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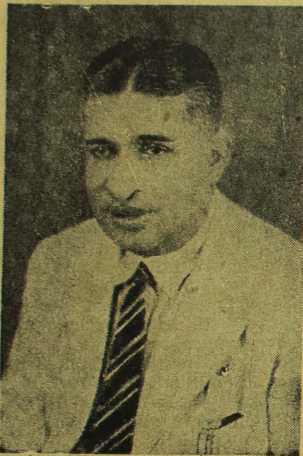
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U.N.P. FIFTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

"There Must Surely Prevail Tolerance of the Views of Those Who Differ"—Prime Minister



The Prime Minister

The proceedings began with the singing of the National Anthem, Namō Namō Matha, followed by a welcome address by Mr. S. de S. Jayasinghe, M.P. for Wellawatte-Galkissa Electorate.

The Hony. Secy., Sir Ukwatte Jayasundera, tabled the Minutes of the Fourth Annual Conference, and the Report of the activities during the year. After the Presidential address was given, five resolutions were passed.

THE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

"Incipient signs of a totalitarian temper—the very negation of democracy which the people of Lanka recently rejected in unmistakable terms are evident today. We see that those who care to differ are looked upon with scorn, hatred and contempt and even their motives are questioned," began Mr. Dudley Senanayake who, referring to the preservation of the democratic way of life—one of the aims of the U.N.P., asserted that they could safely presume that the people's answer at the General Elections was a definite renewal of faith in it.

"Various ingredients," he added, "go to make up a democratic society. One of these is the preservation of freedom of expression for the individual as well as the group.

THE fifth annual Conference of the United National Party was held at the Savoy Theatre Hall, Wellawatte, on Saturday the 9th inst. There was a very large gathering of members and delegates from outstations, filling the large hall and balcony to capacity and overflowing to the corridors. The Prime Minister, Mr. Dudley Senanayake, the President, was supported on the platform by the members of the Working Committee including Cabinet Ministers.

"In the political group expression of opinion results in the existence of political parties, free to criticize, free to put before the people its policies and programmes, thereby ensuring for the people the freedom to choose its own policies and programmes", said the Premier.

"Here I must confess that I see a very unfortunate tendency developing for the proper safeguarding of this invaluable right, there must surely prevail a tolerance and appreciation of the views of those who differ.

"It behoves each and every one of this Party to prevent this tendency since it betrays incipient signs of a totalitarian temper which is the very negation of democracy, and which the people of Lanka recently rejected in unmistakable terms."

GENERAL ELECTION

"Soon after the death of our Leader, we decided upon a General Election, ahead of the appointed time, in order to seek the mandate of the people for carrying on the Government of this country in the name of our Party.

"It is true this occasion came most unexpectedly to us all, but if we are to look back upon the results and the manner in which each and every member of this Party stood up to the test and discharged his or her duty, I think we can safely say that we have every reason to be proud of our achievement.

"Our rivals were so stunned and stupefied by the results that they had unfortunately to fall back on baseless allegations.

"The periodic holding of General Elections conducted on party lines, is essential for the proper functioning of democracy. It is on such occasions that a mandate is sought from the people on specific issues broadly put to them.

"There were during the last elections a few very important issues

that the people had particularly to address their minds to, and these were:

- "(1) The preservation of the democratic form of Government and the democratic way of life;
- "(2) the necessity to give to the national languages of this country their proper place;
- "(3) the citizenship issue; and
- "(4) the religion versus irreligion issue."

LANGUAGE ISSUE

Referring to the language issue, the Prime Minister said: "We, as a Party, took a sane and very reasonable view of the matter. We stated that our previous Government which was a Government of our Party had already accepted the principle that these two languages would be the official languages of Ceylon and that, within a reasonable period of time, the process was to be completed. Steps were to be taken gradually, realising the practical

(Continued on page 2)

U. N. P. Office-Bearers Elected

THE following office-bearers were elected at the Fifth Annual Conference of the U.N.P.:

President: Mr. Dudley Senanayake.

Vice-Presidents: Mrs. Alice Kotelawala, Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, Sir Tikiri Banda Panabokke, Mr. H. W. Amarasinghe, Mr. S. Natesan, Dr. V. R. Schokman, Dr. M. C. M. Kaleel.

General Secretary: Sir Ukwatte Jayasundera.

Hony. Asst. Secretary: Mr. D. P. Mellawaarachy.

Hony. Treasurer: Senator Justin Kotelawala.

An Executive Committee of 75 members was also elected.

U.N.P. WOMEN'S UNION

Patroness: Mrs. D. S. Senanayake. President: Senator Lady Adeline Molamure.

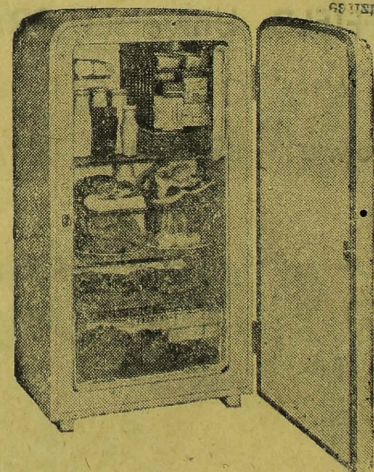
Vice-Presidents: Mrs. Alice Kotelawala, Lady A. M. de Silva, Mrs. C. N. Hapugalle, Mrs. D. M. Gunasekera, Lady Rajapakse, Mrs. J. R. Jayewardene.

Hony. Secretaries: Mrs. A. E. B. Kiriella, Mrs. E. B. Sattrukulasinghe, Mrs. Justin Kotelawala, Mrs. C. Jayasuria.

Hony. Treasurer: Mrs. C. V. S. Corea.

A women's working committee of 136 members was also elected.

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U. N. P. FIFTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

(Continued from page 1)

impossibility of the 24-hour or the one-minute solution.

"We as a Party, pledged ourselves to take certain steps and are continuing to take those steps, watching carefully the results.

CITIZENSHIP

"It is unfortunate that a political Party, on the eve of the General Elections, sought to bring the citizenship issue to the forefront. An ill-advised Satyagraha movement was launched with the object of embarrassing the Government Party.

The result was that this issue inevitably became a real and live one during the elections.

"Here our position was that we were ready to acknowledge as citizens of Ceylon those who were able to prove certain conditions for qualification already accepted by the Government. Those objectives were sought to be embodied in specific legislation and any action now or hereafter, as far as his Party is concerned, will be in pursuit of those objectives and not a departure from them.

"I must not fail to mention that it is most unfortunate indeed to see endeavours being made to jeopardise the good relations that must prevail between India and Ceylon.

"I wish to reiterate here and now that Ceylon, as a country, is most anxious to be friendly with all nations, particularly with India, our great neighbour. If both countries were to take a dispassionate view of our mutual problems, I am sure there could be no cause for estrangement.

RELIGION ESSENTIAL

"Just as the desire for the preservation of the democratic way of life has been so emphatically endorsed by the people, the desire for a civilization which places religion as an essential foundation has also been quite correctly demanded. This they did by an emphatic rejection of all anti-religious philosophies.

"It is a happy augury indeed to know the tremendous enthusiasm that prevails through the length and breadth of this country for the revival of religion.

"Here too, it is essential for us to realize that the true spirit of tolerance which, I am sure, is an essential part of all religions, should be observed if we are to preserve the peace and harmony that has always been a proud boast of ours.

"It is a noticeable feature today to see those who once derided all religious values blossoming forth as the champions of religion."

DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

Referring briefly to the recent steps taken by the Party towards the democratic goals of economic freedom, furtherance of education, eradication of disease, etc, the Premier first warned that the ravages of centuries could not be cured in the space of a few years.

"In the last few years in which this Party has been in power," he said, "development activity on a greatly accelerated scale has been taking place, but at the same time the provision of more and better facilities in the direction of social services has not been lost sight of.

"The most important aspect of development, as far as Ceylon is concerned must be in the sphere of agriculture as well as in land development"

Here Mr. Senanayake recalled the early beginnings, the "farsighted vision" of the late Prime Minister and the criticism he had to face when he inaugurated the Minneriya Scheme. But, undaunted, he had proceeded to embark on this and other colonisation schemes in the Dry Zone, with the result that malaria was conquered and jungles transformed into productive fields and villages and, in some cases, towns.

"The only criticism now seems to be", said Mr. Senanayake, "that a sufficient number of these schemes are not available yet. In the last few years the pace of this type of development has been considerably stepped up by the inauguration of schemes such as Gal Oya, Huruluwewa, Allai and Kantalai.

FOOD POSITION

"I wish to emphasize again here as has often been emphasized in the past, that greater emphasis on the production of food is absolutely essential if we are to survive and to enjoy our freedom.

"Although advances have been made in more intensive cultivation as well as in extending the areas of cultivation, still a rapidly increasing population continues to make this one of our chief problems.

"The policy of the Government has always been to give every facility for the cultivator to produce his own food rather than for the Government to undertake this task. Following this objective, various

steps such as the formation of agricultural co-operative societies to enable the cultivator in various ways to get over his difficulties have been started, and I am happy to say that some of these societies are showing remarkable progress and adaptation."

FREEDOM FROM IGNORANCE

Referring to another objective which the UNP had set out to achieve—freedom from ignorance—Mr. Senanayake said vast strides had been made in this direction in the past few years.

"In 1942," he said "there were 546,660 pupils attending schools; today we have 1,414,364 pupils attending schools. It is estimated that about 90 per cent of the possible school-going population of Ceylon is attending schools today.

"The Health Services of this country have also shown remarkable results. Today we have the highest rate of increase of population in the world and, when we remember that our birth rate from 1945 to 1950 has hardly altered, we find that the death rate has almost halved itself in these five years. I think that is ample testimony to the efficacy of the Health Services.

"Today we are faced with another scourge in the form of tuberculosis and it is the determination of this Government to be as successful in the fight against this scourge as it was in the struggle against malaria.

FINANCE

Mr. Senanayake next referred to the manner in which the greatly expanded programmes had been financed and pointed out that they had been undertaken in a period of favourable financial circumstances.

"Government expenditure," he added, "has increased from a total of Rs. 500 millions in 1947-48 to nearly Rs. 1,300 millions in the current year. We shall have spent during this period, which roughly corresponds to the period since we won our freedom over Rs. 900 millions on capital development financed from Loan Funds.

"In addition, a considerable amount of development has been financed from current revenue. We have spent over Rs. 700 millions on food subsidies alone."

The serious decline in the country's export prices from the Korean War boom levels, however affected Government revenues adversely so that over the past twelve months there was an overall deficit in the region of Rs. 300 millions.

These difficulties were aggravated by the exceptional occurrence of declining export prices coinciding with a period of rapid rise in import prices, resulting in a serious depletion of external assets.

GRAVE SITUATION

"This grave situation demands a fresh stock-taking" warned the Premier. "In times of very limited financial resources it is particularly incumbent on us to confine the utilization of those resources on first things first by establishing an order of priority.

"It is necessary for us to realize that, if we are to take a long term, view, there must be a greater emphasis on outlay on development for greater consumption in the future at the expense of present levels of consumption.

"It is in this context, I think, that you will welcome the appointment of an organization to help in the planning of future development which has incidentally, been a recommendation in the Report of the World Bank Mission as well.

STABILITY

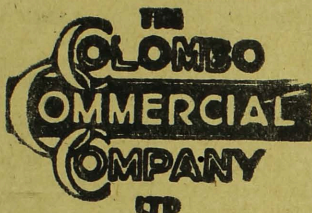
In conclusion Mr. Senanayake said: "The preservation of stability in the country must be the outcome of the existence of stability and strength within our Party.

"If we are to be true to the heritage left to us by our late Leader, it behoves each and every party member to sink personal differences in the furtherance of our common endeavour.

"Our recent success at the General Elections has caused a spirit of lethargy and complacency to prevail in the organization. Let this conference be a renewal of our efforts towards the strengthening of our Party resulting in the progress of our country."

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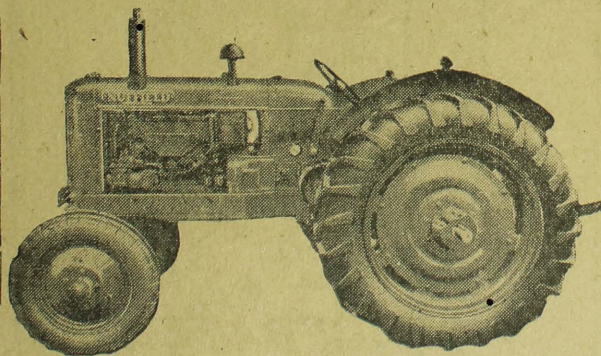
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All-Ceylon Youth League Session

"BE Prepared to Lay Down Your Lives for the Motherland", said Sir John, at the U.N.P. All-Ceylon Youth League session which was held at the Zahira College Hall, on Sunday, the day after the Fifth Annual Conference of the United National Party when a very useful and interesting programme was gone through.

There was a national contest, in prose and verse. The four subjects chosen were: Democracy, Economic Development, Religion's influence on the nation, and patriotism and love of the motherland in ancient Lanka. There was keen competition and according to the judges, a very high degree of eloquence was achieved by the youthful orators. The prizes two for each section were donated by Sir John Kotelawala amidst rousing cheers.

SIR JOHN'S ADDRESS

Sir John Kotelawala in congratulating the winners said that the future of the country and the preservation and continuance of the democratic way of life was in the hands of the youth of the country. The older generation had borne the brunt of the early struggles for freedom, some even suffering physically and mentally to achieve their aim. Later generations reaped the harvest sown by their predecessors. It was now the turn of the present-day youth to carry on for the future. He quoted the conditions prevailing in Japan, Germany, and other civilized countries where youths from 18 to 25 years of age devoted their time for the service of the country, some to face death for the sake of the

motherland. He, speaking for himself, declared that it was his aim in life to put the country before everything else. He was prepared to lay down his life for the motherland. It was never his intention to die in bed. In this country youths of eighteen sought on easy organised life and increasing the population! They should emulate the example of the youths of civilized countries who are fired with patriotism and love of their motherland above all else. Some described him as a "human tornado who roamed through life". The Leftists had described him as Public Enemy No. 1, the scourge of the Communists. It was in a spirit of exultation that he always declared his willingness to do all he could for the country which had been exploited by foreigners for centuries and was now free and a sovereign power.

He created the Youth League, organised and did all the propaganda as the trusted lieutenant of the late Prime Minister with whom he was associated for twenty-two years. It was at his bidding he undertook the task of being the President of the Youth League. Now he has reached an age when the task should devolve on younger shoulders. He was fifty-two years of age. The Prime Minister of today was only forty-two. As such he has accepted the Presidency of the Youth League, as President of the main party. "On my honour I shall always be loyal to the United National Party", he added calling upon the Youth Leaguers to carry on the just work and preach the gospel of Democracy throughout the country.

RESULTS OF THE COMPETITION

The awards for the national contest were as follows:—

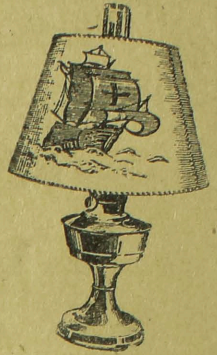
Cup presented for the best prose oratory W. D. Jayasena, 2nd Prize to B. Piyasena.

Cup presented for the best verse (extempore) 1st Nimal Rohana, 2nd Prize Minipura Jayasena.

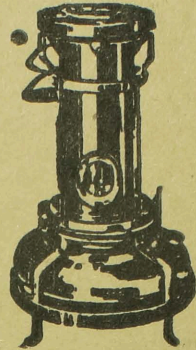
A consolation prize in cash was

given to Mr. A. Kartigesu, an ardent member of the U.N.P. from the North, who addressed the gathering in Tamil, Sinhalese and English.

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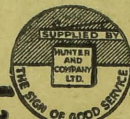


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CABBAGE, EARLIEST KNOWN VEGETABLE

IN its leafy wild state cabbage is found on the sea coasts of Western and Southern Europe. It has been known from earliest antiquity and probably was in general use previous to the

Aryan invasion, in 2000 to 2500 B.C. Several types were cultivated in ancient Greece and Rome. No doubt it was used in the wild state before there were cultivated forms.

It is well known that cabbage thrives best in a cool, moist climate. For this reason its summer culture is confined largely to northern districts and the hills. When grown in the south, outside the mountain areas, advantage is taken of the cool months of late winter or spring.

Successful crops of cabbage are grown on a great variety of soil types, the enterprise being developed to large proportions on soils ranging from light sand to heavy clays. A fertile soil, well supplied with organic matter and retentive of moisture, although well drained, is desirable. Sandy loams are preferred for the early crop, but friable heavier soils are very satisfactory. Although good late crops may be grown on fertile sandy loams that are well supplied with moisture, the largest crops of late cabbage usually are grown on slit or clay loams, well enriched with leguminous sods or stable manure. Late cabbage is grown successfully on much soils.

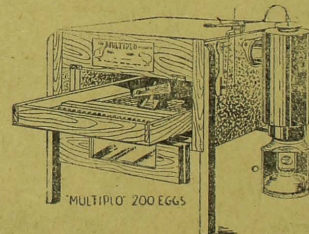
SIX KNOWN VARIETIES

A system of classification suggested by Allen in 1901, is the basis for the groupings that have been used most generally. The Alpha and Volga groups may be considered obsolete and they have been omitted. The groups are indicated by the names of well-known varieties or types. Notations of typical form, season, commercial importance, and principal varieties have been included: Wakefield and Winningstadt Group, Copenhagen Market Group, Flat Dutch or Drumhead Group, Savoy Group, Danish Ball-head Group, and Red Cabbage Group.

These are differences recognized generally by the trade as being the most important not only in distinguishing between different kinds but

(Continued on page 4)

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Food Drive Gathers Weight

By Stanley Morrison

THERE are many signs that the great food drive to provide Ceylon with home-grown substitutes for imported rice and wheat is beginning to gather weight and that, if unfortunately war comes and Ceylon is completely off from her foreign sources of rice, the people will not starve, provided they accustom themselves to these substitutes. After all, the people of this fortunate country seem to forget that if it ever comes to the pinch, nobody need ever starve here since nature has endowed Ceylon with an amazingly fertile soil and plentiful water supplies in the way of rivers, lagoons and lakes, not to speak of a rainfall which would be more than adequate for our needs if only the British colonial Government had the sense to continue the policy of the old Sinhalese kings and build tanks in the wet zones to do what the ancient tanks in the Dry Zone had done for the country in the ancient days.

However, even as things stand at present, in an emergency, the people can be fed on manioc, sweet yams, breadfruit, potatoes (home-grown), jak, kurakkan, gingelly sorghum, maize (or Indian corn), vegetables, fruit, and milk. Of course, if imported supplies of powered milk are cut off, all local milk supplies will have to be reserved for children and invalids only. But the plain fact is that if every piece of idle land in the island (except forest reserves) is cultivated, it is impossible for the people to starve. As regards water for cultivation, as I stated once before in these columns, why cannot the land in the coastal areas be cultivated with water from wells (using wind-mills for drawing the water where possible or drawing the water the way the hardy Jaffna farmer does by means of a loaded log of wood suspended over the well)? The fact is that in the coastal areas the wells are shallow and the water is easily drawn by some pulley arrangement or the Jaffna method of a loaded log. Needs must when the devil drives, and it is better to cultivate food this way than to starve. Besides, if every inch of idle land in the low-lying coastal areas is cultivated with manioc and sweet yams as well as Indian corn, work would be found for every unemployed man and woman in this country. Where there is a will there is a way, and the present Minister of Food, Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, is the ideal man for the job, as he proved during the critical days when the Japanese swept into Singapore and threatened Ceylon. But alone even he cannot do it. Public co-operation is essential. Every landlord with an idle piece of land should start right now to cultivate it with some kind of food grain or tuber or fruit. Every school garden should be turned over to the cultivation of food, and all children over ten years of age should devote a part of their school period to the cultivation of these school plots. Since well construction is an expensive item, I would suggest that the Government subsidise the construction of wells on land suitable for food cultivation, where the landlord is too poor to afford it, provided the latter guarantees to grow food on his land. If he fails to do so after obtaining a government subsidy for the construction of a well, he should be penalised by his land being handed over to anyone who will undertake to cultivate it on the understanding that all the produce of the land would be his for a definite period, the landlord getting nothing. Measures such as these will ensure that every idle piece of land in the wet zone is cultivated. After all, if one adds up the acreage of every little idle plot of land in the Wet Zone, it will be found that to amount to a tremen-

ous extent. And since in a crisis every little counts, the cumulative effort of every plot of land being cultivated with some kind of foodstuff or fruit would not be negligible by any means.

If Ceylon is cut off from her normal food supplies, therefore, the outlook need by no means be desperate. It only entails hard work for every able-bodied man and woman, while children over ten years of age can help. There is hardly an acre of land in this country which cannot grow yams, while the utter neglect of the cultivation of fruits is a phenomenon which astonishes the foreigner who visits these shores for any length of time. The fantastic prices fetched by locally-grown fruits of all kinds in a country eminently suited to fruit-growing is proof that the fruit-growing industry is hardly considered as a paying proposition. But in a grave food emergency a flourishing fruit industry would be able to materially help the people to supplement their diet. And in other parts of the world, food-faddists have proved that a diet exclusively of fruit and vegetables is more nourishing and far healthier than the usual diet of meats and highly-cooked dishes. I myself have lived only on fruits and milk for weeks at a stretch during the all too brief periods when locally-grown fruits are cheap, and my health has been immensely improved thereby. But normally the prices of fruits in Ceylon (particularly in the towns) are ridiculously high, simply because fruit-growing is done in a perfunctory manner. On the other hand, the stepping up of the cultivation of fruits like papaw (which is a perennial) and of pineapples, mangoes, pears (up-country), oranges, grape-fruit, and other tropical fruit would be a material contribution to the food supply. By proper propaganda and demonstrations, many people could be persuaded to have one meal exclusively of fruit, and if, say five lakhs of people would do this, the strain on the supply of the orthodox food supplies of rice and flour would be immensely relieved.

I have written this article to convey to the readers of this journal my impression that, in the worst emergency, the people of this very fortunate and lovely country, need never starve, if they would only put their shoulders to the plough and mammothly cultivate every available plot of cultivable land—and there is hardly any land in this island which cannot be cultivated with some kind of edible fruit or yam. But first and foremost, it is necessary for the people to give up their stupid prejudice in favour of rice as their staple diet. I have been living for the past three weeks on a diet of vegetables, breadfruit, potatoes, and fruit (when available) and I can definitely state that this diet has done me good and not harm. As a matter of fact, I feel healthier and more alert than I felt on a rice diet. I can unreservedly recommend such a diet to others. I have unfortunately not yet been able to persuade other members of my family to adopt the same regimen since they are still addicted to rice. But an emergency will do this country some good if it compels its people to adjust themselves to living on only home-grown foods instead of imported foods.

Cabbage, Earliest Known Vegetable

(Continued from page 3)

in determining their value for specific purposes. Only the more important commercial varieties are included. It is not implied that perfection has been reached in these varieties or that others are not entitled consideration. There is still ample opportunity for the breeder to exercise his skill. However, the varieties that are included have proven very satisfactory and probably constitute upwards of 90 per cent. of the cabbage grown in the United States.



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Independence Day—Governor-General's Message

IN his message—the fourth since he had the privilege of broadcasting on Independence Day to the people, the Governor-General appealed to all who have the power to do their utmost to make Ceylon's sixth year of independence and the years ahead happier for the poor. Lord Soulbury quoted the famous Chinese Teacher, Confucius:—

"If the rulers are good the people will be good, and the moral character of those in high places is the breeze, the character of those below is grass. When the grass has the breeze on it, it assuredly bends."

His Excellency said: "The year that has just passed was darkened by two very sad events, the deaths of the Head of the Commonwealth, His Majesty King George VI, and of the Prime Minister of Ceylon, the Rt. Hon. D. S. Senanayake.

"Both were men of high principle and character, and their lives were distinguished by a tireless energy and an unselfish devotion to duty which will remain as an example and an inspiration to us all. We deeply mourn the loss of those two great men.

"It was said by the famous Chinese teacher Confucius that 'if the rulers are good, the people will be good' and that 'the moral character of those in high places is the breeze, the character of those below is the grass. When the grass has the breeze on it, it assuredly bends'.

CO-OPERATION

"That saying applies to every government and particularly, I think, to a democratic government, for it does not rely upon compulsion, but upon the willing co-operation and support of the people, based upon respect for the moral character of those whom they have chosen to rule over them.

"When as in some countries, the people have no effective choice, it is possible for their rulers—at any rate for a time—to allow self-interest, family connections, friendships and favouritism to influence their decisions, without being brought to account.

The World Today

By PAUL FORD

WASHINGTON

IT is typical of Eisenhower, the man, that as Eisenhower, the President, his first address was one of principles.

And it is characteristic of Eisenhower, the soldier who wants no more of war, that he set forth these principles as rules of conduct to be followed by the United States in pressing its "labour for world peace".

For example Eisenhower said: "It must be the supreme purpose of all free men... (and) the dedication of their leaders to save humanity from preying upon itself."

Stalin, quoting Lenin's statement of 1920, says:

"As long as capitalism and socialism exist, we cannot live in peace; in the end, one or the other will triumph—a funeral dirge will be sung over the Soviet Republic or over world capitalism."

Here again the Soviet Union takes an opposing view. It clearly regards the United Nations as having only one purpose: to serve as a propaganda platform. Its U.N. record to date has been one of continuing obstruction, as evidenced by the 55 vetoes it has cast in the Security Council.—(Chronicle).

"But democracies—genuine democracies—can and should prevent such evils; for, if they do not, the foundations of self-government are shaken to the core.

"Ceylon has possessed self-government and full sovereign power for five years. During that period, she has enjoyed a greater measure of tranquillity and good order than any other Eastern nation, and has won the respect and esteem of all other self-governing peoples.

"But it has been said by another famous teacher, 'Woe unto you when all men shall speak well of you,' which was a warning that one must not become over-elated by praise or rendered complacent by success.

"You all know that Ceylon, like other progressive countries, aims at becoming what is nowadays called a Welfare State. That implies the removal of excessive inequality of riches or privilege as between man and man, and the raising of the general standard of living and well-being of everyone.

"To make this possible, greater production is needed and the creation of more wealth—in short, hard work. Food is the first essential. Your food comes from the land of Ceylon, or is purchased elsewhere in exchange for the products of the land.

"Anyone who owns land, however small the amount, owns a portion of his country's capital, and is in the position of a trustee for his fellow-countrymen. It is the established duty of a trustee to preserve and increase the capital entrusted to him. If, therefore, an owner of land fails to make the

best possible use of it, cultivates it badly and allows it to deteriorate, he is abusing his trust and impoverishing his country.

Similarly, a man who is working for wages should understand that to take money for work which is not done, or is negligently done, is dishonest; and that applies to the most highly-placed official as well as to the humblest labourer. Conversely, to profit by another man's work without paying him a fair price for it, is equally dishonest.

THE GOAL

"I am stressing these points because Ceylon's future will depend very largely upon her economic progress; in other words, upon the energy and honesty of her citizens and upon their ability to develop the resources of this Island.

"Ceylon cannot be, and will not wish to be, beholden to other nations for assistance, or dependent upon them for the sustenance of her people. She has achieved political independence and should endeavour, so far as is possible, to achieve economic independence as well.

"And the eventual aim must be to confer that independence upon all her inhabitants. It will take a long time to reach that goal, for there is a very large number of men, women and children living in our midst, badly housed, badly fed and terribly poor. Until their pitiable condition has been improved, Ceylon will be a long way from becoming a Welfare State.

"So let all, who have the power, to

their utmost to secure for these poor people a few more of the amenities of life, and help to make this New Year and the years to come happier for them than the past years have been.

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AFTER THE ANNIVERSARY

ANOTHER anniversary has come and gone and a very necessary stock-taking publicly conducted to the satisfaction of all. There is no doubt that despite its weaknesses our organization is the best of any political party in Ceylon. Having said this and patted ourselves on the back we must also be sensible enough to probe deep into the weaknesses of the structure for there are many such weaknesses which require special attention.

Although we are the largest single party, we must remember that all the advantages have been on our side, because from the beginning we were in a position to govern the country. Any party that governs any country attracts to itself a great many careerists who know that it is through the party with power that they themselves could climb the ladder of material progress. The fact that we have many careerists on our membership roll is, therefore, no phenomenon peculiar to Ceylon. The Truman administration in America, for example, had the best manipulators of the whole world battenning on it.

The function of a democratic party is to promote the democratic way of thinking and the really earnest and loyal members are those who join us because they accept the principles for which we stand. The man who joins a party because it suits his personal interests to do so, will as readily join another party when his interests cease to be served. The most loyal member is he who remains in the party because he is bound to it by strong ties both intellectual and emotional. How are we to find out into which category the names on our rolls can be divided?

This is the problem for the Secretariat of the Party. There is no use deluding ourselves that all the thousands whose names may appear in our books are really members. A great deal of unexciting and humdrum work is necessary to strengthen the party by making the Secretariat a real live organization. In the past it has done good work under heavy pressure of several by-elections and the General Election. There is always the danger of fatigue and boredom overcoming the organization. It is necessary, therefore, that fresh minds should frequently be made available to assist the

permanent staff, so that an examination can be conducted area by area, until we are satisfied that every name on our books represents an interested and keen member of the party who has paid his very modest Party Subscription.

Another extremely urgent measure that is necessary is to have a unified system of conducting our war against totalitarian Marxism on the higher levels of the intellect. The intellectual attack on the Marxist madness has thus far been very inexpertly done, not because we have had nothing to say but because we have said too many things in too many different ways.

With the limitations and the difficulties we have had in the past it was impossible to avoid such a confusing situation. It is necessary to make the views of the Working Committee on day-to-day problems readily available to every member of the party. The fact that we govern the country makes it doubly necessary for our views to be quickly made known to every citizen in Ceylon. It is the duty of a democratic party not only to govern democratically, but also appear to do so all the time. This means that the reasons for the various administrative steps that the party Ministers take to implement the various policies previously discussed in by the Cabinet, should be made known to the rank and file of the party and through them to every citizen in the land.

The absence of the machinery necessary for such dissemination of our work makes it unusually difficult during an election to carry our message to the people. The colossal sums spent on any election for propaganda purposes would be better spent if it were spread over a longer period. We have often found ourselves on the defensive at elections explaining, explaining, explaining all the time. This is because the opposition parties sustain a continuous barrage of criticism using the ablest brains to twist our utterances to make a trap for fools. It is an elementary principle of good propaganda that it should never get on the defensive. We often have no alternative because we keep silent for months and make a last minute appeal.

This journal and its counterpart "The Siyarata" are the only regular exponents of the party point of view. It is necessary as a first step in our organisation to see that every Party member regularly reads it as a matter of routine just as every member of the opposition reads one or another of the opposition papers each week. This is only one of the steps that are necessary and we hope the post-anniversary period will be usefully spent by all well wishers of the party in profound consideration of the suggestions we make.

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CEYLON'S INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY

Premier's Message to the Nation

ON the occasion of the fifth anniversary of Ceylon independence, the Prime Minister broadcast the following message to the nation:—

Today is the fifth anniversary of our independence. Five years ago we took our rightful place among the free nations of the world after over 400 years of foreign rule.

In the course of these five years we have come to look upon ourselves as free men and women with the right to mould our national destinies and a desire to realise the goal of prosperity and stability among ourselves and peace and goodwill towards other nations.

On an occasion such as this, it is proper that we should review the events of the past so that we may be encouraged by our triumphs and corrected by our failures to order that we may look to the future with the determination to do more for the betterment of our country and our people.

KING'S DEATH

But before I do so I must refer to two unfortunate events. The first is the death of King George the VI. It was during His Majesty's reign that we finally won our freedom and he was the first monarch whom the people of Ceylon, as a free people, acknowledged as King and Head of the Commonwealth.

Secondly, I must not leave unmentioned the late much-lamented Prime Minister who broadcast to the nation last year on this very day. On these occasions we should also remember with gratitude the names of men who for nearly 50 years fought through dangers and difficulties for the attainment of our freedom.

Names of distinguished men such as Sir Ponnambalam Arunachalam, to whom we owe a great deal for our political progress, Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan, Sir James Peiris, Sir Baron Jayatilaka, Mr. E. J. Samarawickrema, Mr. F. R. Senanayake, Mr. George E. de Silva, Mr. G. A. Wille, Sir Francis Molamure, Mr. D. R. Wijewardene, Sir Mohamed Macan Markar and Mr. D. S. Senanayake, our late Prime Minister. They are no more with us but their names will be for ever honoured.

OUR ACHIEVEMENT

In reviewing our achievements, let me refer first to our major development projects. The Gal Oya Reservoir has been completed before the appointed date and development is in progress with the first colonists already working enthusiastically. The hitherto unproductive, areas of the Gal Oya valley clad in forest cover are being fast transformed into smiling fields and villages which will in time contribute their due share towards the progress and prosperity of this country.

The first stage of the Laxapana Hydro-Electric Scheme is in operation and I know that with the completion of the subsequent stages we will have a source of tremendous strength for future development. Finally the Port Development Scheme is rapidly advancing towards completion.

However, the chief problem that faces Ceylon together with other countries of South East Asia is the problem of food. Although advances have been made on the intensification of cultivation and the extension into new areas, and although the production achieved has kept in advance of the rapidly increasing population, we still face the very difficult situation of being compelled to look to other countries for the major portion of our food at a time when the international prices of these commodities seem to be soaring.

Therefore, I must take this opportunity of impressing upon the people of Ceylon the dire necessity of striving more vigorously than ever before towards the achievement of greater production in this direction.

FOOD POSITION

On the food front the Government has been faced with the demand to

serve the conflicting ideals of cheap food and greater production. In an endeavour to make imported food available at highly subsidised prices to the consumer, adequate incentives for profitable production to the cultivator diminished.

I think we will recall the difficult War years when food was scarcer than now and the countryside was full of the production of substitutes in the form of manioc and other crops. Moreover, there was during those years a considerable shift, from the consumption of the scarce commodity, rice, to substitutes imported as well as locally produced.

It is significant that the people of other countries are realising the importance of this step and the consumption of substitutes such as flour in the South East Asia region has increased ten times. Therefore let us take a realistic and long term view of this problem and strive towards its solution in a feasible manner.

HEALTH SERVICES

The advance made in the provision of Health Services can be illustrated by achievements of considerable importance, such as the successful attack on the problem of malaria. Today our rate of increase of population is amongst the highest in the world.

This has not been the result of an increase in the birth rate which has remained constant over the last 50 years but the result of a tremendous drop in the death rate which amply illustrates the contribution made by the Health Services. The immediate task that the Government is engaged in at the present moment is the vigorous fight to rid this country of the scourge of tuberculosis.

EDUCATION

In the sphere of education a very noticeable and pleasant feature is the sight of numbers of schools springing up in the rural areas and the stream of the children of Lanka with smiling faces wending their way towards these schools. Yes, education is no longer the proud and priceless possession of a privileged few but is fast becoming the just right of every human being.

We can well imagine what a reservoir of strength for the future progress of this country is being built up in this process. However, the unfortunate tendency still prevails of looking towards Government employment alone as a career. Let me remind the pupils of today that the dire need of Ceylon is greater production on all fronts and that objective is not to be achieved by a predominant preference for government service.

EXPANDED PROGRAMME

In touching upon a few of the more important activities of Government let me assure you that I am not oblivious of the many failings and shortcomings in the pursuit of these objectives. It is the realization of these very shortcomings that urge me to seek the assistance of one and all of you in remedying them.

These greatly expanded programmes of economic and social development were undertaken in a period of favourable financial circumstances. Government expenditure has increased from a total of Rs. 500 millions in 1947-48 to nearly Rs. 1,300 millions in the current year. We shall have spent during this period, which roughly corresponds to the period since we won our freedom,

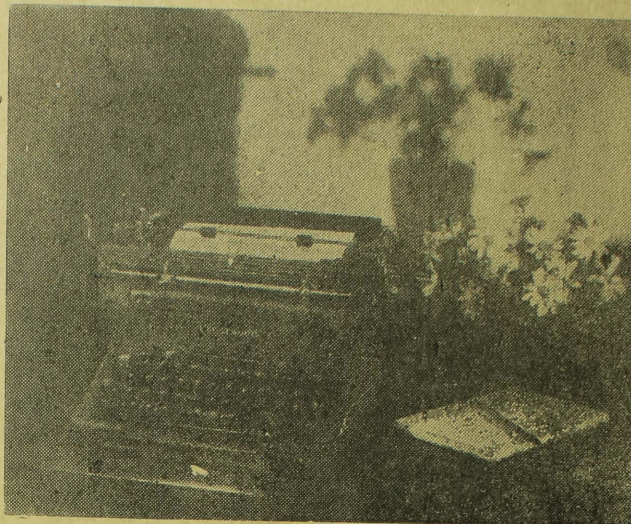
(Continued on page 8)

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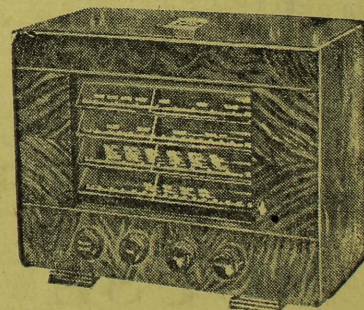
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Ceylon's Independence Anniversary

(Continued from page 7)

over Rs. 900 millions on capital development financed from Loan Funds. In addition, a considerable amount of development has been financed from current revenue. We have spent over Rs. 700 millions on food subsidies alone.

DEFICIT IN REVENUE

During the period of the Korean War boom, we experienced no serious financial difficulties. In fact for a period of well over a year we were able to meet almost the whole of our expenditure, including even our development expenditure, from current revenue. The serious decline in our export prices from boom levels however has affected Government revenues adversely so that over the past twelve months we have had an overall deficit in the region of Rs. 300 millions.

Our difficulties have been aggravated by an exceptional occurrence. Declining export prices are generally followed by declining import prices but last year we were faced with the fact that declining export prices coincided with a period of rapid rise in import prices, resulting in a serious depletion of our external assets. This grave situation demands a fresh stock taking.

In times of very limited financial resources it is particularly incumbent on us to confine the utilization of those resources on first things first by establishing an order of priority. It is necessary for us to realise that, if we are to take a long term view, there must be a greater emphasis on outlay on development for greater consumption in the future at the expense of present levels of consumption.

It is in this context I think that you will welcome the appointment of an organization to help in the planning of future development which has incidentally been a recommendation in the Report of the World Bank Mission as well.

COMMON ENDEAVOUR NEEDED

Although we have attained our political freedom, we have not yet realized that freedom means the undertaking of definite obligations, apart from assurances of rights. Let us realize that this freedom

merely ensures for us the right to develop our country by our own efforts and here 'our own efforts' does not mean the efforts of the State alone.

Unfortunately there is too much of a feeling that now since we are free, automatically without much exertion by each and everyone of us, the country will prosper and progress. The feeling is that one has merely to look to a benign Government to provide all the essentials for the well being of every individual. Perhaps the politician has been responsible more than anyone else for creating that delusion. Therefore it behoves every single one of us to change that attitude if we are to look to the future of this country with any confidence.

Happily many institutions are available for the promotion of individual good by common endeavour. In this connection I am happy to note the rapid advances being made by the Rural Development and Co-operative movements of this country.

For the proper discharge of its functions, a Government needs an efficient administration. It has been my happy experience to meet in all walks of Government service conscientious officers devoted to duty; but how many do we find following their worthy examples? Today we pay Rs. 421 millions in salaries and other allowances to the public servants out of a total revenue of Rs. 904.25 millions.

A DIFFICULT YEAR

This does not include moneys spent for employment of staff and other personnel under Works Estimates and Advance Accounts. The public expects and demands an honest and conscientious application to duty worthy of that amount. I am sure that a realization of this fact will result in greater endeavour in the future.

Difficult circumstances will undoubtedly make this year a difficult one for this country. It may possibly be a testing time for the nation and I am sure that the innate goodness of our people will see us through these troubled seas to calmer waters.

CEYLONIZATION OF TRADE

Commerce Minister's Advice

MR. R. G. Senanayake, Minister of Trade and Commerce, speaking on the resolution re Ceylonisation of trade which was as follows:—

"This Conference approves the steps so far taken by Government to enable nationals of Ceylon to take their rightful place in the Trade, Commerce and Industry of the Country as proposed at the last Annual Conference held at Kandy and urges the Government to

intensify its efforts in this direction", said that it was true trade should be Ceylonised but trade quality must be kept up. He blamed Ceylonese business men who damaged the country's trading interests by failing to supply standard qualities of goods to foreign countries.

Mr. Senanayake said: "Ceylonisation is very much in the news today. Is it prompted by empty nationalism or are there any economic gains for our country in this policy? A large percentage of all

(Continued on page 9)



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REPRESENTATIONS having been made by joint bodies of the staff of the House of Representatives and of the Senate, namely, the Hansard staff and the clerical staff with regard to their position as members of the Parliamentary staff, the matter was referred to a Select Committee of the Senate consisting of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance, Senators A. M. A. Azeez, S. Nadesan, R. B. Rajendra and C. F. W. Wickremasinghe with Sir Lalitha Rajapakse as Chairman.

The report of the Select Committee was presented to the Senate, together with the Parliamentary Staffs Bill as amended by the Committee, for consideration.

The Report disclosed that several public sittings were held at which the joint memorandum of the Hansard staff was considered. Another joint memorandum and a joint deputation of the Clerical staff was also considered. In addition, the evidence of the Gentleman Usher of the Senate and the Serjeant-at-Arms of the House of Re-

presentatives was recorded. In the main these two would be included in the staffs of the clerks.

MOST IMPORTANT CRITICISM

Sir Lalitha Rajapakse in moving that the Bill be considered in Committee by the Senate, said that the most important criticism of the Bill during the second reading was that there were genuine apprehensions that if the power of dismissal and other disciplinary action were left in the hands of the individual, namely, the Clerk, it would be against all democratic principles.

"Nobody ever suggested that the Clerk of the Senate or the Clerk of the House of Representatives would be unfair", declared Sir Lalitha, "but there was a genuine fear that the person who has a day-to-day contact with members of the staff and who would meet them, more or less daily, should not have in his power the right to dismiss or to take other disciplinary action. In the representations that were made to the Select Committee, this possible apprehension was amply emphasized by the two deputations. It was felt that in the Public Service for instance, if a departmental head who

(Continued on page 10)

Ceylonization of Trade

(Continued from page 8)

ceived from the colonial administration, which deliberately served British interests.

our trade is in the hands of non-Ceylonese. This is a heritage we re-

TRIBUTE TO BRITISH

"I must pay tribute where it is due. British traders built up on their own initiative the trade of this country. The commercial behaviour and discipline is something which we should learn from them.

"It is no secret that several shipments of citronella oil were found to be badly adulterated. There have been constant complaints of dud stones passed as genuine. Let us realise our defects and remedy them rather than pretend we are without faults."

Referring to the problem of finance, Mr. Senanayake said the important and necessary aspects of commerce was the availability of financing credits. If Ceylonese were to win in their commercial struggle

they should have easier opportunities and cheaper facilities.

INVEST IN BANK OF CEYLON

All credit, he explained, came generally through banks. Of the many powerful banks, over 12 represented foreign interests. Only one was Ceylonese. It was natural to expect the foreign banks to help foreign commercial interests in preference to Ceylon nationals.

Stating that investment in foreign banks would not be of much assistance to Ceylonese nationals, the Minister said: "One way to assist Ceylonese traders would be to strengthen our own institution and remove our investments from non-Ceylonese banks to our own institution. This has the double effect of making more lending money available to the Bank of Ceylon and reducing the available money supply to non-national banks.

"If such a policy is adopted smaller loans could be given out on bigger interest rates and larger loans on smaller rates of interest. Hence the money supply available to each bank will determine the interest rate on which loans are made.

"If the Ceylon Bank's money supply is larger the bank will then be able to lend to Ceylonese traders at lower interest than the foreign banks because of the withdrawal of Ceylonese money from them. Then non-Ceylonese will get high-interest loans through non-Ceylonese banks and Ceylonese will get lower interest loans from our national institutions.

APPEAL TO CEYLONESE

"My appeal today to the Ceylonese who have accounts in non-national banks is to make their money to serve our motherland. Let not our money be used to develop others and other lands as in the past, for Ceylon money has been used even for development projects in South Africa.

"If Ceylon money is withdrawn from foreign banks, they will have to import capital from their homeland to maintain their business clientele. Let Ceylonese patronise their own banks for then they can achieve better credit facilities for Ceylonese traders, remove the financial and credit advantages the non-Ceylonese have in commerce, prevent the flow-out of Ceylon capital for better investments abroad by foreign banks and induce outside capital into Ceylon to maintain the present commercial undertaking of non-nationals.

"This must be done by the free and voluntary support of Ceylonese capitalists. Government will not and must not legislate on an issue of this nature. Patriots are not made by legislation and patriotic action is not brought out through the compulsion of law."

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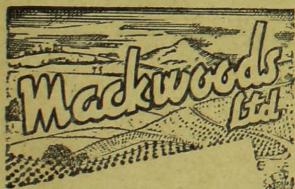
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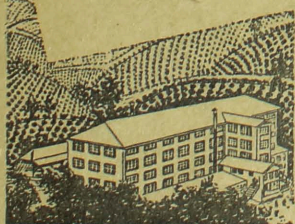


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Pay and Prospects of Parliamentary Staff

(Continued from page 9)

had day-to-day contact with members of his staff, chose to take any disciplinary action which would even include dismissal, there was always a body to whom an appeal could be made, namely, the Public Services Commission. The Committee was in strong sympathy with that view, but found it was difficult to implement the same as it was against a provision of the Constitution (Article 28 of the Ceylon (Constitution) Order-in-Council) which says that the person who appoints the members of these services, that is the staff of the Clerk of either House is the Clerk of that particular House, in connection with the President or Speaker as the case may be. Then under a Rule of the Interpretation Ordinance, it is that same body or person who has the power to dismiss or take disciplinary action. Therefore it would follow, as a rule of law, that the power to take disciplinary action, including dismissal, would be vested in the Clerk of either House who would be acting in consultation with the President or the Speaker as the case may be.

CABINET CONSULTED

The views of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet were sought whether the Cabinet would be prepared to sponsor an *ad hoc* amendment to the Constitution in order to provide a body of appeal against an order of the Clerk acting in consultation with the President or the Speaker as the case may be. The Cabinet has agreed to take the particular amendment into consideration at the time that it would put forward amendments to the Ceylon (Constitution) Order-in-Council generally. It would take this matter up for careful consideration—even sympathetic consideration. In the report of the Subcommittee it was suggested that if there is an appellate body, it should be the Staff Advisory Council referred to in the Bill.

OPTIONAL RETIREMENT

Another point that was considered, said Sir Lalitha, was the question of the age of optional retirement. Under the Ceylon (Constitution) Order-in-Council sixty years is the age of compulsory retirement. But in the Select Committee's report fifty years as the age of optional retirement is recommended, that is the time when a person in service could say that he would like to exercise his option to retire. The reasons for the recommendation are that the Hansard staff are officers, who have to work, particularly during the Budget debate, at

top speed, sometimes till late into the night, having worked the day long in batches and relays. Their work in the main, consists of taking down speeches and transcribing them on the typewriter within a short space of time to enable Hansard to be printed sometimes the next day itself, sometimes a couple of days later. It has been represented by the Hansard Staff that owing to work of such a nature and character, their period of usefulness would be over by about the age of fifty.

A CLOSED SERVICE?

Another aspect of the matter was the proposal to make the Parliamentary Service a closed service—a closed service not of such magnitude as the Railway or Postal Services covering a wide range of staff, but a closed service of small dimensions—where persons who join it, whether it be as clerk of the House or members of the Clerical Service or members of Hansard Staff, would after a certain period, short enough, feel that they have got to the top of the Service and that there is no other avenue open to them. They could not be seconded from this service to some other service. They would reach the maximum of their salary at a comparatively early stage, and there is no avenue of promotion or better work. There is, therefore, a strong sense of frustration, a feeling that they are in a veritable cul-de-sac. The first deputation urged that the age of optional retirement should be fifty.

HANSARD REPORTER'S EQUIPMENT

There is an impression in the minds of many that a shorthand writer's task is merely mechanical and that all he is capable of is taking down speeches speedily and that it calls for no intellectual effort nor does he need an academic qualification. Some go so far as to make the sweeping assertion that those who fail in other walks of life gravitate into the realms of the practitioners of the winged art. Nothing can be further from the truth.

The main equipment of expert shorthand writer in general and a Hansard Reporter in particular, is that of being a master of the language possessing a keen literary sense. It is not a job for which recruitment can be made, as is done, in the case of clerical jobs, merely on the basis of school certificates. It is not an ordinary reporter who can be a reporter of Hansard.

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The Chank Fishing Industry

Its Trials and Tribulations

CHANK fishing was a flourishing trade for centuries among the people of the northern coastal belt. In the past divers from India used to come and settle down during the fishing season in Nagadipa and from there, with the local fishermen they used to go out to sea to fish for chanks. Only during the North-East monsoon the fishermen get a good trade. The chanks collected are exported to Calcutta where they fetch good prices. For the last three years this industry has come to a standstill, as the local fishermen could not find a market for their chanks. The historical background of this industry is interesting. From 1813 to 1835, the Colonial regime, chank fisheries were either rented out to the highest bidder or conducted under Government control. This system continued until 1842 and between 1842 and 1890 chank fishing was carried out on a system of licences for boats with a proviso that one-tenth of the value of the chank fished was to be paid to the Government as royalty.

In 1890 the Chank Ordinance was promulgated under which the licence fee was removed and an export duty not exceeding one cent per chank was introduced. By this Ordinance chank fishing was permitted between the months of January and April each year in specified areas. In 1929 a further Ordinance was promulgated under which there was no restriction as to the quantity of chanks fished annually, nor was there any supervision exercised as to the quality exported. Chank fishing was open to anybody fishing within the limits specified. In order to enforce stricter control over quality and quantity, the Chanks Ordinance No. 12 of 1943 was introduced. Under this Ordinance the various areas in which chanks occur were divided into eight zones and it was proposed that fishing should be carried by calling for tenders. Unfortunately there was no response to the invitation and for two years there has been no chank fishing in this country.

RING OF INDIAN TRADERS

The trade has been almost exclusively in the hands of a narrow ring of Indian traders who brought their own divers from India, collected chanks in the far reaches of the chank beds or bought dead chanks from local fishermen who were apparently not competent to fish for live chanks. This has brought tremendous hardship in so far as the local fishermen, who has no business connections with that part of India where chanks are sold, have been unable to organize themselves or individually to sell these chanks.

"Since the legislation of 1948 was introduced when the regions in which these chanks occur were zoned and an iniquitous, utterly foolish, and if I may be permitted to say so, stupid system of calling for tenders was introduced under which both Indian divers and Ceylon divers were made the prey of Indian traders and middlemen who, having formed a ring refused to tender", declared the Minister of Industries in introducing a new Bill for regulating chank fisheries and the exportation of chanks and other matters incidental too or connected therewith. Continuing, he said that when the royalty was reduced by half, one man only tendered for it and virtually made it impossible to carry on.

The difficulty has been, therefore, that divers both Ceylonese and In-

dian, have been the prey of "avaricious, greedy, unscrupulous traders". The entire chank fishing in this country has been said to be rapacious in the hands of a few non-nationals who have not even a local habitation or name in this country, who come and utilize Indian divers and Ceylon divers, paying them a miserable pittance of 5 to 10 cents per chank.

MARKETED AT RS. 1,300 PER THOUSAND

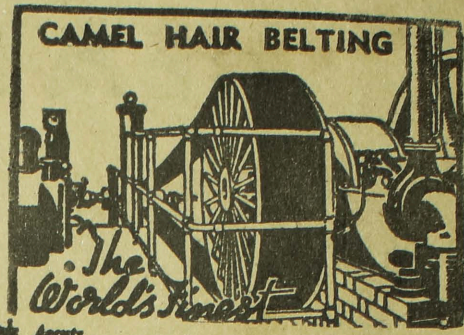
It is stated that the ruling market price is Rs. 1,300 per thousand chanks in the Bengal and Datta markets. There are two other places where they have chank fishing, namely, the Government of Travancore and the Government of Madras. The former has imposed a levy by way of royalty of something of the order of Rs. 700 on a thousand chanks. The latter on the other hand, realizing that this is a national and natural resource, takes in all the chanks as a Government venture and exports it or conveys it to the Government of Bengal as a provincial Government. Ceylon might as well adopt this procedure but owing to the absence of Government machinery to go in for trading, buying, stocking and selling, other measures have to be adopted.

In the new Bill there is no move at all against Indians as such, but it is quite conceivable that in the far reaches of the chank beds about the 3-fathom limit, the services of Indian divers will have to be utilized.

In conclusion, the Minister of Industries referring to the Bill said:

"We seek to protect these unfortunate chank fishermen and divers who fish for chank, we seek to protect them, whether they be Ceylonese or Indian, from those who, have exploited them in the past and who will continue to exploit them in the future if we do not take this step."

The main purpose behind the Bill is to see that both Indian and local divers are not made the absolute, helpless prey of middlemen and traders such as they have been in the past.



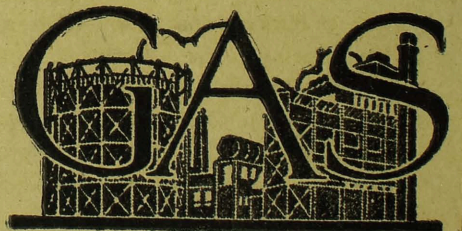
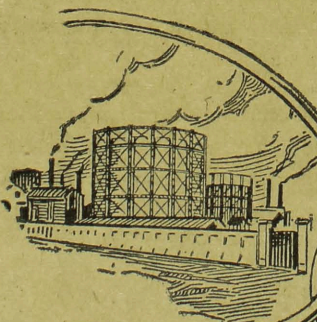
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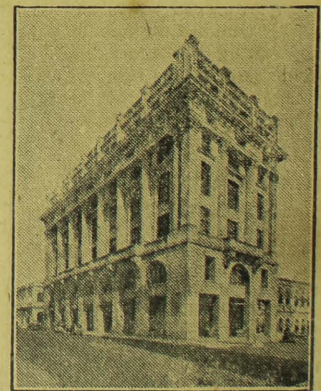
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