. It is interesting to note that special attention will be paid by the proposed Research Institute to be established by the Forest Department, for instance, for research in the structural use of timber for house

construction with a view to economy in the use of timber and in local soft woods which are now unsuitable for buildings.

REPORT BY U.N.O. EXPERT

The following is the report by Mr. Ernest Weissmann, Head of the Department of Housing and Town Planning of the U.N.O.:-

The problem of more intensive use of local materials for low cost housing has been discussed with the Minister of Local Government, the Minister of Finance, the Government Town Planner, the Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Ceylon and the Director of Rural Development. I have also studied a report on urban and rural housing prepared in September, 1952, by a Special Sub-Committee appointed by the Minister of Local Government. Great emphasis is given in this report to the need for reducing the cost of construction. The report was since adopted by an inter-departmental housing conference and is at present being considered by the Cabinet for appropriate action.

NEED FOR SPECIALIST

As one of the practical ways of demonstrating the possibilities of achieving economics with local materials, the report suggests that a demonstration should be staged by building several experimental houses. This method has been adopted in several cases and it has proved successful both in highly industrialized and in the less developed countries.

In order to draw full benefit from such an industrialising it is desirable that the advisory committee, established to direct the project obtain available information on the use of local building materials outside Ceylon in countries where similar economic, climatic and local conditions prevail. As a first step the U.N. Reference Centre for Housing and Town and Country Planning was requested to for the Ministry of Local Government pertinent information. I feel that the most expedient way of dealing with this problem would be to provide the committee directing the construction of experimental houses also a specialist with practical experience in tropical housing and in the manufacture of building materials from local sources.

WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

I have discussed working arrangements concerning the U.N. officer with the Government Town Planner under whose department the pilot scheme will be carried out. It is his intention that the U.N. officer would assist the committee in the selection of the types of building to be put up; on appropriate construction methods; on the choice of materials to be used; and, finally, that he would organize and supervise the actual construction of experimental houses through all phases. He would of course be given adequate assistance including one or two officers whom he would train on the job so that they can conduct further experimentation with building material after the completion of the first pilot project.

To ensure the full benefit from the experimental scheme it would be desirable to provide two (2) U.N. fellowships for suitable Ceylonese officers, selected on advice by the U.N. specialist, to observe abroad specific methods of low cost house construction and the use of local building materials. The U.N. officer will also help in training artisans engaged on the construction of the proposed experimental houses.

In general, I would like to stress that the need in Ceylon is not for high level experts in housing, physical planning or building. Highly competent officials of the Government are doing excellent work.

(Continued on page 10)

Value of Statistics in Planning

"SAMPLING is a method of selecting a few units out of the population in such a way that the selected units represent the whole. A sampling method, if it is to provide a sample representative of the population, must be such that, all characteristics of the population are reflected in the sample as closely as the size of the sample permits. Only then can a sample be used to obtain reliable information about the population," declared Dr. P. V. Sukhatme, Chief of the Statistics Section of F.A.O., Rome, who explained the topic of his address "Why Sampling?" at the inaugural sessions of the Ceylon Statistical Society which was formally opened by the Hon. Mr. Dudley Senanayake, Prime Minister, at King George's Hall, Ceylon University, on Wednesday last.

"I feel that there exists in the Department of Census and Statistics an excellent organisation on which can be built up the foundation of a future sampling organization for the country. Your Society has also a valuable role to play both in popularising among the people, the role of sampling as a scientific method of data collection and also in pressing upon Government the urgent need for strengthening its sampling organisation. I most sincerely hope that Ceylon will soon have a sound system of collecting statistics next to none in this region," he added.

"Periodical census," he said, "is about all that one can hope to organise successfully and is usually sufficient for the purpose of administration. Except in cases where a detailed and accurate frame is available, where statistics are collected in the course of normal administration by means of objective methods of enumeration, where completeness is assured, such as, for example, is the case with rubber and tea statistics in Ceylon, it seems that the amount of effort and expenditure involved in an annual census is better utilized in setting up a strong sampling organisation in the country."

Extensive work carried out in different countries during the last decade, he said, had shown that samples can be designed to provide adequate and reliable statistics for a country with only a fraction of the total amount of effort and expenditure required for enumerating the complete population. By way of one example he referred to the sample survey of paddy conducted in the Maha season, 1951-52, the average yield per acre based on 1,820 experiments distributed in 617 villages was estimated at 30.8 bushels with a sampling error of 0.41 bushels or 1.34 per cent. The total area harvested was 23 acres only which is of the order of 40 parts in a million.

If the present system of collecting statistics of area and yield of paddy by annual census in Ceylon does not give sufficiently reliable statistics, it must be asserted to the very large magnitude of non-sampling errors. Herein lies the advantage of the sampling survey for estimation of average yields of crops by means of objective methods of enumeration like crop-cutting experiments in the fields included in the sample. Here precisely lies the merit of the area survey for determining the acreage under paddy using more refined methods of measuring area in the parcels by statistical investigations than those used by Village Headmen.

PREMIER'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS

In declaring the sessions open, lighting a brass lamp on the dais, he said that the role of the statistician was to provide valuable information to enable a modern Government to practice efficiently and does not require much elaboration. In the colonial regime statistics were largely the by-product of departmental activities. The scheme of governmental statistics which they had in Ceylon today compared very favourably with those available

generally in the rest of the world, considering the short space of time which they had had to reorganise the national statistical set up.

"Everybody knows the common jibe at statistics embodied in the saying that there are three kinds of lies. Namely, lies, damned lies and statistics. This taunt harks back to the days when statistics was an obtruse science which few people understood. People nowadays who have a correct appreciation of statistical methods, do not question the validity of statistical data," said the Prime Minister who continuing said: "The ancient jibe, however, has taken a new twist. Statistics, it has been said, do not lie; but statisticians frequently do. In spite of the unjustified aspersion on the trained statisticians this saying has an element of truth. The most perilous field into which the statistician can venture is that of the interpretation of statistical data."

"In interpreting of statistics it is often true that each man interprets the significance of a particular set of statistical data according to the colour of his fancy, or the tenet of his political creed. The statistician who knows his job is very cautious in his interpretations and always stresses the fact that his conclusions and estimates, however carefully drawn or computed, can never acquire cast iron certainty, declared the Premier.

THE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Mr. A. G. Ranasinha, addressing the society said: "It seems to me a good augury that we should found this Society at a time when national planning is about to begin in Ceylon. Our first and most urgent problem has been declared to be our increasing population and how we are to find food for the mouths that need it. We cannot rest satisfied with the thought that international and worldwide trade can bring us the most perishable foodstuffs in good condition from other parts of the world to this country."

He added that whether the increase in population was imaginary or due to a temporary phenomenon of prolificity in recent years among women of child bearing age.

ESSENTIAL DATA

All the following matters, he said, are essential for us to understand and on them the statistician would be able to advise us;

Whether the night mare of increased population is imaginary or not;

Whether families are tending to get larger or smaller;

Whether the area under food crops is adequate or needs to be extended;

Whether larger amount of food could be obtained from the sea that surround us than we can get from the cultivable land.

"I am inclined to lose patience with those who demand that statistics should predict with certainty what the future should bring forth. The most we can do is to arrive at conclusions which must necessarily be hedged round with some reservation.

No doubt statistical methods, he said, if properly applied, may point to trends which are of use as finger posts. "But no statistician worth his name will claim to be a prophet or seek to wear a halo. He will not aspire to point a way to salvation."

STATISTICS AND PLANNING

Moving the vote of thanks to the speakers at the inaugural meeting of the Ceylon Statistical Society, Mr. K. Williams, Director of Census and Statistics, said that the Society would not only treat with original work in the subject but also endeavour to raise the status of statisticians in Ceylon by granting diplomas to those who had acquired knowledge of statistical methods to a satisfactory standard.

After reviewing the history of statistical collection in Ceylon, he pointed out that statistics had their vital uses today.

(Continued on page 10)

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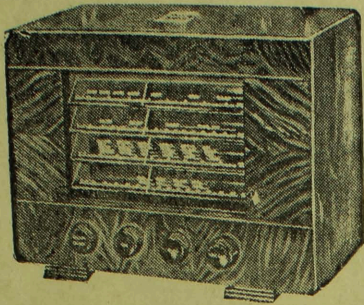
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CEYLON'S STERLING ASSETS

Departure from Earlier Policy

THE Finance Minister, Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, made the following statement in Parliament under Treaty Series No. 13 of 1952 on the subject of Ceylon's Sterling assets:

During the discussions I had in London in February last year with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, a new understanding modifying the Sterling Release Agreement of February, 1951, was reached. This has since been embodied in Treaty Series No. 13 of 1952 being an exchange of letters between the Government of Ceylon and the Government of the United Kingdom.

The Sterling Release Agreement of February, 1951, it will be recalled, provided that during a seven-year period beginning July 1, 1950, a total of £21 million could be transferred from No. 2 (blocked) to the No. 1 (free) Account of the Central Bank of Ceylon, provided that transfers which would take place when the balance in No. 1 Account fell below £12 million, should normally be limited in any one year to £3 million. On July 1, 1950, Ceylon's No. 2 Account stood at £30.4 million. Assuming that the maximum release of £21 million during these seven years was drawn upon by transfer to No. 1 Account, there would still remain at the end of this period a residual balance of £9.4 million in No. 2 Account for whose release no provision was made.

The new agreement that has been concluded provides for the immediate transfer of this residual sum of £9.4 million from the No. 2 Account to the No. 1 Account of the Central Bank of Ceylon. This sum forms a part of the "hard core" of Ceylon's currency reserve, which by definition is normally not spendable, and hence provision has been made in the new agreement for prior consultation with the U.K. Government before any drawings are made upon it. The new agreement also brings the arrangements for release of Ceylon's sterling balances broadly in line with similar arrangements concluded by the U.K. Government with the Governments of Pakistan and India.

As a consequence of the transfer of £9.4 million to No. 1 Account, a consequential amendment to the February, 1951, Agreement has been made whereby the limit of £12 million referred to earlier has been raised to £21.4 million, below which the balance in No. 1 Account should fall to qualify for the normal release of £3 million.

This new Agreement, in effect, provides for the liquidation within a determinate period of Ceylon's No. 2 Account. It also denotes an important and welcome departure from the earlier policy adopted by the U.K. Government of continuing to hold in blocked account, as a permanent feature, sterling balances accumulated during the war, which were in excess of the amounts required to finance current needs.

DEV ANAND-2

By Ayesha Weerackoon

WHO is the "Valentino" of the Hindi screen? Dev Anand would be the popular answer.

Dev, a handsome and happy-go-lucky guy was born on September 26, 1928, in Gurdaspur, in East Punjab. Dev was highly educated. After matriculating, he passed his F.A. examination and in 1942 graduated in Arts. The choice of his career was a problem for his father, who is at present a practising lawyer. Had Dev followed his father's footsteps he would have missed an Asian "Valentino" on the screen.

Dev's first idea was to join the Navy but he failed. Then he became a clerk for two months before he came to Bombay. He was then a handsome lad of 20. He was so impressed with the studios and the screen stars that he decided to become an actor. Director Shahid Latif introduced him to the film world as a hero displacing Ashok Kumar of his chance. This all happened at Bombay Talkies. Dev admits that he loves any role, except for mythological and historical characters. His favourites are what he calls "dramatic roles in realistic films."

Chetan Anand, his brother, is a

film director, and Dev hopes to direct a film some day. He does not believe in marriage. Yet very romantic, he had been in love with the beautiful singing star Suraiya, but later his affections have been transferred to Madhubala with whom he acted in "Aaram." The youngest of the screen heroes, Dev makes all young girls fall in love with him. Dev loves to live alone, he has two houses, six film contracts and three cars and added to that a legion of friends. He wants to do his own cooking and entertain his friends and has been taking cookery lessons from an instructress. What she has to say about his lessons is that Dev cannot take a pan off the fire without burning his fingers or upsetting the food.

Dev's first picture "Hum Ex Hain" was a flop but he made his name in "Age Badho," "Hum Bee Insaan Hain" and "Ziddi." Followed by "Apsar," "Baazi" and "Aandhiyan." His latest is "Rahi" which is to be produced in English as well, the heroine being the beautiful Nalini Jaywant. He has just returned from Venice after the Film Festival where his film was shown. The question that has arisen among everyone is "Who is Dev's favourite girl?" She may be Suraiya or Madhubala or somebody in Ceylon.

Value of Statistics in Planning

(Continued from page 9)

"In the immediate future," he said, "the Government proposes to formulate a Six-Year Plan for the economic development of the country. It would be trite for me to say how important a part statistics will play both in the formulation of the Plan and the assessment of its progress."

Whilst the Government were not planning in a complete vacuum of statistics, Mr. Williams said the planners will need still more detailed and more accurate figures. "In this matter it is hoped that the Society will play an important part in reflecting the views and the advice of both Government and the enlightened public."

Solving Ceylon's Housing Problem

(Continued from page 8)

There is rather a need for a practitioner capable of adopting economical methods of construction, unknown in Ceylon but successfully used elsewhere; secondly, to advice on the best utilization of local resources for the production of building materials; and thereby, to formulate for consideration of the competent departments concrete proposals for the development of a building materials industry on a small and on large scale as appropriate, in selecting the U.N. specialist in building materials, these requirements should be kept in mind.



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Mr. ATTLEE'S ASIAN VISIT

By Guy Wint

PEOPLE in Britain are much interested in the conference of Asian Socialist parties to be held at Rangoon in January. This interest is shown in a striking way by the decision of Mr. Attlee to attend it. Mr. Attlee is a happy choice as a delegate from the West to the East. His personality is well understood in Asia, especially in India. He sums up much of what is best in modern English life. Born in the prosperous middle class he began his career as a social worker in the slums of East London. He continued his career as a House of Commons man, a democrat and a parliamentarian. When he became Prime Minister he was able to translate into reality by constitutional and peaceful means the ideals of social justice which he had formed while doing social work in the slums.

But Mr. Attlee's visit is more than that of a well-known personality. He is the Leader of the Opposition in Britain. The Leader of the Opposition in Britain is an Officer of the State. In British politics, dominated by the two-party system and governed by a spirit of compromise between the parties, the Opposition maintains its "shadow" cabinet which takes over office if the public at a general election expressed the wish that that should happen. That is the British Constitution as it works today.

Thus Mr. Attlee is not simply a distinguished statesman who has had his day as Prime Minister and is now out. He still holds a vitally important post in public life which in the long view is perhaps only second in importance to that of the Prime Minister to which (as things now stand) he would revert if a general election voted the Socialists back.

CONTACTS WITH ASIAN AFFAIRS

A period in opposition enables British statesmen to get away from day to day responsibilities in London. It is a good thing that Mr. Attlee is using his freedom to renew his contacts with Asia. It is worth while remembering that he has had closer connections with Eastern affairs than any previous British Prime Minister. (It would be necessary to go back to the Duke of Wellington to find any Prime Minister with comparable first-hand acquaintance with India; and Mr. Attlee and the Duke are poles apart

in ideas as well as a century apart in time).

Mr. Attlee was a member of the Simon Commission in 1927 which began the sequence of events that by way of the Round Table conference and the Government of India Act of 1935, led eventually to Indian independence, and he was of course leader of the Labour Government in office when independence was brought about.

What help can Mr. Attlee give the Rangoon conference? As Labour Prime Minister of Britain for six years he has obviously a wealth of experience to be drawn on. How can a Socialist programme be carried through while keeping intact what is good in parliamentary system inherited from an earlier period? Mr. Attlee has shown himself a master of that subject. How are oldtime socialist doctrines to be brought up to date in a world which has changed completely since they were formulated, and changed in a way which was not foreseen? That is one of the chief interests of the British Labour Party today and Mr. Attlee will perhaps have a good deal to say about it. Some of the Asian leaders may also probe into his secret of how to hold together so successfully the intellectuals of a party and the trade unionists and the workers.

A VISIT TO LEARN

But Mr. Attlee will have come to Asia primarily to learn and consult, not to offer opinion. He will not only be attending the Rangoon conference. He is to visit India and Pakistan on the invitation of their Prime Ministers. Discussions will, of course, be completely informal and no agenda will be published. But everybody can guess the questions with which he and his hosts will be busy. They concern us all. What is to be the next stage in Korea? Is there any prospect of an accommodation with China? What are the positive and constructive counter-measures against Communism? What progress is being made with the Colombo Plan and what are the quickest ways of raising the dreadfully low standard of living in South Asia?

Mr. Attlee will do no more than exchange ideas. He does not represent the British Government. But in the present circumstances in Britain all the main principles of external policy are really thrashed out jointly by the Government and the Opposition. Thus in the coming months it may prove of great importance that the Leader of the Opposition will have seen with his own eyes so much of the area which is likely to be crucial in the decisions which must be taken.—(UKIS).

Detective Story

ON a trip to Richmond, Va. last spring, Edmund R. Dewing, the district attorney of Norfolk County, Mass, heard about Lady Wonder, the "Talking Horse." He drove out to Lady Wonder's stable, paid her mistress one dollar (for three questions) and was escorted into the Presence.

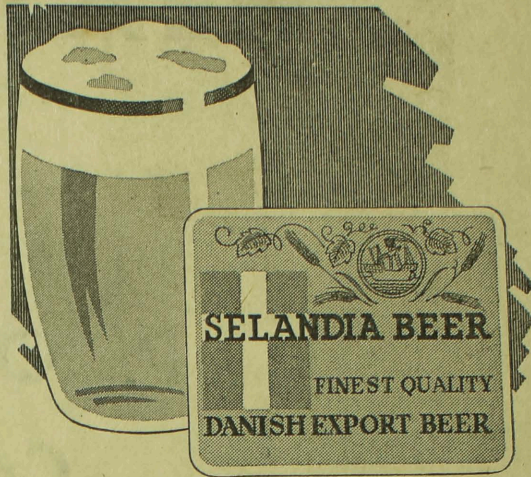
Lady Wonder, a 27-year-old mare, can't talk a word. By pushing rubber disks with her nose, however, she can make letters pop into view on a special alphabetical board. Dewing asked her to tell him his father-in-law's first name. She tapped out: M-A-R-I-O-N, the correct answer. Dewing was happily astounded. But it wasn't until he got home that he realized he had overlooked a great opportunity.

He commissioned a Richmond-bound friend to ask Lady Wonder where he could find the body of Dunny Matson, a 4-year-old boy from Quincy, Mass., who had been missing for two years. The mare tapped out: Pittsfield water wheel. Dewing sent a detective to Pittsfield, Mass. The investigator found two water wheels but no body.

Then Quincy's Acting Police Chief William Ferrazzi got into the act. One night as he was lying in bed he decided that Lady Wonder had just gotten her words a little garbled in transmission. She had really meant Field and Wilde's water pit, an abandoned local quarry. It all came to him, said Ferrazzi later, "just like a boot in the rear end." He hurried to tell Dewing.

So last week the quarry was drained and the boy's body was found.

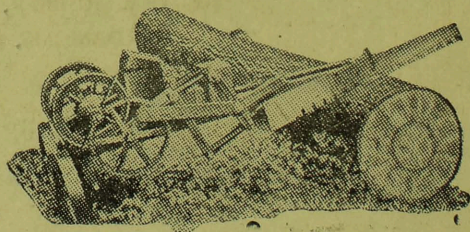
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