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## China Pact Acclaimed an Achievement FULSOME PRAISE FROM THE OPPOSITION

"OF course, there was only one dissentient voice, the permanent perpetual minority opposition—I do not mean minority by race, but minority in numbers—which will always be in opposition wherever he is, in whatever part of the world", remarked Prime Minister, Mr. Dudley Senanayake, during the debate on the Trade Agreement between Ceylon and China, referring to the Member for Vavuniya who described the transaction between China and Ceylon as "an economic plus political consideration, a successful political manoeuvre by the Chinese Government."

An agreeable surprise was in store for the Prime Minister when fulsome praise was showered on the Government by two prominent members of the Opposition, Mr. Pieter Keuneman and Dr. N. M. Perera.

### NEW TRADE PATTERN

The Appointed Member, Mr. Murray, declared that the trade with China constituted a new departure in the pattern of trade. "Actually this particular long-term contract for the exchange of rubber and rice cannot be regarded as trade and commerce in the accepted sense. . . . Nobody appreciates more than I the necessity for providing the essential staple food of the people of this country. This is an emergency and we can regard this particular contract with China as having arisen from that emergency and it is only on that basis that I consider that this contract with a Communist country can be condoned", he added.

### COMMERCE MINISTER LAUDED

"I could think of no other trade agreement which this country has concluded in its recent history which is as favourable to Ceylon as the Agreement between Ceylon and China", declared Mr. Keuneman who paid a tribute to the Minister of Commerce and Trade. "Our Minister is a young man", he said, "new to the job, and perhaps circumstances were favourable for the success of his efforts, but even more experienced persons who once occupied his place, but who were not able to bring off such a distinguished agreement, should not grudge him the credit for his achievements. . . . I remember reading in the newspapers a speech by the Minister of Commerce and Trade at Deraniyagala on or about the 12th of December, 1952, when he stated:

"If not for the supply that Ceylon has obtained from China, this country would have been in

the throes of a serious food crisis'.

That is true and I think we must be grateful that the food crisis which was immediately facing this country has been averted by the timely allocation of 80,000 tons of rice from the Government of China through this Trade Agreement."

### PLEGDED TO DEMOCRACY

"I am certainly a firm believer in democracy", observed Mr. R. G. Senanayake referring to the remarks made by Mr. Murray that the Pact had been accepted by the Government not in too happy a mood, because it "associates us with a Communist country, and that as a democratic country, it is difficult for us to be in close association with a Communist country."

Continuing, Mr. Senanayake added "When I say I believe in democracy, I mean that it is the only form of Government which guarantees freedom, the necessary political

freedom, for my people. When I say I believe in democracy, it does not necessarily mean that I am fighting for an international political label. I disagree with my Communist friends because, according to their political creed, when they fight for Communism it does not necessarily mean that they are fighting for better conditions for the people of Lanka, but for international Communism, for an international label.

If we too, on our side look upon democracy in the same way, and forget our own people and calling ourselves democrats, completely subordinate over our national interests to fight for international democracy or if the champions of democracy in other countries forget the vital needs of our own country, then I think, we have lost the meaning of democracy. I feel that under the democratic form of Government we should serve our people. That being so, irrespective of the nature of the

(Continued on page 2)

## The U.N.P. Fifth Annual Conference

THE fifth annual conference of the United National Party will be held on the 7th instant at the Savoy Theatre, Wellawatte, and the U.N.P. Youth League session will be held on the 8th instant at the Zahira College Hall, Colombo. A mass rally will take place on Galle Face Green in the evening.

The following is the Agenda.—

### AGENDA

Saturday—7th February, 1953  
 CONFERENCE HALL: SAVOY  
 THEATRE, WELLAWATTE

9.00 a.m.—All Delegates and Visitors should be in their seats in the Conference Hall.

9.10 a.m.—Arrival of the Prime Minister—Members of the Working Committee will meet the President at the entrance to the Hall—Guard of Honour by the Youth Leaguers.

9.15 a.m.—National Song.

9.20 a.m.—Mr. S. de S. Jayasinghe, M.P. for Wellawatte-Galkissa, welcomes the Delegates.

9.30 a.m.—The Hony. General Secretary tables the minutes of the Fourth Annual Conference and Report of the Activities during the year (copies posted).

9.35 a.m.—Presidential Address.

10.30 a.m.—Election of Office-bearers.

11.00 a.m.—Table Annual Report of the Women's Union (copies posted).

11.05 a.m.—Election of Office-bearers of the Women's Union.

11.20 a.m.—Address by President of the Women's Union.

11.45 a.m.—Adjournment.

11.50 a.m.—Executive Committee of the Party meets to appoint Working Committee.

Executive Committee of the Women's Union meets to appoint Working Committee.

### LUNCH

1.45 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. } Resolutions.

4.10 p.m.—Evening Tea.

4.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. } Resolutions Continued

Sunday—8th February, 1953

ZAHIRA COLLEGE, COLOMBO

9.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon } Youth League Session

### LUNCH

GALLE FACE GREEN

4.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. } Mass Rally.

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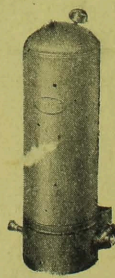
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# China Pact Acclaimed an Achievement

(Continued from page 1)

sources of supply of the people's essential requirements, we must obtain those requirements for the people. Our system of Government does not place a bar on our getting the people's requirements from wherever they are available. It is on that basis that we concluded this Agreement.

## RS. 98 MILLION GAIN

The contract has resulted in a gain of Rs. 98 million to this country. That will definitely help us to overcome our present financial difficulties. Are we to throw this aside for the sake of democracy and face bankruptcy? We waited for foreign assistance. Over and over again we made appeals to Point-Four Aid. We waited four long years. We have

got, in the form of assistance only a cook for the Kundasale Girls' School.

Therefore, in the circumstances, it was necessary that we should go where it was possible to get our requirements. At the San Francisco Conference the able manner in which our Finance Minister fought for democracy was described as a David and Goliath struggle. Ceylon was described as the mighty atom in its fight for democracy and it is well that we have not discarded our belief in democracy. But the impossible position we were in as a result of the price of rubber and the shortage of rice made us seek outside aid. Let us examine the position.

## FIRST TO RECOGNIZE CHINA

We were the first to recognize China and what did we get in re-

turn? We were the only country in the world to ship rubber to China. What did we get from her? Nothing. And we were denied our supplies of sulphur. We sacrificed our position to get aid from foreign countries and all that we did in order to see that our country was free, and China was in a position to give rice. It is no use making political propaganda of this.

The main thing is that China matched our own generosity. The way we treated her she treated us in return by giving us rice. Some tried to make out that China through compassion for the Ceylonese gave us these favourable terms. If there is any generosity shown in this particular agreement it was Ceylon's generosity towards China and not China's towards Ceylon.

## ONE DISSENTIENT VOICE

The Prime Minister in replying, said: This discussion has been very interesting indeed. When the Opposition wanted two days to discuss this matter I thought that I would have to reply to a number of charges or criticisms levelled against this Agreement. Evidently they wanted two days to praise the Government. This is an entirely new development indeed and I hope that time will in future be demanded more and more for praising the Government. Of course, there was only one dissentient voice—the permanent, perpetual minority opposition—I do not mean minority of race but minority in numbers—which will always be in opposition wherever he is, in whatever part of the world. It was really very amusing to listen to the hon. member for Vavuniya. If he will recall previous speeches he will remember that we were criticised over and over again for adhering to a particular pattern of trade. We were so tied and involved in this Anglo-American bloc that he urged that we should try to seek new spheres and broaden the base of our trade. That was the theme of his song always. When we venture in that direction, what is his criticism? That China has agreed to pay too much for our rubber and she is giving us rice at too small a price! Following that line of thought, one would presume that he wanted us to explore this avenue and pay for their exports more than world prices and sell our exports at less than world prices; then only there will be no political commitments.

## "NOT A GAMBLER'S LAST THROW"

It will be remembered, said the Prime Minister, that the Government was willing to explore any avenue of trade, be it with the Anglo-American bloc or any other nation provided it was in the best interests of this country. The first

request about negotiating with China came before Sir Oliver Goonetilleke had concluded or even started his discussions in Washington. So, to say that because certain discussions failed, this arrangement had to be accepted, as a "gambler's last throw" was an entirely incorrect statement. As a matter of fact, for quite a long time discussions were taking place as to a reasonable arrangement for the sale of rubber as to obtaining rice if possible at reasonable prices as to technical aid of a substantial nature. Those discussions had been taking place for quite a long time. Therefore it should be in the interests of the country to get the best possible price for our commodities from any part of the world. "That is why we ventured out to trade with China and we have received certain proposals which we have found to be acceptable as far as this country is concerned", he declared, and considering the position, this country did not for the first time start exporting rubber to China only after this Agreement. In fact, 18 months before this Agreement was entered into, rubber was being exported from Ceylon to China. But Ceylon did not get anything in exchange from China except cash, but no other commodity. The result of the Agreement was that Ceylon sent rubber to China and in exchange for it Ceylon gets an essential commodity, namely, rice at a fair and reasonable price.

## DEMOCRACY PRESERVED

In conclusion the Prime Minister declared:—"I repeat the fact that this Government is pledged to the preservation of democracy. The question that was before us was whether democracy can be better preserved by refusing or by accepting the Agreement. If we were not able to make rice available to our people at reasonable prices, what, I ask, would have been the consequences of a refusal? Just because China is a Communist country were we to have turned our back on this offer and made our people starve? If that were to be the case then I wish to know how democracy is to be preserved. If the rubber industry was in a parlous condition and if it was contemplated that estates may have to close down, that wages may have to be lowered and vast numbers thrown out of work, I ask you, can democracy be preserved?"

Therefore, this Government has pledged itself not to alter its attitude as regards the preservation of democracy in the country.

It is in the pursuit of that very objective that this Government has welcomed this Agreement and I do hope that this Agreement will contribute considerably to the preservation of democracy in this country.

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**BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO TOKYO VISITS KOREA**—Sir Esler Denning, the British Ambassador to Tokyo, recently paid a short visit to Korea at the invitation of General Mark Clark, the Supreme Commander, United Nations Forces in the Far East. While in Korea, Sir Esler Denning, who was accompanied by General Mark Clark and Major-General Shoosmith, the British Deputy Chief of Staff at the United Nations Supreme Headquarters, visited the units of the 1st British Commonwealth Division in their forward positions. This picture shows Sir Esler Denning (third from right) with (left to right) Lt.-Gen. Paul W. Kendall, Gen. James A. Van Fleet, Gen. Mark Clark and Maj.-Gen. Alston Roberts West.



# WEIGHT TRAINING AND PHYSICAL CULTURE

## Building A Strong Nation

By D. Kamal Wijeyesinghe

"MAN'S chief object of interest is man", said a celebrated German philosopher. Should it be a universal truism than it is.

It is most interesting to look back a few years and reflect upon the change of public opinion on the subject of health and strength.

Today it is very encouraging to find that weight training have come to stay, for physical culture is now the cry of this country.

### WHAT IS PHYSICAL CULTURE?

There is a mistaken notion that athletic and physical culture are the same thing. Indeed many sports like football, cricket, wrestling, boxing and running are admirable in their way, but are not altogether physical culture. They may be classed as partly contributing factors; for physical culture is something of a magnificent and super-fine sphere, infinitely loftier in its ideals. All those who are acquainted with the history of Greece are amazed by the super athletic performance and beauty of their physiques. They considered culture of the body a sacred duty; and endeavoured to bring it to the peak of power and perfection, and they certainly did succeed in their efforts.

Among the majority in this country the accepted sense of the word 'Culture' only refers to the mind, which should be remembered is only an abstract of what culture should be. Modern civilization has brought to this world many discoveries and adventures in science and also with its train has some evils that has made man regard his body lightly. This train of evil has made many inroads upon the populace. It has been responsible for the high birth-rate, it out-sails and over-charges the arms of law. Over its resources security for existence which is all due to your sins against your body. You will now get a clearer idea of what is meant by physical culture. As stated in my earlier articles, to cultivate the entire body, to build up sound organs, and well-developed muscles that can accomplish anything; that is the object of physical culture. Among you there may be some who may say that a sound body is of value only to enable the sound mind to perform its duty. It is altogether an unfounded statement; on the contrary, I maintain that he is guilty of the worst sin for I feel that all religions teach the greatest merit a man can gain is to be of benefit to his fellows.

An eight-horse power car engine (which I compare with the mind) is fitted to a forty-passenger bus (body) will not be able to pull the

load, and the forty horse-power bus engine mounted on a eight horse-power car chassis will have so much power that it will put the car off the road or wreck it. Similarly the man who neglects his body is guilty of destruction of the temple of God which has been entrusted to his care for the betterment of his fellow creatures.

I further say that the law forbids and is counted as a severely punishable offence if one were to attempt destruction by attempting suicide or committing murder.

Why does not the law enforce punishment for a man who neglects his body? Why are religious leaders shy of ventilating the mission they have undertaken to fulfil? I know some worthy folk will shake their heads off their shoulders, but that will not be the concluding chapter to this subject. It will spring up again and again with ever-increasing force and demanding a solution to the problems of the populace.

A commonsense view of physical life is drawing in and I am confident with the marching of years, their action may result in a fruitful, healthy life. But we have to know problems that have sprung up; Ceylon has set a world-shattering record. The population will increase with great rapidity. It will upset already set standards for the future, and make the chances of building a healthier nation very remote. The entire blame will have to be borne by our statement; politicians of the future who will have no claim whatsoever as benefactors to an over-populated and ailing nation. To those of us who believe in rebirth it will be intolerable.

Some of our statesmen may say there are many critics to the problems of a nation but hardly any to evolve a solution.

We need not go much further. The eighth standard selective test results will prove that practical education will be the outcome for many youths. One of the greatest utterances was made by the Minister of Education, Mr. M. D. Banda, "The entire picture is not complete, this is the first time practical education for those unfit for academical studies is being tried. I repeat the picture is not complete, and defects and mistakes must be adjusted as we go along."

Yes Sir, you are right, but I feel physical education has to be set on better lines immediately in schools to fit the children for practical education or even higher studies.

The most essential means to success is the power of concentrating the will upon the work. Mechanical muscular action will not materially increase a man's strength.

Yogism on its advanced stages make it possible for man to bring under control the whole organism and musculature in perfect condition by the cultivation of will-power.

Will-power could be considered the mightiest factor of all that goes to make up the sum of human success or failure.

### THE OBJECTS

I expect to encounter much criticism in suggesting meditation or Yogism as a medium for better health and culture. It will be said to be not practical under modern civilization, and conditions of living where time is a vital factor.

It is here that I feel weight training is best suited to perform the same task. Physical Culture through the medium of Weight Training not only strengthens the will, it also creates habits of self-control and of temperance. He learns the virtues of rigid personal cleanliness. His views of life are sane and wholesome. He learns to respect his body and also to respect that of others. Above all, he is gentle, and only uses his powers against his fellowmen when called upon to do so, in defence of the oppressed and helpless.

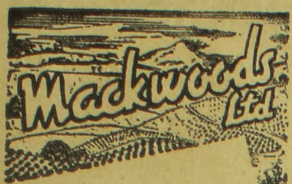
The ultimate goal of physical culture is to raise the average standard of the nation as a whole. I quite see it is a stupendous task to accomplish. It may mean a couple of generations. But everything must have a beginning, and unless we set about improving the physique of the seven millions in this generation, we simply cannot hope to do any better for the multi-millions who are to follow in the future. No amount of hospitals and medicine can bring the desired effect, although medicine has its values.

Remember Weight Training is the best medium and the most economic system ever devised. For it requires very little space, could be practised in any climate or weather. It requires very little time, it conserves and builds up energy, and one set of appliances will last many generations.

It has been tried and proven beyond all expectations that Weight Training which includes barbell, dumbbells, kettle bells, swing bells, roller weights and ring weights, etc., performed under proper guidance is the best form of physical training one could hope to get. Most of the Western universities, social clubs, hospitals, ships, gymnasiums, and factories are equipped with weight training appliances.

### Ministers—Please Note!

I hope the Minister of Health, the Minister of Education, and the Minister of Social Services, will consider the advantages of Weight Training and encourage it through their respective Ministries to build better constitutions and free from hereditary taints. It will bring together, on the same platform the politician, the religious leader, and the scholar, and then will blossom forth a nation that could lead the world to health and happiness.

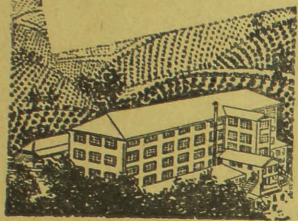


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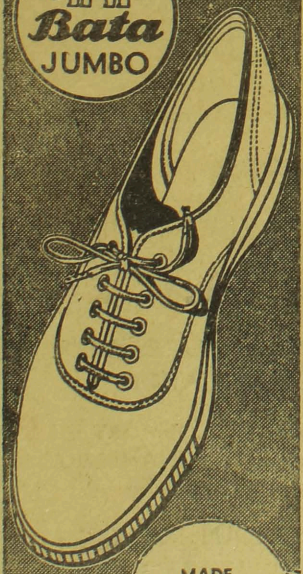
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**SCHOOL-BOYS TACKLE KILIMANJARO**—Schoolboys of Kenya's three races, African, European and Asian, are taking part in the second inter-racial course to be held at the foot of Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain. The course, held under the auspices of the Kenya Education Department, aims at promoting racial co-operation and instilling self-discipline, initiative and team-work in secondary schoolboys from different walks of life and backgrounds. The photograph shows the boys assembled for morning P.T.



# The United Nations Technical Assistance Ceylon the Country Most Benefited

CEYLON is one of the countries most benefited so far by the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, observes Mr. J. P. Bannier, Resident Representative in Ceylon of the United Nations Technical Assistance Board and Liaison Officer of the U.N. of the Colombo Plan organization, referring to the programme of Technical Assistance rendered by the United Nations and its specialised agencies, which has now been in operation for two years.

A strong machinery for the rendering of assistance has been built up in which co-operate the U.N. Technical Assistance Administration in such fields as economic development, public administration and social welfare, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization and lately the World Meteorological Organization and the International Telecommunication Organization as well. The Technical Assistance Board, on which are also represented the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development and the International Monetary Board, coordinates their activities and gives general directives.

The United Nations Programme does not include provision for granting financial assistance for extensive development projects or for purchase of capital goods. The activities of the participating Organizations are mainly directed at providing experts, making training facilities available and supplying equipment for training and development purposes in connection with a project of expert assistance.

## 1,345 EXPERTS RECRUITED

By the end of June, 1952, the number of technical experts recruited in 65 countries was 1,345. These had been sent out to 75 under-developed countries and territories at the request of the Governments concerned. The training programme also shows a broad international character; 1,614 persons from nearly 50 countries have been sent out for study in 45 host countries. Apart from these activities seminars and training centres have been organized and technical information and literature has been exchanged. The whole programme is not being financed out of the regular contributions to the United Nations and the Organizations, but out of a special technical assistance fund. For the year 1952, sixty-two Governments pledged contributions to the fund to the extent of 19 million dollars. Technical assistance has always aimed to prepare local technicians to take over as soon as possible the task of directing and advising the projects from the international experts. It is therefore, of the utmost importance that during the time of operation of an international technical assistance project the best available local experts work in co-operation with the foreign experts or that they be sent abroad for technical training, returning in time to take over from the foreign experts. Matching personnel and understudies are essential for the success of any foreign assistance given. In the beginning all projects were of short duration, experts being appointed for terms of one year or less. Now it is possible to plan assistance for a series of years and the best experts can be appointed for terms up to three years.

## PROGRAMME FOR 1953

The programme for 1953 will be on a much broader scale than that of 1950 and 1951. The total cost of the activities in the first financial period amounted to 6½ million dollars only. The programme in 1952 will need about 20 million dollars and the costs in 1953 are estimated at 38 million dollars. These figures clearly show the tempo at which the new worldwide venture is developing. It is obvious that agricultural develop-

ment of primary importance for nearly all the under-developed countries. It is not surprising then that the F.A.O. is claiming the biggest share in the available funds—30 per cent. Health and Economic and Industrial Developments are coming next. For almost any sound project there is money available in the Technical Assistance Fund, but only if the Organizations are satisfied with regard to two conditions. Firstly that the project is of primary importance for the economic and social development of the country; secondly that the requesting Governments attach enough value to the project to be prepared to bear a substantial part of the total costs involved and to give all co-operation needed for the carrying into effect of the plans. A reduction of the obligations of the requesting Governments for the payment of local costs was recently approved by the Economic and Social Council, provided the Governments concerned placed at the disposal of projects, extensive staffs, buildings and other facilities.

## CEYLON MOST BENEFITED

During the first financial period of the United Nations Programme, July 1, 1950 to December 31, 1951, Ceylon took fourth place, out of 58 countries receiving assistance. Only Pakistan, Thailand and Iran absorb a greater share of the funds and a greater number of experts. It is to be expected that Ceylon will be in need of much more assistance in the years to come. Numerous new agreements have already been signed or are about to be signed.

The World Health Organization lays greater stress on Ceylon's Health Services and Tuberculosis control; particularly on the latter project which will be extended in 1953. For the training of nurses in maternity and child welfare four Sister tutors are in Colombo hospitals and others are teaching general nursing in Colombo and Kandy. A W.H.O. team of experts assists the Government in the fight against V.D. and an Entomologist is carrying out research work in Kurunegala, at the same time training doctors and medical assistants on malaria and filariasis control. Further assistance is rendered in the fields of nutrition and dietetics. Lastly plans for a leprosy project and for the erection of a D.D.T. plant are in an advanced stage of development. The W.H.O. decided recently to appoint in Ceylon, as in other countries in Asia, an Area Representative to act as liaison with the Government and assist in the improvement of health services.

## OTHER SERVICES

The International Labour Organization has provided a survey of cottage industries and handicrafts in Ceylon. Further a man-power survey of the long-term and short-term man-power requirements and availabilities is almost finished. The I.L.O. programme for Ceylon will be much enlarged in 1953 as compared with 1951 and 1952. The Technical Assistance Mission to Ceylon of the F.A.O. is working on the most ambitious and highly important scheme of land reclamation and land development in the dry zone. The Organization supplied two specialists for the Gal Oya Development Board, one being an economist for land use and the other a technician for the operation and maintenance of tractors and heavy earth-moving equipment. Moreover F.A.O. is supplying Ceylon with an expert for the

(Continued on page 9)

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# Rehabilitation of the Crippled

## “Adopt English Model” Says Horana M. P.

NOW that the Government has decided to establish a Rehabilitation and Training Centre for the crippled, conducted on modern lines to meet the growing demand in the Social Service Department, it is interesting to recall the debate on this question which took place recently in Parliament. A valuable contribution was made by Mr. M. D. H. Jayawardene, Member for Horana, disclosing an intimate knowledge of rehabilitation work in England, a model which he suggested worthy of adoption, in Ceylon.

### THE ENGLISH METHOD

In England, said Mr. Jayawardene they have successfully tried out the experiment of filling the cripples into Society and getting them to do a useful occupation. “For instance there is a little handbook on the Social Services in England, which contains a number of occupations that disabled people are taught at training centres. The occupations that are taught are dress-making, boot and shoe-making, watch repairing, radio repairing, light engineering, basket-making, shorthand, typewriting, ophthalmic or optical work, paper-making and so on. In one training centre, started in 1943 in England in the county of Surrey at Eggham, between 1943 and 1948 there were 4,500 admissions of whom within two years as many as 1,950 people, that is nearly 50 per cent. of the number admitted were found fit to go back to their old jobs again.

### GAINFULLY EMPLOYED

In one centre alone 3,250 people have been trained in various occupations so that they are gainfully employed, and those people are no longer a drain on the State. Instead of doling out money, in England there are what are known as designatory employments to which only people who are crippled or deaf are absorbed. Jobs such as park attend-

ants and electric lift attendants are reserved for these people, so that they do not look for an allowance from Government by way of charity, but can do some useful work and earn money which is very useful to them and which they feel they have earned. Not only that, in England, by an Act passed in 1948, mercantile houses are obliged to employ three per cent. of their employees from the ranks of the disabled. There are hundreds of thousands of such folk who with a little training can be fitted to do a useful job.

Some years ago it was thought that lunatics could not be cured and therefore, they had to be confined and the crippled could similarly not be cured. But science has taught how lunatics could be cured and in the same way cripples too, can be cured and rehabilitated. Of the 60,000 people in the country who are drawing charitable allowances at least 30,000 should be made to do some useful work. If the Government has nothing else but those 30,000 people who have been directed into useful work to boast of, then we can have faith in the brave new Lanka that the Social Service State is ushering in.

### CENTRE AT RATMALANA

It is heartening to hear that Government has secured a 15-acre block of land in Ratmalana has been earmarked for this purpose and Government has promised a grant together with the equipment necessary to establish the training centre. The Crippled Children's Aid Association will, it is stated, contribute Rs. 115,000 towards the project. Hostel accommodation for about 200 trainees with separate sections for women and children will be included in the plan which is now in the hands of the architects. The trainees who are admitted will be directed to choose, the trade or occupation best suited for them and be trained therein, thus enabling them to do some useful work and not have to look for an allowance from Government by way of charity and feel that they could earn their living.

## Should Proctors' Licence be Annual or Commuted Levy

SHOULD members of the legal profession who have professional incomes which are taxable for income tax, continue to pay the annual professional tax which originally commenced to be levied at a time when income tax did not obtain in this country, is a question posed by a Senator at a recent session of the Senate. He urged the expediency of abolishing the professional tax. Proctors, he said, pay an annual tax but they also pay income tax on their professional incomes. Would Government consider the abolition of the annual tax?

The question was raised by Senator R. I. Palipane in November last year, when the Leader of the Senate, Sir Lalitha Rajapakse, explained that the licensing fee levied by the authorities in respect of a proctor, renewable every year was the result of a Statute. This licensing fee like any other fee such as Surveyors' licensing fee is payable to a local authority. The fees paid by proctors were collected by a central authority and a certain lump-sum is paid to the local authority under the relevant Ordinance. Apart from that a large sum of money about Rs. 50,000, he believed, Government gives annually to the Law Society, that is, the Society of the Proctors, payable each year from the votes. In consideration of these two matters, he did not

think an affirmative answer could be expected to the Senator's question.

### COMMUTED LEVY SUGGESTED

Last week the question was raised again. Pursuant to the reply given on the earlier occasion, Senator Palipane desired information from the Leader of the Senate whether the Government would consider it expedient to levy a commuted tax in lieu of the annual tax now being levied from Proctors and Advocates.

“This is a question which requires very careful consideration”, replied Sir Lalitha Rajapakse, “before an authoritative answer can be given. The hon. Senator did not tell me in time that he was going to ask this question. I think the point he is making is that whereas the Advocates pay one fee when they join the profession and do not have to renew their licence every year, the Proctors are called upon to pay a fee and renew their licence each year. Ex facie, it would appear to be a matter that should be put on an equal basis, but the Hon. Senator who comes under the category of proctors in the legal profession, would remember that there is a distinction between the two categories. A proctor is also a notary, I think, as a notary he has to renew his licence.

The last time the hon. Senator raised a question on this subject I said that all I could then say was that I would certainly consider the matter and that I was not in a position to give a definite reply. I should like to examine the position very carefully. That is all I can undertake to do.”



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### SANSKRIT KEY TO LANGUAGE CHANGE-OVER?

"If the substitution of the national languages in the place of English, as feared by some, may lead to the removal of a common medium between the two communities, is it too much to hope that greater interest paid to the study of Sanskrit, as a common cultural pursuit, will eliminate this possibility of estrangement and conduce to even greater amity and deeper concord between the Sinhalese and the Tamil" is the poser put forward by Professor Wijesekera of the University of Ceylon in the course of his commemorative address at the first Sanskrit Conference held in Jaffna

At a time when the country is on the verge of a momentous change in the medium of administration and instruction, this statement by the Professor compels attention and deserves consideration. The national languages, Sinhalese and Tamil, are to replace English for all educational and administrative purposes. It is admitted that English is an international language and it cannot be denied that it has been a most powerful medium hitherto for all educational and administrative purposes. As regards the language problem and study in Ceylon today more stress is being laid on Swabasha. Government has sponsored the scheme.

It has been stated by educationists of experience in this country that the right policy would be to aim at securing that every boy passing through all the schools, should have the opportunity of acquiring a good knowledge of Sinhalese or Tamil and a good knowledge on an international language such as English. A proper understanding and a sound knowledge of English had a wealth of advantages open to those who possess it. It is feared that if the standard of that international language is not maintained in the highest degree, this country will not have efficient doctors, lawyers, engineers, agriculturists, teachers, to say nothing of experts in the other various fields in order to cope with modern demands.

During the past months the burning question of the day has been the introduction of Swabasha. Prize-day speeches and letters in the Press repeatedly advocated it, and a Round Table Conference was suggested to settle the question which will have far-reaching influence on the education of the youth of this country who will be the citizens and administrators of tomorrow. "Every-

body thinks he knows about education just because he has been to college", observed Canon McLeod Campbell, former Principal of Trinity College, Kandy, who is at present on a six weeks' holiday in Ceylon. "They will not do this with medicine for instance", he said. "Then they will only consult experts, but when education is at stake, everyone wants to have his say, and policies and emotion gets mixed up in it and clouds the issue". He added that decisions must be made on educational grounds, not on emotional grounds. It cannot be denied that the English language has contributed much to establish the bond of unity among the various races inhabiting this island of ours. There is considerable controversy on this important matter which calls for cool, calm, collected consideration.

At this stage the poser set by the Professor of Sanskrit, Ceylon University, seems opportune. "Can Sanskrit help in the language change-over, if so, how?" He said that from about A.D. 300 could be dated the beginnings of classical Sanskrit literature. This as, Professor F. W. Thomas describes, is the literature dominated by aesthetic aim and theory and includes the celebrated masterpieces of such eminent literary figures Kalidasa, Asvagosha and others whose works occupy honoured places in Sanskrit literature.

In his presidential address at the first Sanskrit Conference, Mr. S. Natesan declared that Sanskrit was not only a culture of mere aesthetic value but it was a medium of higher expressions in the spiritual sciences and many other branches of knowledge. It had made its wonderful contribution to secular sciences, like politics, economics, architecture, and to all aspects of practical life. Sanskrit culture had, its roots in Ceylon too and had played already an indispensable part in Lanka, in the distant past. Sanskrit should be introduced as one of the important subjects of study in the school curriculum in Ceylon. "In the modern set-up of languages Sanskrit has its irrefutable lofty place and it is our duty to see that the study of Sanskrit becomes popular in Ceylon. Even for a correct and proper study of the Swabasha, Sanskrit will provide the necessary background", he added.

Confirmation of the statement made by Professor Wijesekera becomes apparent for he states that for the development and strengthening of the Swabasha the greatest source of inspiration will be Sanskrit with its infinitely copious vocabulary and its wealth of scientific and technical terminology Sanskrit with its radical basis will be the surest foundation for all new terms to be coined and linguistically speaking to borrow from Sanskrit wherever possible will be

(Continued on page 7)

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# U. N. P. WOMEN'S UNION IN RETROSPECT

By Noble Kiriella

AT the very commencement of this report of the Women's Union of the U.N.P. we have to record the death of our revered and beloved Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. D. S. Senanayake, who in every way can be called the "Father of the Nation". He pledged his faith in the work and mission of the women of Lanka and assured them their request for equal opportunities in the diplomatic field. He definitely stated that he was aware of the important part played in developing the art of human relationship and declared women's role in society was both vital and fundamental. From the beginning of time, he declared women were a source of inspiration in guiding the destinies of nations.

With our new Prime Minister as the President of our Party, who has promised to follow in the footsteps of his noble father, we have no fear of the future. The women's side of the U.N.P. has played a prominent part in the Party's history. Since the inauguration of the U.N.P. Women's Union in September, 1949, over fifty branches have been formed, in the outstations women enrolling as members in large numbers, in the past years.

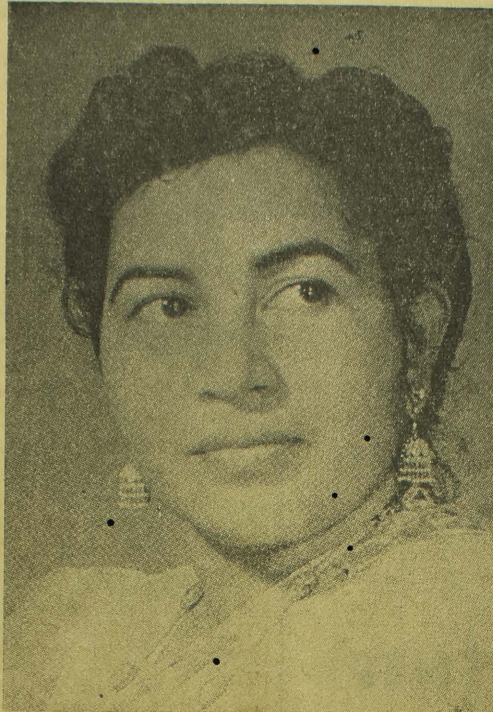
### ACTIVITIES OF THE UNION

The Mirigama branch of the Women's Union organised a very successful Cooking and Needlework Exhibition. The work of the Balapitiya, Chilaw and Kelaniya branches is daily progressing and is a

great source of satisfaction. The Kiriella U.N.P. Women's League did some magnificent work at the Colombo Exhibition where they dis-

faint and the footsore, the old and feeble found this a place of rest and comfort to them. It was a result of the consistent work done by the

of women to the Co-operative Inspectorate and to the Police Force is a step in the right direction. Women Supervisors will soon follow in the Milk Feeding Centres. All this can be entirely attributed to the efforts of the Women's Union during the past years.



Noble Kiriella

played the needle work exhibits of the free classes and schools of the Social Service League. The free drink stall was a real boon to the

Women's Union that creches received Government grants and free birth certificates were provided for the school children. The appointment

### AT BERNE WORLD CONFERENCE

Our President Lady Molamure represented Ceylon at the Berne World Conference and ably defended the Ceylon Citizenship Act. Mrs. Clodagh Jayasuriya put up a gallant fight against the Reds when she contested the Avissawella seat and was beaten by a narrow margin. Mrs. Amy Sathurukalsinghe has undertaken the cause of the Mercantile women sanctioned by our Union. Mrs. D. N. W. de Silva attended a conference in London. This article cannot be concluded without expressing our deep sorrow on the death of Lady Jayasundera. Her untimely death removes from our ranks a kind and genial personality.

The Women's Union must go from strength to strength. Its branches must multiply for they are the house keepers, the shoppers, the ones who deal with day to day necessities of life. They are concerned with health and education of children and are therefore in a position to advise on details of daily life. The Women's Union and branches are also responsible for the political education and propaganda among women and are distinct assets during an election campaign as proved by the recent elections. Much has been done and much more needs to be done. This demands vision, courage, self-sacrifice and at the hour, I am sure, we women of Lanka shall not be found wanting.

## G. C. E. EXAMINATION AND OMISSION OF SWABASHA

THE omission of Sinhalese and Tamil from the list of approved languages for the General Certificate of Education Examination (advanced level) for the University of London for the year 1954 when these appeared as approved languages for this examination in the Regulations for 1953 formed the subject of a series of questions in the Senate last week. Further it was asked what steps would be taken to include these sub-

jects for the 1954 examination and to inquire why the Education Officer in London for Ceylon, who is a non-Ceylonese failed to take the necessary steps to include in the Regulations for 1954 as they had appeared in those for 1952, and if it were found that this officer had been negligent whether the Government would consider replacing this officer by a Ceylonese.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance gave the following answers:—

(1) There was no consultation with the Ceylon authorities by the University of London with regard to the deletion of Sinhalese and Tamil in the G.C.E. Examination (advanced level). The first official intimation of this from the Secretary to the London University Entrance Examination Council was received in November, 1952.

(2) Representations are being made to the University of London authorities for the retention of these languages as such at this examination in 1954 along with the retention of Sinhalese in the list of subjects for the B.A. external degree.

(3) The Education Officer attached to the High Commissioner's office in London is not an officer of the Department of Education. He is concerned merely with the placement of Ceylon students who go to England for purposes of study. Naturally, therefore, the University authorities have not informed them of the change.

The series of questions, notice of which had been given over three weeks earlier, the Senator considered it rather regrettable that in view of the importance and urgency of the matter, that the answers were not forthcoming. Unless something was done immediately, the two subjects were not going to be included in the list of approved languages and the students who have been offering Sinhalese and Tamil as subjects for the examination would suffer.

(Continued on page 11)

### SANSKRIT KEY TO LANGUAGE CHANGE-OVER ?

(Continued from page 6)

the most correct and the most convenient method to develop Swabasha of our country.

Such a course is historically justified because both Sinhalese and Tamil have special affinities with Sanskrit. In the case of Sinhalese it is ultimately a form of speech derived from Sanskrit. Although Tamil linguistically belongs to another group, yet the historical connection it has with Sanskrit particularly in point of vocabulary is so close as to make any borrowing quite natural and legitimate. Hence it is suggested that Sanskrit can play a great role in the linguistic advancement of both Sinhalese and Tamil, to conform to present-day conditions.



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# The United National Party

## Annual Report For 1951-52

THE democratic principles which the United National Party stands pledged to uphold and defend were endorsed by the vast majority of people of this country during the General Election held last year. This is a fact which I record with great pleasure because it represents the nett result of our endeavours during the past four years. We knew that our organisation was going from strength to strength and we had several opportunities of testing its adequacy at the by-elections which followed the inauguration of the first Parliament. It was, however, only in May last that we were able to assess the true strength of our organisation as a political Party. It came up to our fullest expectations and the sweeping majority which we obtained in the General Election against a very determined and united opposition is a result on which all Branch Associations, Youth Leagues and Women's Unions can congratulate themselves.

But I know the happiness of our victory at the polls is tinged with sadness of the loss we suffered by the death under tragic circumstances of our beloved Leader, whose presence at these gatherings, bringing as it did so much inspiration and confidence, we shall miss as long as the Party lasts. There is not the slightest doubt that we reaped where he sowed, because with his vision and foresight he laid the foundations of the machinery which eventually carried us to victory. The successes we earned were truly his; the errors committed, if any, were solely ours.

### RED AREA RAIDED

Soon after our last Conference in Kandy we were plunged into the throes of a by-election in Akuressa, the fons et origo of the Communist movement in this country. We had to find a candidate adequately equipped to fight the leader of the Communist Party who was making a bold bid to return from the political wilderness where he had been languishing for years. We were also faced with the lack of Branch Associations in many important districts of the electorate. But Party members and supporters not only in the Akuressa electorate but in the adjoining electorates as well, most of which were in the hands of the Leftists, rallied round our candidate with great enthusiasm. We were also able to place at his disposal considerable resources of the Party headquarters, both in personnel and transport. As the date of polling drew near we were quite confident of victory. The early dissolution of Parliament, however, rendered the by-election unnecessary but I think the intensive work which our propaganda officers and others did in preparation for the by-election will bear fruit at some future date. On this occasion we put the U.N.P. on the map in the Red area for the first time and we had every reason to be pleased with the solid support we received in many parts of the electorate.

### U.N.P. TRIUMPH

The General Election is now past history. The tragic death of the Prime Minister, and the decision of his successor immediately to seek a mandate from the country, confronted us with many difficulties, because the Party machinery at that time was actually geared to a leisurely General Election at the expiration of the normal life of Parliament. The earlier dissolution compelled us to compress a programme which had been spread over five months into the short period of a few weeks. The United National Party, however, was first in the field with more than fifty candidates. We were able to act so quickly because of the intensive preliminary work which had been done under the guidance of the late Prime Minister. Still, a very heavy responsibility fell

on the Nomination Board and the new Prime Minister. The Board sat continuously right up to Nomination Day, and the results proved that the Board's selections met with the approval of the people in the large majority of cases. In this connection I regret to record that in a few electorates Party members who had failed to receive the Party ticket, ignored the Nomination Board's selection and sought the suffrage of the people as Independents. But it is a matter for congratulation that not more than one candidate contested any electorate on the Party ticket.

### WORKING COMMITTEE

In September last year on the advice of the late President, and in anticipation of the General Election, the Working Committee appointed four sub-committees—Finance, Action, Publicity and Youth League—to look after the increasing volume of work falling into these categories. They as well as the Working Committee met regularly, some monthly, others more frequently, and the watchful care with which they dealt with matters pertaining to the Central Organisation of the Party is beyond praise. I am personally indebted to them for their co-operation, advice and help.

### THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee met soon after the death of the President and unanimously elected the new Prime Minister to succeed him. This is the first occasion on which he is presiding at the Conference and I have no doubt that under his leadership we will succeed in consolidating our position as a Political Party and in giving full support to the Government elected by the people. We have two important tasks before us. The first and less difficult is to maintain and improve our position as a Party in Parliament and in the confidence of the electors. The second and larger task is to give active support to the Government in all its efforts to ameliorate the condition of the people and to stabilise the economic status of the country. In these tasks our President has a heavy responsibility and that responsibility will be the lighter if we can assure him that he can always rely on the support and co-operation of the Party as a whole and of each one of its members. That assurance is manifested in the large gathering present at this Conference.

Apart from the death of our great leader the Party suffered a severe loss by the sudden death of Senator Sir Frank Gunasekera. Sir Frank's advice was of great value to the Party. He was a member of the Working Committee and served on several subcommittees and notwithstanding his professional and Parliamentary duties he was always ready to devote a good deal of time to Party work.

### EFFICIENT ORGANIZATION

Before closing this report I should like to deal briefly with the work done by our Headquarters Staff which had to be increased and strengthened to meet the demands of the General Election. The preparation, printing and distribution of lakhs of copies of pamphlets and other literature was a severe test of the efficiency of the organisation and I am sure all of you will agree that the Headquarters Staff performed the task entrusted to them faithfully and well. The short period during which polling took place imposed even a greater strain on the Field Staff. Our Propaganda Officers paid at least one visit to every single electorate except those in the Jaffna Peninsula. In some electorates one or two of them were permanently stationed. All of them worked loyally undergoing all sorts of hardships and I should like here to place on record the warmest appreciation of the Party of their services which contributed in no uncertain measure to our great success at the polls. I regret very much

(Continued on page 11)



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# Commonwealth Future as Peace Force

By Stanley Morrison

AS the threats to world peace grow, hopes for the continued maintenance of civilisation and all it stands, hang increasingly on the Commonwealth. Can anyone deny that the leading members of this unique organisation—Britain, India, Pakistan, and the White Dominions (South Africa excepted)—are unanimously devoted to peace as a world policy.

When one contrasts the colossal armed preparedness of the U.S.S.R. and the U.S.A., and the perpetual threats and counterthreats they indulge in, it is a relief to turn to the Commonwealth where re-armament is unpopular and there is a craving for peace.

In view of the sudden developments in the strategy of the Korean over the past few days and the undoubted danger of the war spreading to the Chinese mainland (with what dreadful consequences no one can view with equanimity), the need for the Commonwealth to organise itself as an active peace force, determined not to be drawn into a world conflict precipitated by the impulsive acts either of Russia, China or the U.S.A., grows ever more urgent. But the strengthening of the Commonwealth as a peace force demands three things: (1) economic stability (2) defensive strength, and (3) freedom from entangling alliances which might result in the Commonwealth being automatically drawn into war as a result of the action of any power outside the Commonwealth.

Taking the third of these requisites first, it can be said that the North Atlantic Organisation cannot be regarded as an entangling alliance for the simple and obvious reason that with Britain and France as its members, there is not the slightest prospect of their ever becoming involved in an aggressive action on the Continent of Europe. And even the all-powerful U.S.A. cannot initiate any movement there which may start a war, without the prior consent of the other NATO powers. However, in the Far East the danger of the Commonwealth being drawn automatically into a widening conflict is very real by virtue of the fact that Commonwealth is directly committed to the Korean war. And although this war is regarded as a United Nations responsibility, the United States has in the past shown a tendency to take the full responsibility for initiating actions which risk committing other member-nations of the United Nations to an enlargement of the war. General MacArthur's unilateral decision to advance towards the Yalu River in 1950 and ex-President Truman's sudden resolve to use the atom bomb in Korea in December of that year without consulting the United Nations, showed that the United States Government have a dangerous tendency to arrogate to herself the responsibility of committing the whole of the United Nations to its own unilateral actions.

What guarantee is there today that the United Nations and the Commonwealth will be consulted and their consent obtained before the USA decides on any important change in her Korea policy? The new moves as regards Formosa are reported to have caused consternation in India and grave misgivings in Britain. Here again, the United

States is taking steps which may have the most terrible consequences for the whole world without prior consultation of the United Nations, whose member-states are participants in the Korean struggle. Naturally, these member-states are alarmed by what they consider the one-sided decisions of the United States in a conflict in which they are all deeply involved.

It is in this context that the Commonwealth can assert itself as a force for peace and as an organisation that badly needs a very long period of peace for the development of its economic resources and the upliftment of the standards of living of its masses of under-privileged peoples. Would the spread of the conflict in Korea to the rest of the Asian mainland be in the best interests of the peoples of non-Communist Asia and of their governments, which have not yet had sufficient time to ameliorate the distressful conditions in which far too many Asians live? Mr. Churchill himself, in an interview in New York harbour on board the Queen Mary in the New Year, emphasised the dangers of expanding the Korean war to the mainland of China. He told the American representatives: "There are worse things than stalemate in Korea, and that it would be a great pity for the United States and the United Nations Army to wander all about this vast China... to make an indefinite extension of the war."

The world, therefore, badly needs peace and the Commonwealth more badly than any other group of powers. A general war now, when the Commonwealth and the greater part of the non-Communist world are stricken with a form of economic paralysis, would be the greatest disaster in the history of the human race, which has not yet recovered from the crippling effects of the last war and cannot commit their resources to an atomic conflict without a total breakdown of all civilised standards and a relapse into barbarism.

And as Mr. Churchill has stated before, the expansion of the Korean war on to the mainland of China may suit Russia very well, since it would reduce the capacity of the U.S.A. to participate in the defence of Europe if a conflict broke out there. It now remains for the Commonwealth to assert itself, led by Britain and India, and to prevent the expansion of the Korean war, on the principle that a lesser evil is always better than a great evil, despite the terrible frustrations caused by the Korean imbroglio.

## The United Nations Technical Assistance

(Continued from page 4)

cultivation of sugar cane, some experts in the fields of fishing, forestry and wood-working. Besides a large number of experts in food technology, home economics, agricultural, engineering, plant pathology, rice processing, production of animal food and other specialized fields. In 1953, many improvements are expected to be made in the agricultural activities of the Island and in most of them F.A.O. will assist the Government.

Most of the Organizations mentioned also made provision for training facilities with a view to having local experts and technicians available as soon as the services of the foreign technical assistants are withdrawn. The fellowships and scholarships programmes are gradually expanding.



# BANGKOK THE UNIQUE MONARCHY

HALF way round the world lies a unique little monarchy whose colour, oriental appeal and sharp contrasts are known to millions of Americans through a movie called

"Anna and the King of Siam".

To many travellers on the round-the-world grand tour, Thailand is the most intriguing. From the ultra-modern air terminal of Don Maung, where Pan-American World Airways' services from New York and San Francisco meet, the highway

stretches through eighteen miles of rice lands worked with water buffalo and wooden plough; ancient but effective tools.

On Bangkok's crowded streets, the Rolls Royce and the Buick jockey for position with the samloh—a three-wheeled tricycle buggy which

is still the favourite means of transportation for tourist and Thai.

## TEMPLE OF THE DAWN

A Catholic cathedral on the banks of the Chao Phya river is directly across the river from the spire of the Buddhist Temple of the Dawn which tapers with strange beauty into the sky like a half-remembered figure in a dream.

Down the busy streets, or along the highways, stroll the yellow-robed Buddhist monks—Thailand is a stronghold of the Buddhist faith. And throughout the city, their 600 or more temples are open to the visitor—red and orange tiled roofs supported by the white purity of wall and column. Colourful and cheerful as these temples are, traveller and Thai alike remove their shoes on inspection tours, for the temples are sanctuaries for contemplation as well as guardians of past civilizations.

The round-the-world traveller can easily cover the sights of Bangkok in a three-day stop-over, but the visit should be on a weekend to cover the boxing matches—easily the most murderous in the world—and the classical Siamese dancers.

## THE RIVER TRIP

Every visit to Bangkok should include a dawn departure from the Oriental Hotel by the river launch for a tour of the river and side canals that are the main highways of this city of almost a million inhabitants. The standard three-hour trip carries the visitor as close as he would want to get to the jungle and provides him with an intimate glimpse of the everyday life of the ordinary Thai. High point of the trip is the Floating Market where natives buy pots, pans, cloth, charcoal, rice and exotic tropical fruits such as the mangosteen and the strongly scented durian. The Temple of the Dawn is also part of the trip and if you're lucky you'll see the 80-foot long royal barges propelled by dozens of men making their stately way on a royal procession.

Excellent guide and tourist services are available at moderate cost. The price of a three-hour tour including the snake farm where venom is extracted for snake bite and antitoxin, the Temple of the Sleeping Buddha, and the Marble Temple is approximately Rs. 50. This is the average for Bangkok tours, which of course may be less if undertaken by several people.

Shoppers will find the New Road, stores bulging with Siamese silver and neiloware, a sort of oxidized silver with inlaid and engraved designs. The women's favourite is Thai silk a fine lustrous textile, which can be purchased at cloth stores all over the city. Hand-woven brocades and silks are also good buys as are crocodile and snake-skin bags, shoes, belts, and wallets. Zircons and Sapphires are dirt cheap.

## IMPROVED HOTEL SERVICES

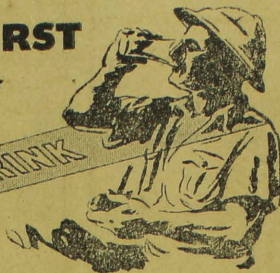
Bangkok's hotels are expanding and improving their service. The Trocadero is extending its air conditioning and Princess is putting the finishing touches to thirty additional rooms. Laundry service is good—linen suits are washed overnight.

Lightweight clothes are recommended. Tipping practice is about 10 per cent., with a 20 per cent. tax on hotels and restaurants. Hotel prices vary from Rs. 25 to Rs. 75 a day with meals extra. Restaurant meals average from about Rs. 15 for lunch to Rs. 12/8 for dinner. European food is available everywhere, and English is widely spoken.

An unusual side trip into Cambodia, Indo-China is available to the extraordinary ruins of Ankor Wat, an ancient civilization now emerging from its jungle prison. The cost per person for a three-day trip, including air passage from Bangkok and return, hotel accommodations, all meals, guides and ground transportation is approximately Rs. 300.

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# THIS QUESTION OF BUS TRANSPORT

By Civis

IT is very seldom that any of our newspapers initiate action to remedy the many defects common to this country unless some serious calamity or other takes place, when all attention and bitter criticism is levelled on the event, as if the question or incident itself is strange, unique in its nature or was unforeseen or not expected. A few years back the need for a better and efficient bus service was pressed to such an extent that it became necessary to impress on the Managing Director of a newspaper the need for press support in this agitation, which unfortunately the Editors failed to give at the time, in the energetic manner they do so now. Another two-decker crash must take place and a few lives lost for the press to agitate the complete removal from our roads of these coffins on wheels.

Leaving this aside, it was admirable on your part to have published two leaders—Bus Business and Bus Problem—and coming as it is from a press though representing a wider circle, but supporting a political party with which bus operators are closely associated, your efforts are most laudable and will no doubt be greatly appreciated by a long-suffering public. It would interest you to know that the white collar worker, the labourer and the man in the street, irrespective of party politics are heartily on the side of the Minister of Transport. When he said that he would not raise bus fares by even half a cent unless bus operators produced correct accounts he earned for himself the grateful thanks of the public. Those were great words indeed and contributed in no small measure to the reduction of the daily accusations directed at the Government which was alleged to be on the side of bus operators. The Minister's stand by the public saved the good name of the party in power. That's a true comment.

As stated previously some unique event should take place to focus public and press attention. Apart from a double decker crash let's say the bus problem becomes an issue at the next elections. Knowing as we do the state of the public mind on this vexed question could the United National Party count on the support of the public if the present state of affairs were to continue. If conditions improve and if the public were yet to remember the hardships undergone, we know that the party in power would be the first to say "Don't you remember what Sir John did? Did he not force the bus companies to provide better services? In the meantime it would appear that Sir John faces the fury. Who is responsible for the sad state of affairs on the bus front? The bus operators themselves. Neither their riches nor their donations to party funds will bring in votes. That is certain. If they are genuinely interested in the party, they should improve the bus transport system for surely has not this Government given them all they desired.

Ceylon is lucky indeed to have men of unimpeachable integrity and character like Sir John and such men should be warned against possible obstruction in their efforts to help the masses. There is no need denying the fact that bus operators are a powerful body which at the least sign of official determination to bring them back to their senses, could cause irreparable harm to the administration. If the bus services of this country decide to paralyse the transport system they could do so. The Government should safeguard itself from such an eventuality. Staggered office hours did not solve the problem of bus delays. Sir John's firm stand not to alter the office hours to suit bus operators was again greatly appreciated by the public who knew that there was at

least one man who refused to be fooled. This definite stand also helped to save the face of the party the Minister represents, for had he bowed to the wishes of the bus magnates, the public would have lost all confidence in the party.

It is well for the Government party that the outspoken and upright behaviour of Sir John had won the esteem and the confidence of the people both for himself and the party to which he belongs. The people cannot fool the Government nor could the bus operators fool the people all the time. We know that many of our bus operators started from scratch or zero and not from where they are now. Thanks to a benevolent State they amassed wealth from the profits of the bus business. Little did they realise that the creation of a reserve to improve their services would have solved the present problem. All profits were distributed among share holders who within a few years were able to invest lakhs on estates and buildings. The public do not grudge this but they are also entitled to ask why these bus operators do not spend a little on them as well. Yes, the bus magnates did by buying two deckers, already condemned as unfit for use in the streets of London. Armed, however, with a certificate of guarantee issued by some engineering firm or other which reconditioned these vehicles, the double deckers were imported to this country and put on our roads, may we say to fool the Government or the people or to torture them twice a day with the fear that they would be suddenly killed.

## G. C. E. Examination and Omission of Swabasha

(Continued from page 7)

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance replied that the difficulty was that in order to give an adequate answer to the question "Will the Government inquire why the Education Officer in London for Ceylon who is a non-Ceylonese did not take the necessary steps to see that these languages were included", it had become necessary to consult the High Commissioner in London. As for action being taken immediately, the question was raised by the Senator, steps were taken to give effect to his suggestions.

"London is only 36 hours away from Ceylon today!" was the Senator's rejoinder.

## The United National Party

(Continued from page 8)

that after the General Election, owing to lack of sufficient funds the Working Committee was compelled drastically to reduce the staff at Headquarters and I trust that as our work expands in the coming years we will be in a position once again to utilise the services of these men who rendered to the Party assistance entirely out of proportion to the remuneration which they received.

In closing I should like to draw your attention to the fact that if we are to maintain the prestige and strength of the Party we must make every possible effort in the coming year to increase our membership and extend the activities of our Branch Associations. We must have adequate funds to carry out our work without faltering. We must avoid the danger of complacency. We must stand united, true to our principles, staunch in our policy and loyal to our Leaders.

U. A. JAYASUNDERA,  
Hony. General Secretary.



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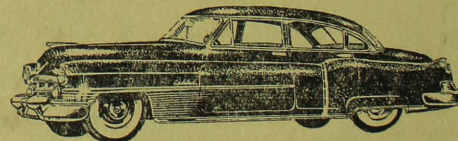


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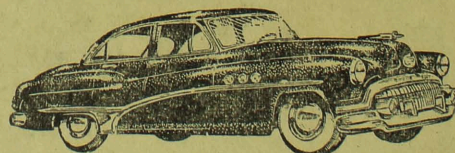


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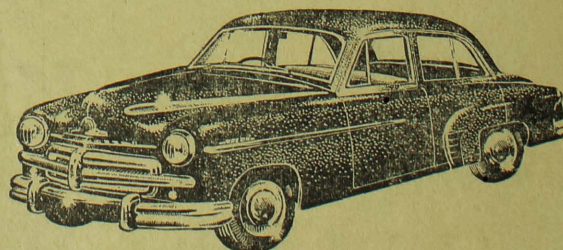
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