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All-Ceylon Pays Homage to Memory of Great Leader

"He Walked With Kings, But He Never Lost The Common Touch"—Lord Soulbury

THROUGHOUT the Island religious services were held, prayers offered, "pinkamas" and "poojahs" conducted to mark the first anniversary of the death of the late Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. D. S. Senanayake.

The Governor-General, Lord Soulbury, presided over the public meeting held at the Racecourse on Sunday. Thousands of people of all ranks crowded the grand stand and the presence of the vast gathering was an emphatic indication of the reverence and love they bore towards that great patriot "who passed away from us a year ago but who has not passed and will not pass from our grateful and affectionate memory."

Mr. Senanayake held office in Ceylon without a break for over twenty years. He became the first Prime Minister under the Constitution which brought to this country nearly five years ago the independence for which he had patiently and manfully striven during the whole of his long and laborious political life.

As was said of him soon after his elevation to the position of the Head of the Government, "never will his fellow-citizens forget the services which he has rendered to them..... His transparent sincerity, his kindly humour, his simplicity, his friendliness, his love of country life and his profound knowledge of, and sympathy with the needs of the villagers and peasants, endeared him to everyone; and to these great qualities he added determination and firmness of purpose, complete integrity, which attained him respect and won the confidence of all who had dealings with him."

Glowing tributes were paid to his memory at the public meeting.

Lord Soulbury's speech was interpreted into Sinhalese by Sir Ukwatte Jayasundera. Other speakers were the Minister for Home Affairs, the Rt. Rev. Lakdasa de Mel, Bishop of Kurunegala, Sir Kanthiah Vaithianathan, the Ven. Baddegama Piyaratana Thero, Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, His Grace the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Colombo, Dr. Thomas Cooray, and Mr. A. C. Mohammado.

Commemoration verses were recited by Mr. Saranagupta Amerasinghe and the National Anthem was sung to the accompaniment of stringed musical instruments conducted by Mr. Lionel Edirisinghe, Director of Music, Heywood School of Art.

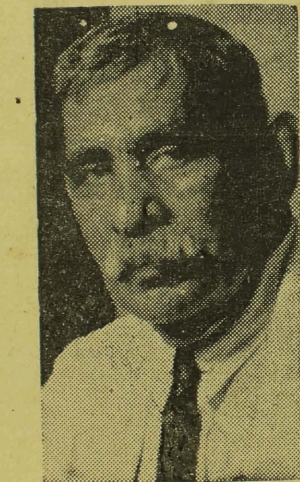
A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S TRIBUTE

His Excellency the Governor-General, addressing the memorial gathering, said:

We have met here to do honour to the great man who passed away from us a year ago today, but who has not passed, and will not pass, from our grateful and affectionate memory. His many fine qualities were known to you all, and I was particularly impressed by two of them, his simplicity and sincerity. Simplicity is an attribute of the truly great. Mr. D. S. Senanayake was, for many years, the most influential and powerful man in Ceylon, but he was completely devoid of vanity and of any petty craving for

personal distinction. I do not think that the trappings of power offered much attraction to him, and he had little use for pomp and ceremony. He brought with him, wherever he went, the freshness and sanity of the countryside, and his happiest moments were in the company of the people in the villages. He could walk—he did walk—with Kings but he never lost the common touch.



The Late Prime Minister

As an illustration I will tell you a story. On the late Prime Minister's last visit to England, he went to see a Ceylonese boy who was laid up in hospital and, as he was leaving, noticed a man standing at the entrance to the ward. He enquired who he was and learnt that he was a hospital attendant. Mr. Senanayake thereupon requested him to take great care of the boy and shook hands with him. When he left, the attendant asked the patient who the gentleman was who had shaken hands with him, and was informed that he was the Prime Minister of Ceylon. The attendant was delighted and replied: "Ceylon must be full of gentlemen when her Prime Minister shakes hands with an attendant at this hospital. I will always do everything I can for any boy from Ceylon."

MAGNIFICENT AMBASSADOR

In the late Prime Minister, your country had a magnificent ambassador. There are, I know, many other instances of his unfailing friendliness and humanity, and I hope that when his life is written—and it must

be written—incidents of the kind I have mentioned will be collected and recorded.

In the histories of famous persons, we are often told of their eventful decisions and important deeds, but what we also want to know is something of their daily lives and their contacts with their fellow men, from which we can estimate their characters. For it is by our knowledge of the characters of great men that we can form and mould our own. The life of the late Prime Minister, like the lives of other really great men, was not less distinguished by his countless little acts of kindness and courtesy to the poor and humble as well as to the rich and exalted,

than it was by the more spectacular activities of his public career. When I first met him in Ceylon eight years ago, I was a stranger in a strange land, but the polite and kindly welcome he then gave to me formed the foundation of an affection for him which grew as the years passed, and which I shall always retain.

SIMPLICITY AND SINCERITY

To his simplicity he added sincerity. In all my dealings with him, he said precisely what he meant and I knew that he meant it; and I never had to wonder whether there was some concealed ulterior motive or meaning behind his words, and

(Continued on page 2)

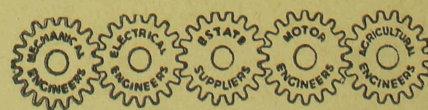
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All-Ceylon Pays Homage

(Continued from page 1)

he never went back on them. He and I did not always agree, and sometimes I thought he was mistaken; but, looking back in the light of subsequent events, I now think that, when he differed, he was much more often right than wrong. And when he agreed, he struck to his agreement through thick and thin; there was no need to put it in writing, for his word was his bond. He did not make promises readily and rashly, but once he had made them, he kept them. No one knew better than he the value of loyalty; he was loyal to his friends and fellow-workers, and expected loyalty from them. As a good cricketer, he knew the importance of team work; and as a good sportsman, he always played the game. In short, in the words of Shakespeare:

"He was a gentleman on whom I built

An absolute trust."

And with his simplicity and sincerity, went, the firm will, resolute purpose and high courage which carried him through nearly forty years of strenuous and successful struggle for the independence of his country. As I said in my broadcast from London on the day after his death: "To Mr. D. S. Senanayake, more than to any other man, Ceylon owes it that she now has complete and unfettered control of her own destiny as a member of that great association of free nations to which the peoples of the Commonwealth belong." That, I feel certain, was the opinion of every

member of the Commonwealth, and you and I, and they, owe him an immense debt of gratitude. The best way to repay it will be to keep alive the memory of his great qualities as an example to those who come after him, and so that all may realise how fortunate it was for Ceylon that in critical times her fate lay in the hands of so wise a statesman and so great a leader.

CHIEF CARE, HIS COUNTRY

It is true that he also led a Party, but he knew that the leader of a Party must be one who cared for something beyond leadership of a Party. His chief care was his country; and the best proof of that is the affection in which he was held during his lifetime by everyone of his countrymen, irrespective of their political beliefs, and by the tribute that they are paying to his memory today. He wore himself out in his work for the people of this Island, no matter what their race or religion; and if ever a man died in the service of his country, it was he. Death perhaps would have spared him had he known how to spare himself, but that he never knew.

It is not as a politician that we are honouring him here, but as a patriot; and I am sure that the invitation to me, who have no Party ties or obligations, to preside over this assembly, symbolises its completely non-political character.

You have placed me in a very proud position today, and I am profoundly grateful for the opportunity of expressing to you all my deep feeling of admiration for one of the greatest and most lovable of men that I have ever known.

Affidavits in Swabasha

AS the law stands, affidavits that are required to be produced in judicial proceedings have to be done in the English language. The facts that affidavits have to be sworn in the English language causes great hardship to the vast majority of the people who are not acquainted with the English language. Moreover, the policy of the Government today is to make Swabasha the official languages.

It has, therefore, become necessary to clarify the law, where it is uncertain, that is to make it possible for affidavits to be sworn in the Swabasha and to amend the law which requires that affidavits should be in the English language.

A Bill to amend the law accordingly has just been passed by the Senate, thus achieving the objects in view.

MORE JUSTICES OF THE PEACE?

While describing the Bill as a very necessary piece of legislation which should have been introduced earlier, one Senator visualised an increase in the number of Justices of the Peace in the various areas as a result. Personally he thought it a very good idea to have instead of the nearly two hundred J.P.s now functioning the number would have to be increased to six hundred. Sometimes it may be, said the Senator, that a J.P. is a European who doesn't know Sinhalese or Tamil or it may be that he is a Sinhalese who does not know Tamil. Therefore a large number of J.P.s would have to be appointed. The number may perhaps be double or treble the present number. There was another drawback which had to be taken into consideration. Clause 2(2) of the Bill required that an affidavit in the Swabasha in such legal proceedings as are in the English language, has to be accompanied by a translation

thereof in English, signed by an interpreter of the Supreme Court or a sworn translator, which meant additional cost to a litigant of at least two rupees for the services of a translator.

POSITION CLARIFIED

Sir Lalita Rajapakse in reply said that it was not proposed to do away with English affidavits and have Sinhalese and Tamil affidavits. What is stated in the Bill is, he added, "that if any other written law requires than an affidavit should be in the English language, this law enacts that the affidavit may be written, sworn to or affirmed in the Sinhalese and Tamil languages."

As regards the possibility of there being many more J.P.s than the number that exists today, if for instance, the affirmant, the person who swears does not know English it could be done in the Sinhalese or Tamil languages. A J.P. is appointed for utility purposes in judicial districts. If one J.P. does not understand the language of the affirmant that affirmant will go to another J.P. Generally speaking the J.P.s in the Northern Province are all Tamils who know either Tamil or English. Those in the Southern Province are all Sinhalese who know either Sinhalese or English. But in the Western Province there are a large number of J.P.s. In Colombo it is always possible to choose a person who knows Sinhalese, Tamil or English. There are instances where J.P.s are not appointed because of Commissioners of Oath functioning in practically all the Bars of the Island. "May I ask whether it is always necessary to employ a Queen's Counsel to do a certain piece of work when sometimes a junior advocate would be enough?" asked Sir Lalita who asserted that there were not only J.P.s and Commissioners of Oath but also J.P. U.M.s and, therefore, there need be no apprehension in regard to that matter.

PRIME MINISTER NEHRU is reported to have told the House of the People last week that he would like to develop a Commonwealth relationship with Asian countries similar to relations with the British Commonwealth.

He said: "It is a new type of association and the best form of relationship."

While welcoming Mr. Nehru's initiative in this matter, I wish to draw the attention of readers of this journal to the fact that this is precisely what I suggested in an article which appeared in the U.N.P. Journal in its issue of May 23, 1952, under the title "India Adopts Policy of Sweet Reasonableness." These were my comments:

"And once this Indian citizenship problem has been solved and settled, it is fervently to be hoped that India and all her neighbours in South-East Asia will devote their attention to the building of a Commonwealth led (but not dominated) by India and Pakistan. This can constitute a Commonwealth within the larger Commonwealth to which Ceylon, India and Pakistan already belong. India and Pakistan, senior partners in such a Commonwealth, can contribute their superior resources and growing skill to the economic upliftment of the whole region. Perhaps Australia and New Zealand may find it profitable to join this Commonwealth later (as being themselves more or less geographically nearer to the East than the West).

"One overwhelming advantage of such a South, South-East Asia and Antipodean Commonwealth is that it will be a great barrier against war and imperialism in the East, since by reason of its huge population and resources no predatory power would wish to have such an aggregation of races and resources arraigned against it."

AN ASIAN COMMONWEALTH

By Stanley Morrison

I then concluded the article by saying: "Since now the petty quarrel between Ceylon and India (promoted by petty-minded Indians on both sides of the Palk Straits) is as good as ended through the intervention of Shri Nehru, I can conceive of no greater task for this great and pacific statesman than to set out, with the willing co-operation of all the countries of South and South-East Asia, to build a peaceful and prosperous Asian Commonwealth which will be a lodestar both to the East and West."

Nothing could be more gratifying to a humble journalist like myself in a little corner of Asia than to see that Shri Nehru has struck on the same idea as myself. And there is no doubt that no statesman in the East is more fitted to found such a Commonwealth. Shri Nehru will be implicitly trusted by all the nations of South and South-East Asia, except perhaps Pakistan—between whom and India the Kashmir dispute rankles. However, for a start Shri Nehru might summon a conference of as many nations of Asia as possible, in order to find out how much support his idea has amongst them. Perhaps, for a start he might be up against opposition from China who might believe that countries like Thailand, Indo-China and the islands of the Indonesian Archipelago have a greater cultural affinity with the Chinese than with India. But, of course, since the proposed Commonwealth is a purely voluntary association of nations, China cannot legitimately object to free and independent nations making their own choice in the matter. Besides, it is not proposed that this Commonwealth should be a warlike association of nations. It is purely

an attempt to build up a family relationship between nations in this part of the world for the purpose of mutual economic assistance and in order that the economic position of this region might be strengthened against exploitation by the dominant Western nations—against exploitation of the kind which the natural rubber industry has suffered at the hands of the United States of America.

It must, however, be noted that India must first win the implicit trust of the nations whom she wishes to join with her in this Commonwealth project. I say India as opposed to her great leader, Shri Nehru, because while every decent man and woman in Asia trusts him, many do not have the same confidence in the Indian capitalist class and the type of Indian politician who has openly called for the use of force against Ceylon over the Indian citizenship question. After all, Shri Nehru is not immortal, and there is no guarantee that he will be succeeded by anyone with the same high spirit of statesmanship. If, however, before Shri Nehru leaves this world's stage, he could organise the kind of Commonwealth he contemplates, it would not matter so much as to whether a man of inferior calibre succeeds him, since a Commonwealth founded on liberal basic principles could protect itself against any attempt on the part of any body of people to exploit it for purely sectional interests.

It is to be hoped, therefore, that Shri Nehru will pursue the idea with all his might, despite the obstacles in his path, since he alone in Asia has the moral force to bring this great conception to fruition. The constitution of such a Common-

wealth would be the greatest monument he could leave behind him.

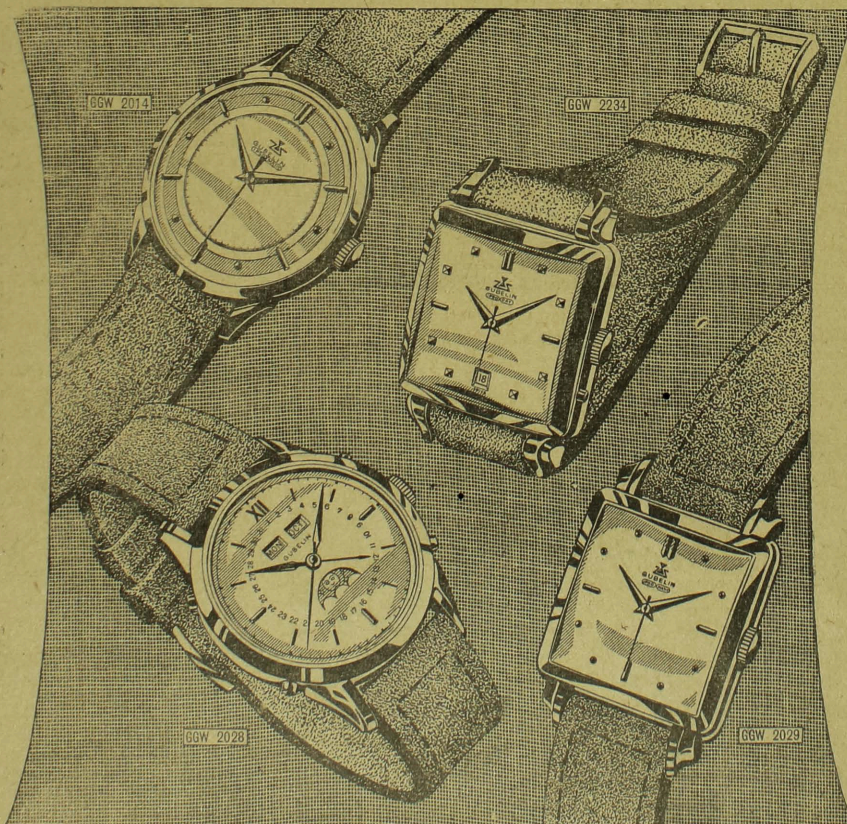
As a preliminary nothing could be better than a happy solution of the current dispute between India and Ceylon over the claims to Indian citizenship of several lakhs of Indians. The goodwill of the Ceylonese people goes out to Shri Nehru's representative, Mr. C. C. Desai, in the onerous task he has undertaken. It is to be hoped that while this extremely fair-minded and cultured Indian gentleman is in our midst no word will be spoken or written which will make his task more difficult than it need be. After all, the primary fact remains that India and Ceylon are blood-brothers and that our destinies are inextricably linked. If India prospers and becomes a great agricultural and industrial power, Ceylon is bound to benefit if she remains on friendly terms with India. I believe the day is not far off when Ceylon can send her sons and daughters to India for advanced training in agriculture and industry and cottage crafts. I also believe that the day is not far off when Hindi will become the lingua franca of the whole of South and South-East Asia. India has a wonderful future provided she will be generous to the weaker nations on her periphery and provided she does not press her own legitimate interests to the point at which her conduct could be construed as being exploitative or intimidatory.

As for Ceylon, there is no doubt that her people have a genuine fear of being swamped by South India. It is a hereditary fear and the recent flood of illicit immigrants has given a sharper edge to that fear. Nevertheless, I am convinced that the anxiety of the Prime Minister, Mr. Dudley Senanayake, to reach an agreement with Shri Nehru and the magnanimous spirit in which India's Envoy to Ceylon, Mr. Desai, has approached the Indo-Ceylon problem is a guarantee that the problem can be solved to the mutual satisfaction of both countries and in such a manner as to bind the two countries in a permanent and unbreakable bond of friendship.

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Behind The Headlines

By **Pertinax**

EVERY word of what this journal has stated from its inception about the dictatorship of a clique, and the destruction of democracy which a revolution brings in, has been endorsed by one of Ceylon's most rabid Sama Samajists, Mr. Leslie Goonewardene, in his own party paper, the issue dated March 12. In an article on Stalin's death he says:—

"There rose to power in the Soviet Union a bureaucracy, occupying the positions previously held by the masses, and having no revolutionary faith in the masses and their capacity to achieve. This bureaucracy found in Stalin their most suitable leader."

So, Mr. Goonewardene, you agree with us now that what governed the Soviet Union, which you and your rivals in the C.P. were calling the Workers' State was really a bureaucracy under Stalin. We told you so, many years before Stalin's death. You have realised it only now, and yet people like to pretend to be the repositories of political wisdom and you and your kind of politician delight in misleading both the working class and some of the younger educated classes who often think that they have found in your politics the intellectual slant which their intellectual snobbery demanded.

The lack of revolutionary faith in the masses, which, in your great wisdom you have now found to be one of the weaknesses of the Soviet Government under Stalin, was found more apparent in the L.S.S.P. in Ceylon. Don't you remember that one of your early splits arose when Dr. N. M. Perera opposed the inclusion in the L.S.S.P. High Command of uneducated workers? You would not like to admit that in the remote event of the L.S.S.P. gaining power in Ceylon there would be a repetition of the Stalinist method and you would be one of the bureaucrats to sit in judgment over the educated working class and the middle classes in Ceylon.

Mr. Goonewardene continues in an even more interesting manner and his article reads more like reprints from the U.N.P. editorials than Communist policy!

"Under the regime of Stalin and the bureaucracy, many departures from past policy took place. In the first place let us consider what were the principal changes internally. It had always been the boast of proletarian revolutionists that the revolution would not only substitute a socialist type of economic and social system in place of capitalism, but that in contrast to the capitalist political system of bourgeois democracy, that is, a genuine democracy."

Under Stalin's regime in the Soviet Union, however, the contrary has taken place. Democracy has been destroyed in the Soviets, the trade unions and the Communist Party. The secret police occupies a leading place in the country's life. All political opposition is ruthlessly suppressed. On the basis of a socialist type of economic system, not a workers' democracy but a totalitarian political regime has grown up."

So Mr. Goonewardene, you have now realized that democracy in the Soviet Union was destroyed both in the country and in the Communist Party itself? You must have been a child not to have realized this before or were you afraid of Stalin even though he was far away behind the walls of the Kremlin in Moscow? This kind of political jugglery goes down with a few lads who assemble in Bambalapitiya cafes and in odd corners of the Ceylon University. The malady with them is that they want to feel different. It is the psychological condition caused by inferiority complex. You catch these boys young when they love to sound politically profound. Some of them like to make an intellectual fetish of rattling through a series of phrases which neither they nor you understand. You had to wait till 1953 for Stalin's death to make this confession in your Party paper. More and more of your article reminds us of the line taken by the U.N.P. in all its publications, dealing with Communism.

The public of Ceylon will remember that in every booklet we pointed out that all Communist parties of the world act as agents of Kremlin, shouting for different alignments of policy in their countries from time to time and each demand being a response to the foreign policy needs of Soviet Russia. That is what we have said from the inception of our Party and that is why we have been rightly opposed to the unpatriotic Stalin's stooges of the C.P. of Ceylon.

Here is what you say Mr. Goonewardene in your front page article of your Party journal:—

"In the international field, the same distrust of the masses is evident. Under Stalinist leadership the Communist Parties of the world have subordinated the movements in their countries to the current foreign policy needs of the Soviet Government. Where the Government of one's own country is in alliance with Soviet Government, this had led the Communist Parties to oppose and sabotage the mass struggle in their countries. The sabotage of the freedom struggle of the Indian masses in August, 1942, by the Indian Communist Party is perhaps the most glaring example for us in Ceylon."

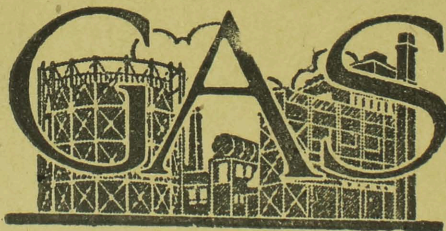
Gandhi Memorial for Washington

WASHINGTON (USIS).

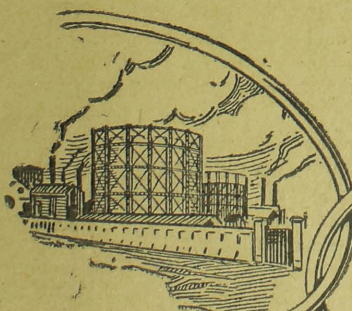
Site for a memorial to Mohandas G. Gandhi in the heart of this capital of the United States has been selected. It will stand in Barnard Hill Park in the northern area of Washington in a plot of at least five acres.

Site and exact details of the memorial have not as yet been determined but the memorial will be erected at the highest point in the area in conformance with Indian practice which dictates that such a memorial must not be dwarfed by any structure in the vicinity.

The site was selected after a number of other proposed locations were inspected under authority of a Gandhi Memorial resolution approved by the United States Congress on September 28, 1949.



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The "New Tribalism"

PRESIDING at the Kingswood College prize distribution in Randles Hall, Kandy, last Saturday, the Chief Justice, Sir Alan Rose, referred to the tendency among certain members of the majority community in Ceylon who tried to "try to divide the nation against itself by appeals to communal and religious prejudices." He asked those "self-appointed leaders of what can be best described as the 'New Tribalism' to pause and consider the harm they were doing not only to the minorities and the country, but also "to that very section of the majority community whose interests they affect to serve."

Sir Alan added: "To you present boys of the school, I would give a simple message and one which would, I know, be echoed if he was here today by that great patriot, Mr. D. S. Senanayake, the anniversary of whose death we shall be remembering tomorrow. It is: "Be a good citizen of your country."

If Ceylon, with its correspondingly small population, was ever to become a nation in the fullest sense of the term, all creeds and all communities should stand solidly together. Sir Alan declared.

"That," he said, "is the only path of wisdom and even of safety. Indeed it seems to be so obvious—and was in fact so obvious to the later Prime Minister—that you may think it is platitudinous to say it once again.

"Lately, however, there has become noticeable a tendency amongst

certain of those professing the majority religion of the majority community to try to divide the nation against itself by appeals to communal and religious prejudices. Persons of position and standing in the political and educational fields, in quest perhaps of easy popularity, have been unable to resist the temptation of addressing village audiences on the various burning topics of the day in provocative terms; not hesitating to impute motives of disloyalty to the State to those who have the misfortune to disagree with them.

"Such an attitude is not only foreign to the normally happy and tolerant nature of the Sinhalese race, but is also quite contrary to the tenets of the wise and compassionate philosophy of Buddhism.

"It is an attitude that is not only uncharitable but also politically speaking unwise. There is no surer way of creating disaffection than to charge people falsely with being disaffected."

"It is an attitude that is not only appointed leaders of what can perhaps best be described as the 'New Tribalism' to pause, before it is too late, and to consider the harm that they are doing not only to the minorities, which perhaps they are not unwilling to injure; not only to the country as a whole, which they profess to love; but also—and in the long run especially—to that very section of the majority community whose interests they affect to serve."

Wanted A Campaign Against Noise on Our Roads

HARDLY a minute passes without the sounding of motor horns or the screeching of brakes on our roads. Together with the blare of wireless sets and clanging of trams, noise must be causing considerable damage to the efficiency of the nation by this continuous persistence, driving the people to distraction.

Noise has been a contributory factor to nervous derangement and mental instability while there is no doubt that particularly sensitive people unceasingly suffer torture as a result of noise on our roads.

In many Fort offices it is almost impossible to carry on a conversation when heavy traffic like trams are passing. Tooting at offending pedestrians is probably the worst kind of offence. Such a practice is particularly dangerous to a nervous subject as it may startle him and cause him to step in front of oncoming vehicles not to mention damage to his nervous state. Even if pedestrians do ignore the rules of the road it is better, if possible, to avoid them by slowing down rather than to frighten them by sounding the horn. It is foolish to place too much reliance on the horn as a warning device. It should be the policy of the authorities to discourage the excessive and unnecessary use of the horn at all times.

Certain motorists rush at junctions and rely on a loud blowing of the horn to warn other road users. Such a practice, beside being unfair to other motorists who may have the right of way, involves obvious risks. The motorist should drive in such a manner as to be able to see his way is clear and at such a speed as to be able to stop if it is not. Only in the event of another driver neglecting to observe the rules of the road and thus bringing about an emergency is the sounding of the horn justified.

It is time an effective campaign for noiseless driving not necessarily in silent zones only, is started. Drivers of all vehicles should be sufficiently alert and drive in such a manner and at such a speed as to make it unnecessary for them to rely too much on sounding their horns.

It is difficult to say when a horn should be sounded and when it should not. On the open road when the driver is about to overtake another vehicle the horn may be sounded. The other driver may be unaware of the approaching vehicle unless warned by the horn and may swing out unexpectedly into the path of the oncoming car. But the sounding of the horn before overtaking should not be indulged in during daytime in built up areas. Owing to the density of traffic such a practice would unlikely be confusing than helpful.

The noise of traffic for certain patients is bad but an excess is just as bad to citizens as a whole and unless steps are taken to abate it, it would soon be a case of "Save the Nation from the ravages of Noise."

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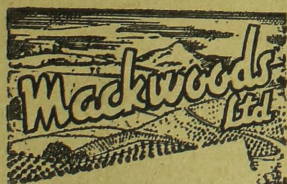
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PADDY PRODUCTION PLAN

The Paddy Lands Bill has reached the final stage of Parliamentary approval. The first draft of this Bill was prepared nearly four years ago. Various circumstances prevented it from reaching that stage till now. The Bill was considered by two Committees because after the first Committee had examined it, heard representations and the matter was gone into in great detail. Parliament was dissolved and the whole procedure had to be repeated by the new Parliament. Once again, the various suggestions made in debate were fully examined, certain drafting amendments were introduced and the Bill was passed by the House of Representatives. It has now been passed by the Senate and it is gratifying to note that it is really an achievement that the Bill was passed without a single dissentient voice. The tone of the debate was in keeping with the object the Government was so anxious to secure.

It is well known that there are difficulties which other countries that adopted wholesale nationalization have had in introducing such legislation. Landowners have all banded themselves together and taken every possible step to prevent the passage of laws, which give a fair deal to the tenant as against the landowner. Ownership of land is a matter jealously guarded by owners in all countries, and tenancy is a matter of great concern, not only to tenants, but also to land-owners. The Bill, therefore, deals with a very contentious subject. The Bill is intended to achieve three main objects. The first object relates to what may be regarded as reasonable permanency of tenure. The second object is to ensure to the tenant a reasonable share of the crop or a money payment in lieu, in other words to ensure that the owner does not collect more than a reasonable share of the crop. The third object is that when either an owner or a tenant or both jointly fail to satisfactorily cultivate any paddy land, the prescribed authority can take over such land and cultivate it in paddy, thus maintaining unrestricted production of food.

As regards the third object some folk appear to be worried

about the right of taking such forcible steps as are necessary to obtain possession of the land. That is not aimed against the tenant but mainly against the landlord. It is the landlord who might put into the land some hired labourer or employee of his and prevent Government from taking possession of it. The sole object of the Bill is to help the tenant as against the landlord. The Bill will never be utilized to penalise a tenant. It is common knowledge in this country that there are landlords—absentee landlords who are not interested as they should be in cultivating their paddy lands. The owners are in most cases residents of Colombo and other provincial towns who entrust the care of their lands to the gambarayo who in most cases are headmen. It was stated by a Senator that these "gambaryo" get in league with the boutique-keepers and advance money to the poor cultivators thus inducing them to make over their share of paddy at a lower rate per bushel and sell it to mill-owners at a higher rate. It is to prevent such transactions and secure the tenant—the man working on the land, the person who has made the land what it is. Otherwise the "tenant of today would become the hired labourer of tomorrow." It is fervently hoped that such a state of affairs would be prevented.

The scheme is for a restricted application of the law as there is a great deal to be learnt yet. The cultivators in this country are not yet accustomed to work the scheme. The last thing that the Government would do in the introduction of a paddy production scheme would be "to start an island-wide revolt of land-owners and tenants against the operation of this law." The restriction of the area of application should give the opportunity to study the operation of the scheme. In course of time it may be possible to apply this law wherever it is needed. As stated by Sir Oliver "we know how easy it is to introduce penal legislation, price control and all those things that are difficult of implementation. We will simply be leaving tenant and landlord to the mercy of probably unscrupulous headmen, vel vidanes and other junior members of the subordinate staff."

It augurs well for the future of Ceylon that Government has been able to introduce a piece of social legislation of such a far-reaching nature as is contemplated by the Paddy Lands Bill.

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HE WROUGHT OUR FREEDOM

By Quintus Delilkhan

THE ample and generous demonstrations made all over the Island on the first anniversary of the death of the late Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. D. S. Senanayake, is proof of the abiding love of the people of Ceylon for his memory.

The whole island gratefully remembers that in the dark days of her destiny, when the future was filled with an unlimned obscurity, Mr. Senanayake had the confident faith of the man who was prepared to do his duty in the time and place and the circumstances in which he found himself, and do it also to the utmost of his capacity.

Mr. Senanayake has become an inspiration to the nation because of that directness and ardour in his enthusiasm for freedom which enabled him to sustain not only his own patience and courage, but also the patience and courage of others, in the long, painful and trying struggle for the freedom of this country.

It is only the lesser minds and smaller hearts which look for the immediate result. It is true wisdom to wait, whilst working, for the change in the tide of circumstance which brings a country at last into the harbour of freedom. The whole odyssey of endless effort strengthens the stamina of the true patriot. He does not count the cost. He pays it freely. Everything seems distant. But there is an ending to the weariest journey. And today we have our freedom.

Mr. Senanayake must be honoured for apparently unrewarding labour of years, when he could not know whether he would live to see the day of his country's freedom. He has however by his faith and high confidence in the people of this country earned for them that heritage of liberty which has made possible all the magnificent developments which we see around us. Under the old order of things, it was necessary that we should accept only what was reluctantly granted to us.

The major activities of the ruling power were directed to building up the economic prosperity of favoured classes in the country. Protest and exhortation appeared to be equally futile. But Mr. Senanayake has now made possible for us a free government which acts with the sole purpose of increasing at the quickest possible pace, the prosperity and happiness of the people.

All our achievements within recent years must be traced to the heroic effort of the late Prime Minister to forge the bonds of our unity, after freedom had been attained, and even before it, to raise the standards of living in the country by increasing its sources of wealth, to rouse men to a sense of their duty both to themselves and to their country. His noble idealism had a practical aspect, and being himself a man who knew the virtue that resides in men of the soil in their sense of the realities around them and their boon knowledge of the good earth, his very idealism had abundant and fructifying results.

What seemed his obstinacy in sinking millions in making it possible for the waste places to be cultivated was actually an understanding loyalty to his vision of our future prosperity. If we have abundant food in this country, the whole character of our present economy would be transformed. It was on this sensible assumption that he went forward with his schemes. It may not be before long that we actually reap the harvest of his agricultural schemes. They have to be dealt with under better technical conditions, but there can be no

doubt whatsoever that if he had not built the foundations, we would not in this period be in a position to build the superstructure.

It was also remarkable that though not possessing the culture of universities which is held to broaden and liberalize the mind in a special manner, he had, however, a bigger and more humane attitude than any of those who possessed these advantages.

This was due to the fact that he had no complicated or acquired prejudices which the cultured are sometimes liable to possess. Whilst they were conscious of classes, gradations and orders of men, Mr. Senanayake looked on men simply as men. Each one of them represented to him a citizen with the potentialities of a citizen who had to be enabled to live in peace and happiness in this country. It is not so easy to acquire this way of looking at human beings.

Hence he created a universal confidence. He was the leader not of any classes but of all men who desired to preserve the democratic way of life in this country. Even those who wilfully had put themselves out of the pale he was prepared to treat with justice. He could afford to be just because he knew how and when to be unbending, firm and strong.

He knew the moment which was ripe for action. All this may seem easy, but in a moment of crisis few men would act with the calm confidence that he was able to summon to all he did with an instinctive sense of rightness.

It is this quality which lifted him above the efficiency of the politician into the high region of statesmanship. He had no motive but to promote, not merely the present, but the future interests of this country. This created a clarity of outlook which enabled him to pick out his essential objectives with unerring aim.

He was big enough to oppose the exponents of small fanaticisms and nationalistic sentimentalities which could be indulged in only by those who did not have his lively and instant sense of justice. Hence his being able to dare being opposed to the inflaming of national feelings when he saw they were exaggerated and unjust, and a mere expression of the intoxication of new-found power under freedom.

All classes of people in this country therefore felt the utmost confidence in his judgment, and he was accordingly to them the Father of the Nation.

It is not enough that we should pay only the homage of words and celebrations to one who gave himself entirely and unstintingly in the cause of the people. It is not enough for us to have obtained freedom.

We must spread, consolidate and perfect it by individual efforts. We should not merely profit by our freedom, but we should feel proud of it and, with an intensifying of self-respect and of gratitude make it grow and flourish.

This is an age in which we cannot afford to remain idle citizens who are content to allow others to work for maintaining our freedom and be inactive amidst the turmoils of conflicting ideologies.

There is no doubt that the future prosperity of the country will depend on our active co-operation as a people. No Government can function fully if this active and universal co-operation is absent within the framework of the State.

The Government cannot act alone. We cannot be complacent as citizens, and then expect perfect miracles of prosperity to take place.

We must see that the Government which Mr. Senanayake has made possible, with the preservation of our fundamental freedom, is strengthened in the years to come by our giving our fullest and most strenuous support to our democratic government to make possible the vigorous continuance of the democratic way of life in Ceylon for all time.

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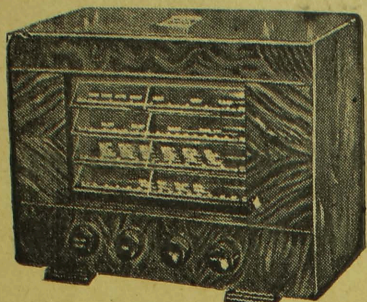
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Too Many Appeals to Privy Council

Says M. P. For Horana

ON a Supplementary Supply motion introduced in the House of Representatives by the Minister of Finance, involving a sum of Rs. 203,420, money required to pay certain bills remitted by the Crown Agents for the services of lawyers who appeared for us in the Privy Council, a debate ensued on the large number of appeals in recent years, which needed checking up.

"At present there is plenty of money in the country," asserted Mr. M. D. H. Jayawardene, M.P. for Horana, in commenting on the motion, "and many people are taking appeals before the Privy Council even on matters where the Supreme Court refuses leave, with the result that the Crown has to be represented in these appeals and the Attorney-General's Department incurs large sums of money to retain counsel in the U.K. It should be only on matters where leave is granted by the Supreme Court where certain points of evidence or law are involved that these appeals should be taken to the Parliament.

As a matter of fact, I think last year the number of appeals had almost been more than the number of appeals that went up in the three preceding years; so that we must have to seriously consider whether the discretion exercised by the Attorney-General to appeal in these cases where the Supreme Court takes a different view from him, is worth being continued. Certainly we know that the Privy Council is constituted of most eminent judges. We should really appeal to the Privy Council only on certain constitutional matters.

A PARTICULAR CASE

I may mention a particular case

where the Attorney-General has appealed to the Privy Council long after it could have served a useful purpose. A large number of writs were taken against the Textile Controller in 1945 and 1946, where the Supreme Court held that before a writ could be issued, the Textile Controller could act under Section 62 and hold an inquiry; but the Attorney-General decided to appeal to the Privy Council in 1952, long after textile control had been abolished. We spend large sums of money simply to decide whether the Supreme Court was correct or the Attorney-General's view was correct and for this we go before the Privy Council. As a matter of fact we have been spending nearly Rs. 450,000 on these appeals.

A RECENT CASE

There was a recent case where four Judges of the Court of Criminal Appeal had taken one view, but the Attorney-General appealed and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council took a different view. I respectfully submit to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice to consider seriously the proposal now before the Supreme Court Commission about the division of the Supreme Court into two grades; a superior grade dealing with appeals and another grade for the other work of the Supreme Court. The superior grade can deal with the Court of Criminal Appeal work and civil appeals. On matters of constitutional importance, appeals may be taken to the Privy Council and I trust the Minister of Justice would seriously consider limiting Privy Council appeals only to matters of Constitutional importance."

Ceylon Indian Teachers In America

WASHINGTON (USIS).

TWO South Asian educators, Raman Vakil of Bombay, and Gamini D. Wijeyewardene of Colombo, were among the twenty-three teachers representing thirteen foreign countries recently studying American educational techniques at Stanford University, Palo Alto, California, and participating in com-

munity activities in and around the university campus.

Vakil, president of the Modern School in Bombay, and Wijeyewardene, of the Government Training College in Colombo, attended classes at Stanford under sponsorship of the United States Office of

(Continued on page 9)

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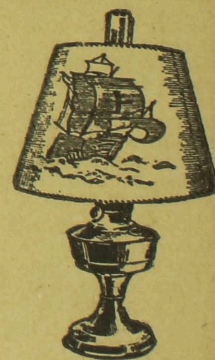
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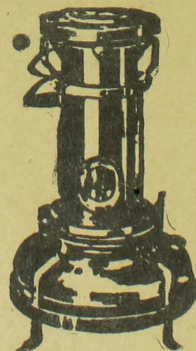
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ON RUMOURS

DOWN from the village of Kosgama comes the pitiful news that a 20-year-old girl, Ariyawathie Wijesinghe, is alleged to have committed suicide, by setting fire to herself after wrapping her body in rags sprinkled with kerosene oil. The reason for her rash act as reported in the Press is that she was annoyed over a rumour current in her village that she was in love with a married man!

Perhaps Ariyawathie was a bit too sensitive. But the moral of the tale is that a false rumour can do immense damage that is more often than not irreparable.

I cannot think of any epitaph more befitting to be put over her grave than those beautiful lines in Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing."

"Done to death by slanderous tongues
Was the Hero that here lies,

Death in guerdon of her wrongs
Gives her fame which never dies.

So the life that died with shame
Lives in death with glorious fame."

The habit of spreading false rumours is almost a national characteristic with us—purely Oriental for a matter of that. Rumours are set afloat in the West too, but rarely with a malicious intent. Such rumours are more often propelled with the idea of having a little fun

at another's expense. Judge, for instance, the recent rumour, that Randolph Turpin, the British middle-weight champion, had been killed in a car crash in North Wales—while Turpin was actually fast asleep in Gwrych, Denbighshire!

People given to scandal are a menace to any decent society. It is a lamentable fact that the habit of spreading rumours is widely prevalent in Ceylon. It is a sad reflection on the mentality of the people.

There are two types of people, who are responsible for rumours—those who fabricate tales, and those who broadcast them. The former indulge in concocting tales about other people with no compunction whatsoever; while the latter are possessed with a curious mania for spreading them.

The passage of a rumour is essentially an osmotic process. It percolates through the credulity of light-minded people. It extracts a new increment of validity from each person who has been responsible for its transit. This reminds me of the old pantomime song:

"The captain told the cook, the cook told the crew,

The crew told me, so the story must be true."

K. RAJENDRAN.

Ceylon Indian Teachers in America

(Continued from page 8)

Education program, designed to give foreign students the benefit of America's pioneering experience in mass education and an intimate contact with American family life.

LIVED WITH FAMILY

Vakil resided with a Palo Alto family. The initial problem was food. The family quickly altered its normal meat-eating Protestant household diet to make their guest feel completely at home.

As time went on, the host table sported many Indian dishes. In turn, Vakil grew absorbed in television, especially during the recent national election.

Vakil said he was able to assess the result of American teaching methods better by living with the family than he could have simply by observing those methods in action on visits the teachers made to various secondary schools in the area.

He said the education system for

children was serving to fit them better for life than the systems current in India. He praised the comparatively greater freedom American children have in choosing their studies and friends—in fact, in directing their lives.

PREACHES IN CHURCH

While attending classes at Stanford and giving lectures on Ceylon, Wijeyewardene preached a sermon at Palo Alto's First Christian Church.

Both educators watched a student council meeting at a Palo Alto high school, saw football games at Stanford University stadium, and assisted with lectures given by the 23 foreign teachers who spoke to a cumulative audience of over 10,000 persons, at 100 sessions.

The educators are now completing their American tour with visits to departments of education and schools in various states including Texas, Louisiana, and Wisconsin. They will arrive in Washington before returning home.—("Chronicle.")



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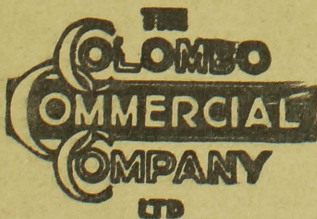
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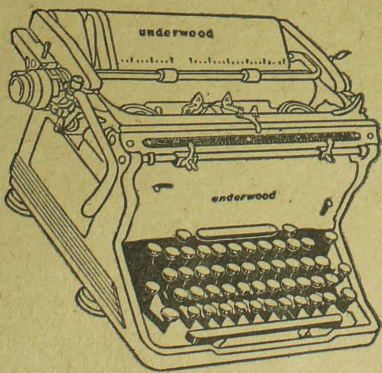
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How to Tide Over Our Financial Difficulties

By Civis

A REVIEW of the published reports on the accounts of the Island for the last four years discloses an interesting insight to the financial predicament we are in today. Before I deal with the subject of the avenues hitherto untapped by Government to obtain extra revenue it will be necessary to comment on the losses the Government has incurred during the past few years. It would be helpful to the State to know whether such losses could have been avoided had there been a high degree of efficiency, a stricter control of public funds or to some extent a sense of patriotism.

Since October 1947 to end of September 1951 a sum approximately Rs. 2,700,000 has been written off as irrecoverable, Rs. 4,250,000 was lost to the State due to fraud and negligence, that is of known cases, and a further sum of Rs. 426,000 was waived. Apart from this, the losses in the working of the Co-operative Development scheme for two years ending 30.9.48 reached Rs. 22,000,000. The losses in the working of various industries for three years ending September 1950 was in the region of Rs. 14,000,000. Excess of payments over receipts in the functioning of State farms was approximately Rs. 1,000,000. In addition various other losses may aggregate to a further Rs. 5,000,000, not considering of course the enormous losses on the working of the Food Commissioner's Departments. Were these monies saved to Government our financial position would not be so unsatisfactory as it is today. Remedial action on the part of Government to prevent a recurrence of such losses is necessary and the experts on the organisation and methods division of the Treasury instead of dabbling in printed forms and division of work should find a solution to this problem.

Accumulation of arrears of Revenue especially income tax is on the upward trend. At the end of financial year 1947-48 the amount of income tax arrears stood at Rs. 29,000,000 and this increased every successive year to show a final sum of Rs. 62,000,000 outstanding as arrears of income tax at the end of September 1951. The causes for non-recovery or the delay in enforcing the law needs investigation. Another job for the organisation and methods division.

There are 3600 Milk Feeding centres in the Island. And over 5000 Rural Development Societies. The switch over of the Milk Distributing Scheme to the Rural Development Societies and its supervision entrusted to Rural Development Officers should engage the serious attention of the Government. This would save the Government a considerable sum of money which it wastes today in the employment of superfluous staff.

In looking for new sources of Revenue the Government should take the question of rates charged for search of land registers, issue of birth or death certificates and the stamp duty levied on mortgages and transfers. The present rates have been in existence for the last several years and a slight increase in the charges would not be universally felt or resented compared to establishment and other running costs of the Department concerned.

Today thousands prefer to pay eight cents and purchase a box of matches manufactured in Finland. The regulated price for a local product is 34 cents but one normally pays 4 cents as the balance change of a half cent is not given or demanded. There would be absolutely no objection to Government raising the duty on each box of matches by half a cent so that instead of the half cent accruing to the trader it may go to our own State coffers. Similarly the postage for a ordinary letter should be increased to six cents as it was sometimes ago.

The halving of the price of arrack was welcome indeed but the Government missed a glorious opportunity of getting added revenue by not supplying the container and charging a fixed price for same. Instead it allowed the renter to levy a price ranging from 80 cents to Rs. 1 for the bottle in cases where an empty was not surrendered.

The question of reducing expenditure in Government Departments needs careful comment. I would however state that the first step in this direction is to minimise the necessity for travelling. Today many Government Departments are employing large field staffs. Under the Provincial Administration scheme there are Divisional Revenue Officers all over the country as well who are also in receipt of large travelling allowances. Some of the work done by field officers of other Government Departments could be executed by Divisional Revenue Officers with considerable saving to Government. Heads of Departments who have got into the habit of going on inspections when any information on the proposed inspection could be obtained from his outstation head or representative should be advised to restrict routine inspections forthwith for these take a large slice off the travelling vote.

The wastage in stationery, the purchase of equipment which is not essential are other factors which need consideration. Above all the working of the Government Stores Department needs careful investigation. The system of ordering for goods even though on a tender basis needs scrutiny. I have seen articles purchased on tender and supplied by the Stores Department to other Government Departments which articles could have been purchased outside or independently at rates between 25 to 40 per cent. lower than those charged for by the successful tenderer. I hope these few suggestions will help the Government for Ceylon belongs to me as well.

Too Many Petrol Sheds in the City?

The attention of Government was drawn by Senator de Zoysa to the fact that opposite the Sinhalese Sports Club, near Alexandra Place, within a distance of about 250 fathoms, there are about six petrol sheds. Was the Government aware that petrol sheds were springing up all over the city in blocks of land which can be utilized for buildings for residential purposes? Considering that there were more petrol sheds than were necessary for the needs of consumers within the city, would Government see to it that no more petrol sheds are allowed to spring up?

MATTER FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Sir Oliver Goonetilleke said he was, in regard to the increase in the number of petrol stations, with the Senator in spirit. He feared there were too many vehicles on our roads. He only hoped that the national income of this country would increase in proportion to the increase in the number of buses and cars and even petrol sheds.

"It will be terrible for us if we came to a time when there are too many buses and too few people to travel in them. I think the control of the number of petrol sheds is a matter entirely in the hands of the local authorities. I am not even sure of that. I think the only way the local authority can control the erection of petrol sheds is by prescribing the extent of land on which such a shed can be erected," he added, promising to have the matter examined by the proper authority.

Alutgama Vidyalaya O. B. A. Celebration

PITIGALA, Monday

THE fifth annual celebration of the Alutgama Vidyalaya Old Boys' Association was held on the 7th which was a memorable day for the old boys of this institution for never before on such occasions did the old boys show such enthusiasm. From morning the old boys began to pour into the school from various parts of the Island such as Polonnaruwa, Kandy and Hambantota. More than 100 old boys were present this being the record for the past five years. The day's proceedings began with a volley-ball match between the past and the present, latter winning the match.

Luncheon was next served. Mr. Carl Kellar, Assistant Accountant, Messrs. H. Vasseurs and Co., Ltd., and his brother, Mr. Denis A. Kellar who were present, were the most senior old boys of the school from the time of Mr. R. H. Brohier, the founder of the school.

Mr. D. F. Gunawardena, the Principal, presided.

The growing need of the school at the moment, said Mr. Gunawardena, was a science laboratory for which O. B. A. Diamond Jubilee Fund was launched three years ago with the target of Rs. 60,000 but so far only a fraction of it had been collected, but he hoped the old boys would take a keen interest and hit the target soon.

There was an immediate response from one of the old boys, Mr. D. S. de Silva, who donated Rs. 50 to the Principal. And Mr. F. S. Kalinga, Inspector of Arts, Kandy, promised to donate Rs. 500 before the next O.B.A. celebration.

At the general meeting that was held in the evening the following were elected office-bearers:—

Patron: Reverend Peiris (Manager of the School)

President: Mr. D. F. Gunawardena, Principal.

Vice-Presidents: Mr. L. H. de Silva, Mr. L. R. H. Peiris and Mr. E. C. G. Wickramasinghe.

Joint Secretaries: Mr. F. S. Kalinga and Mr. M. D. D. Gunaratna.

Treasurer: Mr. L. Helton de Silva.

Auditor: Mr. W. I. de Silva and a Committee of 15 was also elected.

CEYLON'S POPULATION

THE increasing of Ceylon's population has become a heavy problem to the Government of Ceylon. According to the Government statistics the annual increase of the population is 250,000. Considered thus in every hour there is an increase of twenty-five. In sixteen years hence the population of Ceylon will be twice as that of today. At this rate of population increase the Government will not be able to increase the agriculture and other development schemes at the same rate. Therefore whether there should be family planning among Ceylonese has become a heavy problem to be solved. If there was no family planning in the eras as that of Anuradhapura period when the population was greater than that of today, why should there be family planning now, is a question asked by those who are against the birth control. If there is no birth control how can the food be supplied to the rapidly increasing population of today is the question put forward by the other party. Therefore certainly this has become a heavy problem to the present Government. An increasing population can be regarded as a blessing to a country where an agricultural life is predo-

minant. To have a large number of children to a family was regarded as a blessing because an increase of the birth rate was an asset to the maintenance of that family.

Not only Ceylon but also a large number of countries of the world have to solve this problem. Birth control naturally takes place in a large number of countries where earthquakes take place and also in a large number of countries which are subjected to wars. But still Ceylon is a blessed country in that respect. Unlike in the past when the health services of the mothers and children were in an unsatisfactory condition today it is just the opposite and this can be mentioned as a congratulation to the present day Government.

According to the world opinion Ceylon is the most peaceful and happy country in the whole of South and South-East Asia. We in Ceylon are having a democratic Government and the Ceylon Government will not do anything against the wishes of the majority of the people. So in the case of birth control too the Government will carry out the wish of the majority. Otherwise the Communists will reap the harvest and all our freedoms will be in peril.

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The operations of this Association are spread throughout the Commonwealth and, besides having Branch Offices in all the capital cities of Australia and New Zealand, it has District Offices in practically every town of note in Great Britain and in South Africa, and in the East is represented at Bombay, Calcutta, Singapore, and Hongkong. Ceylon Branch is the central office for the control of the four establishments last mentioned.

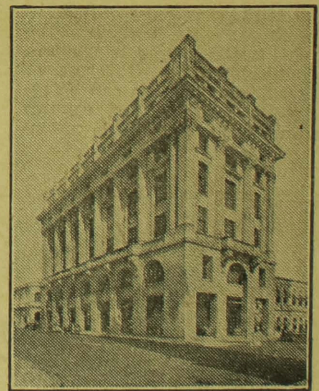
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