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The Importance of Soil Conservation Reconnaissance of Gal Oya Catchment Area

THE question raised in the House of Representatives by Mr. Singleton-Salmon regarding the employment of Dr. R. M. Gorrie as Soil Conservation Officer, and the reply of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture and Food, giving only a list of that officer's reports and tour notes—the contents of which were not immediately available—have aroused a considerable amount of conjecture and uncertainty about the various irrigation projects and land development schemes. A certain uneasiness has also crept in as a result of the report on the economic of Ceylonese by the mission organized by the International Bank for reconstruction and development at the request of the Ceylon Government. The dangers of flood erosion in the catchment area of the Gal Oya Reservoir are mentioned and an early set up for soil conservation is advised.

The Soil Conservation Officer in a report issued in January, 1950, is of opinion that erosion in the hills where the Gal Oya and its tributaries rise is "much more serious than is generally realized," observes that the silt carried is likely to adversely affect the economic forecast for the scheme by curtailing the useful life of the reservoir at Inginiyagala to possibly less than 20 years of the date when the main dam is closed.

Commenting on this the Acting Director of Irrigation (Mr. Guthrie) wrote: "I am fully in agreement that unless soil conservation is set up in the Gal Oya catchment area the usefulness of the reservoir would be impaired in say 100 years or so, but I do not agree with Dr. Gorrie's

figure of 20 years."

The Chief Designer and Research Engineer of the Irrigation Department who prepared the designs and estimates for the proposal which were checked and finalised under the guidance of Dr. J. L. Savage, the architect and master of the world's highest dam—Boulder Dam in Nevada, U.S.A., makes the following statement:—

"In the design and the estimate of the useful life of the reservoir a 'dead storage' is always allowed for and according to the physical measurement of silt transported in the river, this estimated period for the 'dead storage,' to be really dead, is 400 years. From studies based on observations of similar schemes, the country need not fear this tragedy—a silt plain where Gal Oya existed. Minneriya is 1,700 years old and still going strong."

WHAT RECONNAISSANCE DISCLOSED

Owing to the diverse views expressed, the advisability of carrying out lists of the silt-bearing capacity was realised. In order to locate the "Sore Spots" from which silt is carried away, the recommendation of Dr. Gorrie, that a rough survey of the catchment area was undertaken on an organised scale. The total area inspected was reported to be 352 square miles in extent and the land was classified in the following terms:—

	acres
Village gardens	15,075
Paddy with gardens	7,850
Chenaed jungle	55,873
Patana and park land	86,370
Dhammana and forest	57,715
Tea and rubber estates	2,260

The relative contribution of silt to the reservoir by erosion from the above extents and types of land, is stated in the report to be:—

Village gardens and paddy with gardens	6%
Chenaed jungle	28%
Patana and park land	47%
Dhammana and forest	19%

SILT CARRYING CAPACITY?

Dr. Gorrie observes that he was convinced of the quantity of silt carried down in heavy storm by examining streams coming out of the catchment area. On this eye test he contends that the flood of 1940-41 must have carried roughly 180,000 acre feet of silt, which, if the dam was then built, would have lowered the storage capacity of the reservoir by 24 per cent. The silt-carrying capacity test of the Gal Oya river carried out by the Director of Irrigation in the Hydraulic Laboratory of a sample of 40 gallons of water collected from somewhere below

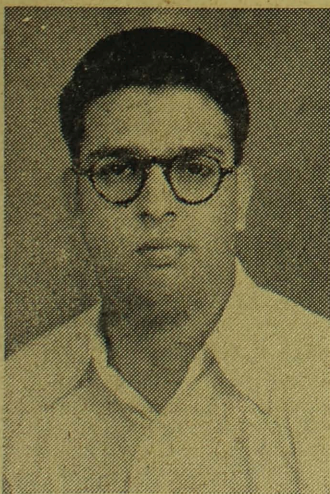
(Continued on page 2)

Sir John Off to London

A very large gathering was present at the Passenger Jetty on Monday to bid au revoir to Sir John Kotelawala, Leader of the House of Representatives who left by the Strathaird for the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth in London. He was accompanied by his mother Mrs. Alice Kotelawala. Sir John will disembark at Port Said and take plane to London from Cairo to be in time to propose the toast of the Queen as Ceylon's Parliamentary Representative at a public function of Commonwealth Ministers in London.

The Prime Minister and Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, Minister of Agriculture and Food were among those present at the Jetty to see them off.

Another M. M. C. Joins The U. N. P.



Mr. M. H. Mohamed

Mr. M. H. Mohamed, Member of the Colombo Municipal Council representing Maligawatte Ward since 1947 as an Independent, joined the United National Party as from the 1st instant. "When I say I am independent, I mean, I belong to no particular party. As such I contested and won against a Communist and two other Independent candidates," said Mr. Mohamed who

has just joined an established political party, the U.N.P.

The ward he represents is in a congested part of the City, Muslims predominating in a population between three and four thousand. It was in such a neglected area, almost isolated from the rest of the city, innocent of street lights or water service. Since his election six years ago he has succeeded in providing both amenities. On the expiry of his first term he was returned uncontested the next term. A sub-Post Office was opened, a bridge connecting Maligawatte with Paradise Place was built, thus providing easy access to Panchikawatte. A bus service from Maradana via Drieberg's Lane reaching Base Line Road, has been installed and transport facilities have thus been afforded to the residents of that ward.

Arrangements are well in hand to establish a Reading Room for the public, which will be declared open by the Prime Minister on his return after the Queen's Coronation. An Ayurvedic Free Dispensary has been opened in the second term of service by Mr. Mohamed who has plans for further amenities which are needed for his ward. Improvement of the slums which abound in that area will shortly be undertaken and plans for other amenities are being prepared by Mr. Mohamed who is daily gaining popularity in his ward.

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THE U. S. A's. NEW ECONOMIC POLICY

By Stanley Morrison

IN a month from now the Commonwealth Premiers will have met in conference once again in order to find out what progress could be made in their plans for economic development as a result of the talks Mr. Anthony Eden and Mr. R. A. Butler, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, had had in Washington in March last. What are the prospects for the U.S.A. adopting a policy of "trade not aid?" Unfortunately, the fact has to be faced that the prospects are by no means bright. In fact, the truth is that the Commonwealth will have to face up to the fact that it will have to depend on its own efforts and its own financial resources for its future progress, since the isolationist wing of the American Congress has already begun to block the enlightened economic policies of President Eisenhower. It would, therefore, be utterly unrealistic for the forthcoming Commonwealth Conference to bank on American co-operation as regards either or trade in framing its future economic policies.

Why do I paint such a gloomy picture of the economic scene? Because of the latest American moves, which clearly show that, except for President Eisenhower and his Treasury Chief, Mr. George Humphrey, a large section of the American Congress displays no sense of responsibility whatever as regards the great role the democratic nations expect the U.S.A. to play as the natural leader of the democratic bloc. It is a fact that the President of the U.S.A. and his chief henchmen in the administration together with 1,600,000 businessmen, who are members of the American Chamber of Commerce, all take a highly enlightened view of the U.S.A.'s duty towards the other members of the democratic bloc. But, at this very moment, when the President is emphasising the vital need of the U.S.A. contributing to the economic stability of the democratic bloc, the isolationists have seen fit to present to Congress a bill entitled the Simpson Bill which seeks to impose major restrictions on the President's right to reduce tariffs in order to carry out his policy of "trade not aid." This pernicious bill calls upon the President to shut off imports causing or even threatening to cause "unemployment or injury to American workers, miners, farmers or producers, producing like or competitive articles or the impairment of national security," and requires him to put into effect any tariff increases or quotas recommended by the Tariff Commission which is packed with protectionists. Thus, at the very time when the U.S.A. has persuaded the U.K. Government to tighten its control of exports of strategic goods to China, the American Congress threatens to shut off even what little trade there is between the U.S.A. and Britain and the other democratic nations. A more disheartening gesture on the part of the U.S.A. in a period when the economic stability of the whole Commonwealth is threatened cannot be imagined. Who will win this great battle of "trade not aid" in the U.S.A.—the President and his wise advisers, or Congress led by the iso-

lationist "march hares?"

How serious a view is taken in Britain of the latest "protectionist" moves of the American Congress is indicated by a speech made a few days ago at the British Industries Fair by Mr. Peter Thorneycroft, President of the British Board of Trade. He said: "A highly protectionist America, particularly if her purpose was to reduce aid, would create a world which must learn to do increasingly without American goods. That is a world which we would not wish to see." This was an obvious reference to the Simpson Bill now before a Congress Committee.

Coming on top of the big cut in the American Foreign Aid budget, the Simpson Bill is the last straw on the democratic camel's back. Of course, President Eisenhower has reduced the Foreign Aid allocation drastically because he desires to introduce a policy of "trade not aid." But if the isolationist wing of Congress has its own way, the democratic world will have neither trade nor aid. And if the carrying out of a policy of "trade not aid" is going to take a long time, then the democratic world outside the U.S.A. will be faced with financial difficulties of such a grave nature that the very stability of governments will be threatened.

It is a good thing, therefore, that the Commonwealth Premiers are due to meet very shortly, since they will be able to confront the U.S.A. with a definite economic proposition from the whole of the Commonwealth, to which the U.S. Congress will have to give an adequate reply. That question in simple terms is: Is the U.S. Congress willing to commit itself irrevocably to a policy of "trade not aid," which means opening the doors of the vast American market to the exports of the democratic group of nations? If the answer is "No," then the democratic bloc will have to completely revise its economic policies and rely more on self-help than outside help. It possesses enormous material wealth and tremendous resources of business brains and skilled and unskilled manpower. It is, therefore, not beyond the wit of its ablest men to devise ways and means by which the whole bloc could be made a going concern through the co-operation of Western Europe with the Commonwealth and South-East Asia, without the aid of the American market, if the latter becomes predominantly protectionist. The nations which built the civilisation and culture of Europe and the men who mould the destinies of the Commonwealth still have it in them to meet and overcome the grave problems which confront them today. As Mr. Peter Thorneycroft said: "A highly protectionist America, particularly if her purpose was to reduce aid, would create a world which must learn to do increasingly without American goods."

The choice now lies with the U.S.A. Will that enormously wealthy people accept their enlightened President and their Chamber of Commerce as guides in the perilous days that are to come, or are the "isolationists" to triumph and to help to fulfil the prophecy of Stalin that the capitalist nations will quarrel and fall out? The forthcoming Commonwealth Premiers' Conference will bring the issue to a head once and for all.

The Importance of Soil Conservation

(Continued from page 1)

mid-depth of the river (where most of the silt will be expected to be collected) disclosed on analysis the presence of 240 parts of silt in a million parts of water by weight.

In these conflicting circumstances, the examination showed a fair average rate of silting, ignoring quite exceptional cases to be 75 acre feet per 100 square miles per year. Hence on the basis of 380 square miles of catchment above the dam and storage capacity of 770,000 acre feet it will require 1,350 years of siltation to reduce the Gal Oya reservoir capacity 50 per cent.

THE LIFE OF A RESERVOIR
 "The life of a reservoir," states the

Designs Engineer, "is the period it takes to silt up completely. The silt to fill the reservoir must be brought by the rivers that flow into it. The rivers are fed by the silt or sand that gets dislodged during rains or flow of water caused by such rains and carried in suspension or as a rolling mass..... Erosion exists in any kind of land but it does not mean that all the disabled soil will find its way to the river system and thence to the reservoir..... The Gal Oya Catchment with only 6 per cent. of its area under all forms of development offers the greatest protection against silting. As the basin stands, there is no danger of the silting in 20 years."

History of Rice and Wheat

By D. L. Perera

RICE which is one of the oldest cultivated plants was grown in China at least over 4,000 years ago. Its cultivation is restricted to the Southern part of China and is evidently native to that country. Rice was introduced to India from China and perhaps from India into Egypt, Ceylon and other Western Asiatic and Southern European countries. From Europe it was introduced to America three hundred and fifty years ago. It is clear that settlers following in the wake of the discovery of the new world by Columbus, cultivated both wheat and rice. Today we obtain the major bulk of our rice requirements from China and it would not appear strange that we should do so for China was the first country in the known world to have cultivated and exported rice on a commercial basis.

The decay and fall of Chinese civilisation resulting in the large acreage of land annually devoted to the cultivation of rice being neglected and China's failure as such to make her contribution of rice as a large part of her export trade, put her off as the once chief supplier of the world's requirements in rice. Modern China emerging under a new doctrine is regaining her ancient and natural prestige. It took nearly 150 years since the introduction of rice cultivation for Americans to produce it on a large scale although this activity was restricted only to the low lying states. The outbreak of Civil War had a profound effect on rice cultivation. Property was destroyed and money and labour became scarce. As a result rice cultivation became less profitable. Large tracts which were once extensively cultivated were neglected due to lack of funds. However, rice cultivation prospered in certain areas which were fed by the waters of the Mississippi because less labour was required for its production compared to other crops. Towards the latter part of the last century rice cultivation gained popularity in certain states especially Louisiana where it was determined that rice could be profitably grown in the prairies as it was easy to secure water for irrigation.

Transplanting Ceremony at Nakandalagoda

PITIGALA, Friday

Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, Minister of Agriculture and Food, accompanied by Mr. P. A. Cooray, M.P., Kalutara, attended the Transplanting Ceremony at the Nakandalagoda Government School Model Field organised by the Young Farmers' Club of the school.

Mr. D. L. Atapattu, head teacher of the school, thanked Sir Oliver and Mr. Cooray for attending that ceremony.

Sir Oliver took a plant in the process of transplanting by handling the first paddy plant to the accompaniment of magul-bera.

Mr. Atapattu said that this model paddy field was started before the war when food was in plenty and paddy farming was looked down upon as something undignified. It was

Incidentally the cultivation of wheat in America though introduced simultaneously with rice gained popularity and if not for this the Americans would have been supplying a high percentage of the world's requirements. Wheat which has a history more ancient than rice and which cultivation is older than the history of man itself gained rapid favour with the Americans as their national bread crop. Here again history records that wheat was cultivated in China in 2700 B.C. as one of the five varieties of seeds sown annually. Although the origin of wheat is unknown it is believed that the seeds is native to South Western Asia or perhaps China.

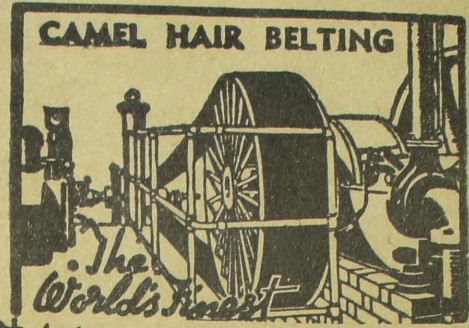
It is interesting to know some of the factors affecting the production of lowland and highland types of rice. The production of rice is dependent upon an abundant supply of fresh water. One finds wild rice flourishing abundantly in the Lake districts of America and the Eastern States forming part of the food requirements of sections of Indians. The high cost of labour and the poverty of the highland cultivator in Ceylon have contributed to the neglect of a considerable acreage which otherwise could be brought under rice cultivation. Whilst the more prosperous among these cultivators grow vegetables on the same rice tracts during the rice off seasons to replenish their incomes the majority of the land owning peasants are content with obtaining their minimum rice requirements only.

When we consider this situation the peculiarities common to other countries do not greatly differ with our own experiences. Ceylon was subject to foreign domination and constant wars during the last four hundred years resulted in destruction of property, negligence of extensive cultivations and loss of man power due to wars and diseases.

Rice-growing in Ceylon has now become a profitable occupation as observed by the high prices demanded per bushel of paddy. This trend has encouraged the re-opening of neglected lands and in the introduction of better cultivation methods to ensure a higher yield. Yet with all this progress there remain a vast acreage especially in the uplands which cannot be brought under rice due to shortage of labour and the poverty of peasants.

on the advice of Mr. R. Patrick, a former Deputy Director of Education, that this model paddy field was started under the aegis of School Rural Scheme. As such the credit should go to Mr. Patrick.

Thanking Mr. Atapattu, his staff and Mr. P. Senanayake, Food Production Overseer, for organising this transplanting ceremony through the Young Farmers' Club of the school, Sir Oliver said that he was delighted to hear that this school has been engaged in food production even before the war, as such it is needless to say that the necessity to grow more food has never been felt so much as today. Ceremonies of this nature, he added, were a healthy sign of the food front now in progress right throughout the country and he appealed to the farmers in the locality to improve their fields by co-operating with this school.



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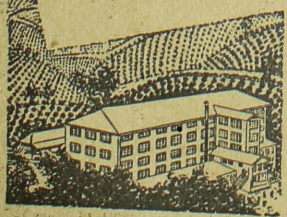


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LIFE OF A RESERVOIR

Diverse views have been expressed in regard to the dangers of flood erosion in the catchment area of the Gal Oya reservoir and very differently estimated by various investigators that the World Bank Mission has recommended in the report presented to Government that the Gal Oya Development Board should seek early outside advice to settle this controversial question.

That tests of the silt-bearing capacity of the Gal Oya was initially mentioned as far back as September, 1949, by the Gal Oya Development Board to Mr. Bleifuss of the International Engineer Company, the Consultants, and tests had been carried out. Since the subject has received wide publicity and is brought to notice in the Report of the World Bank, it is proposed to seek independent expert advice as a precaution and in order to allay disquiet and doubt.

Dr. Gorrie, about whose appointment as Soil Conservation Officer and an account of his work since his appointment, a question was raised in Parliament recently, observes in his report submitted in January, 1950, that erosion in the hills where the Gal Oya and its tributaries rise is "much more serious than is generally realised." He states that the quantity of silt carried by these streams in high flood is likely "to adversely affect the economic forecast for the scheme by curtailing the useful life of the reservoir at Inginiyagala to possibly less than twenty years of the date when the main dam is closed," unless conservation is set up.

But the acting Director of Irrigation (Mr. Guthrie) commenting on this rather pessimistic prediction, states that the usefulness of the reservoir will last for a hundred years or so and he does not agree with Dr. Gorrie's 20-year period. It is interesting to note that a test of the silt-carrying capacity of the Gal Oya river was carried out by the Director of

Irrigation in the first week of March, 1950, a sample of forty gallons of water collected from somewhere below mid-depth of the river (where most of the silt would be expected to be carried) and analysed in the Hydraulic Laboratory. The examination disclosed a fair rate of silting, ignoring quite exceptional cases to be 75 acre feet per 100 square miles per year. Hence on the basis of 380 sq. miles of catchment above the dam and storage capacity of 770,000 acre feet it would require 1,350 years of siltation to reduce the capacity of the Gal Oya reservoir 50 per cent.!

The life of a reservoir is the period it takes to silt up completely. The silt is brought by the rivers that flow into it. The rivers are fed by the silt or sand that gets dislodged during rain or flow of water caused by such rains and carried in suspension. Erosion exists in any kind of land but it does not mean that all the disturbed soil will find its way to the river system and thence to the reservoir. It is known that in steep country the velocity of the streams is high and a high content of silt is carried, but when rivers enter a plain the power is diminished and the silt content is reduced. It is estimated in such cases that nearly 90 per cent. of such silt is held back on the land at various points of the journey of rivers.

The Development Board does not consider that the Gal Oya reservoir is open to any extraordinary or imminent danger from soil erosion or silting, but "holds very definitely to the view that active soil, water and forest conservation measures must be taken in the catchment area..... A considerably wider range of results from silt sample tests and laboratory determinations will obviously be needed by any experienced observer called in to investigate the problems."

The total area permanently developed in the 380 square miles at the dam site—the catchment area—is estimated at 10,400 acres. This represents about 6 per cent. of the area. The balance 94 per cent. is forest, patana and park land. With such a large extent of the water shed under vegetative cover, those sceptics who foresee a "silt plain where Gal Oya existed" should revise their views of the Scheme. The country need not fear such a tragedy. Minneriya is 1,700 years old and still going strong!

Malewana Co-op. Expansion

The Malewana Co-operative Stores Society at its ninth annual general meeting held at the Nakandalagoda Government School presided over by Mr. E. D. S. Karunaratne, the President, decided to open a branch store at Kurunduwatta and set apart 50 per cent. of the nett profits accrued, for a building fund.

Tabling the Progress Report for the last year the Secretary, Mr. K.

L. D. S. Mendis, said that the Society which started nine years ago with a membership of 143 has now 325 members. The number of Rice Ration Books of the Society has risen from 885 to 2,257. The Society which has two departments, one for rice and currystuff and the other for textiles and oilman stores, had earned Rs. 24,053 as nett profits for the last nine years and they

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Marxian Agrarian Theory Not Acceptable

By Eardley Gunasekera

MARX has been hailed from many quarters as one of the foremost political thinkers the world has seen. His theories have been many but in most of them there has been a flaw. Marxism, however, has a peculiar intellectual attraction because it explodes liberal fallacies which really are fallacies. There has been a distinguishing feature of Marx from his Utopian predecessors because, he like most economists, considered the agrarian problem from the angle of production was the primary requisite for a decent standard of living. Marx envisaged that what happened in the Industrial Revolution was bound to take place in the field of agriculture, too. The change in industry prepared the soil for large scale capitalist agriculture. But Marx was of opinion that this process was already in action in his time. Capitalist farming was already in existence in England and Germany but for various reasons France was an exception and Marx put to his own advantage this exception by stating that the fate of peasant farming was sealed.

The encroachment of industrial technique into the province of peasant farming was depriving the peasant of a supplementary income. Furthermore he had buried his small capital into the purchase of land he was thus compelled to borrow for cultivation. In the open markets he was unable to compete with the large scale producer. Most of all there was the natural superiority of capitalist production. These factors were to have a disastrous effect on the future of the peasant.

Thus, if the peasant despite all these adversities, was able to hold his own against capitalist farming it was due to his peculiar economic position. He was in fact a trinity because he was capitalist, owner and worker at the same time. In simpler terms it meant that he was in a position to dispose of his produce at the mere cost of production.

These arguments seem to be the core of Marx's theory of value. For their assimilation it is necessary to revert our minds into the time and milieu, he was writing. His survey of the agricultural situation was based on the conditions of life by the ordinary English labourer and of the lessons he learnt from the Irish peasantry. Marx also stated that the appropriation of land on a large scale was the initial step in creating a field for the consolidation of mass agriculture. He was also of opinion that peasants produced means of subsistence and raw materials which

they mostly consumed themselves, but the expropriation and industrialisation had ruined the industry of peasants. But neither of these arguments were applicable to Eastern Europe because here subsistence farming was still the rule and with a few exceptions the large estates continued to be cultivated by the peasants.

The glut of Socialist literature illustrates how completely Marx dominated the movement of the time. Scientific inquiry into agrarian problems had not yet begun and his plausible parallelism between agriculture and industry seems incontrovertible. The German census of 1895 showed that the peasant was still a potent factor. This was also evident in Holland and the U.S.A. The coup-de-grace to the concentration theory was rendered by the German census of 1907. It clearly showed that despite the many favours which capitalist agriculture had derived from the State large scale farming was slowly but surely giving way. This feature struck the heart of the Marxist system. Even Kautsky had to concede that if the capitalists were on the increase then the Socialist system was only a political hallucination. Kautsky now adopted a different course of action by holding that if in agriculture concentration was not visible in the form of production yet it was active in the form of ownership.

The intrinsic value of Marx's economic analysis was a natural belief in the superiority in large scale production. In relation to industry this application was perfectly true and this part of Marx's economic analysis was unsuspectingly accepted by many. The development and invention of mechanical devices had played a major role in the life of the time. Even those who doubted the Marxian views on the concentration of property adapted their criticism to his view on the indispensable concentration of property. The 18th and 19th centuries saw the increase of large scale farming at the expense of small owners. That change had been accompanied by a fall in the rural population which meant that farming on a large scale had enhanced the productivity of agricultural labour.

The use of machinery had only a small share which contributed towards the development of the productivity of the soil. It is the small-holder and certainly not the capitalist farmer who could best satisfy the Marxist demand for scientific cultivation.

The Late Mudaliyar B. J. Fernando The Poor Man's Friend

The passing away of Mudaliyar B. J. Fernando, Managing Director of the Colombo Omnibus Co., Ltd., is greatly regretted by the thousands of his employees and several thousands of the poor and needy to whom he was a generous benefactor. A stream of callers including school children, visited his residence from the time his death was announced until his funeral on Sunday evening, testifying to his popularity.



Mudaliyar B. J. Fernando

Mudaliyar Fernando established the Sunday School at Sri Wijeyawardeneramaya, Rajagiriya, for religious instructions to Buddhist children. He made donations to the Rajamaha Vihare, the Jayawardeneramaya, Cotta Road, and to several ancient temples and vihares in Kurunegala. The Y.M.B.A. Hall at Nugegoda, was his gift while the electric lighting outfit to the Dambulla Vihare was his donation. A sincere Buddhist he made use of his wealth in endowing several Buddhist institutions. He set an example for other Buddhist leaders in that direction. His memory will

remain ever green in the hearts of the needy and the poor in the neighbourhood.

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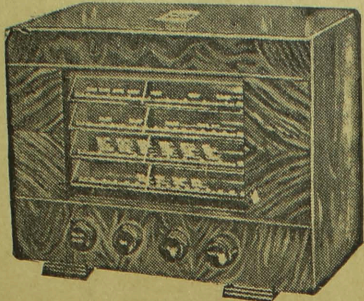
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Television Prospect

By T. M. G. Samat

WHAT television prospects has Radio Ceylon's Feature "The Forum" with its friendly discussions or "The Adventures of Ralahamy", a Sinhalese satire on new society trends?

Success of present day radio features depends most on how well the use of sound and its possibilities are exploited. Success in sound alone however, will be little qualification for success in television. New techniques would have to be evolved in presentation lines for "Devotional songs", "Bana Preaching" and "Light Classical Songs" among many others, if they are to stay in television.

In other words faces that are not equal to the mind pictures evoked by radio voices will under television conditions have little chance of staying in fashion. Essentially television is a women's medium. As a rule we are better, disposed to forgive bad singing if the performer is a joy to see! The woman who gives cookery lessons may not be able to cook well but if she looks well she could still be a television success! So the woman announcer with little qualification other than she is softly feminine might be more welcome in our home on television sets than the star male announcer lacking the sultry charm of the opposite sex.

A television "must" will be the art of wearing clothes alluringly as much as singing alluringly. Fashion parades and Beauty contests are essentially television in which incidentally there will be plenty of opportunity for Beauty Queens to show their forms or display their advertisement assignments.

Some of the finest items for "Television Ceylon" could come out of women in sport with June De Kretser on the track and Irene Williams as a "Television headliner" not to mention the Methodist College high jumper Miss Cader and St. Bridget's Net ball team contending for television honours with women would be Military bands and Orchestras but players would have to be distinguished for appearance, ability and showmanship. On the other hand if the entire band is composed of women players, soft and easy; combined with grace of movement and appearance under a woman conductor with the correct tender appeal what a bid could be made towards female monopoly of Television?

Even with women depending so much upon appearance that she cannot charm on voice alone; take-off to a flying start on dancing to fame for Saldin (Junior) could be assured. Comedian Eddie Jayamanne need not have qualms if he is weighing his television prospects. These two males specialise now in everything that is essentially visual and they are so good that television cannot deny them their just dues.

Men might most want however to reform everything through television. They would want to display new trends in building construction or new ways of using a pedestrian crossing; but so long as women do not run the Kandy Perahera and the Vel Festival, two of the world's best subjects for television, the sterner sex need not be so pessimistic about Television prospects.

Arunachalam Centenary

A meeting to discuss preliminary arrangements to celebrate the centenary of the birth of Sir Ponnambalam Arunachalam which falls on September 14, was held at the Royal College Hall on Friday last, Sir John Kotelawala, Leader of the House of Representatives, presiding.

"The freedom we enjoy today is largely due to the efforts of men like Sir Ponnambalam Arunachalam," declared Sir John who mentioned that over a hundred letters had been received from well-wishers all over the Island. He read the following message sent by the Prime Minister:—

"It is fitting that the centenary of Sir Ponnambalam Arunachalam who has done so much for Ceylon, should be remembered and celebrated. I am sure that the people of Ceylon would be glad of this opportunity afforded to them of honouring the memory of a great patriot."

Messages were also received,

among others, from Sir Alan Rose, Sir Lalita Rajapakse, Sir Donatus Victoria, Sir Chittampalam Gardiner, Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, Sir Wilfred de Soysa, Sir John Tarbat and Sir Richard Aluwihare.

GENERAL COMMITTEE FORMED

The meeting resolved itself into a general committee to elect a working committee. Sir John was elected Chairman while the Hon. Secretaries were Messrs. E. W. Kannangara, S. Somasunderam and A. P. Guruswamy, and Mr. D. B. Ellapolla as Hon. Treasurer.

A letter from Mr. S. Sivasubramaniam in which several suggestions were made regarding the celebrations, was received.

Mr. S. Natesan, Minister of Posts and Information, observed that a good start had been made towards a notable centenary celebration. It was a duty they owed to a great scholar and statesman.

AT THE COLOMBO CINEMAS

For the first time in the history of cinema entertainment in Ceylon, a film has been released at two theatres in the town simultaneously—"The Miracle of Our Lady of Fatima" is drawing mammoth crowds at the Regal and Savoy Theatres.

This film presents a stirring true story of the famous miracle that occurred 36 years ago in the little village of Fatima in Portugal and is filmed in a new colour process called Warnercolor.

The story of the miracle goes back to May 13, 1917, when three shepherd children reported they had seen a vision of a very beautiful lady in a field near the village. The children declared the vision had promised to appear to them five times more on the same date in succeeding months. In these later visitations, the vision prophesied that World War I, then raging,

would end shortly. Also there would be another World War. The Lady in the vision also predicted that two of the three children, Jacinta and Francesco, would die and that the third, Lucia, would live.

All these prophecies came true. Jacinta and Francesco died a few years later of influenza. Lucia lived and is now a nun in an Italian convent. World War I ended the following year following the visions, and World War II occurred.

Perhaps the most amazing of the Fatima miracles was the climatic vision seen by the children and which is now known as the "revolving sun" phenomenon and which occurred on October 13, 1917. Thousands of spectators who were present on this day testified they, in addition to the children, saw the sun descend rapidly towards the earth and then as suddenly stop and return.

Stanley Darius

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Education in Ceylon

By O. N. Fernando

THERE is no greater responsibility in the hands of the state, than that of procuring a sound education to the individuals. The welfare and well-being of the nation is dependent on the education imparted to the individuals. What is education? Education is, that system, or those systems, of training which prepares the individual, intellectually, morally and physically, so as to be an asset to himself, his neighbour, his society and the country.

During the past years, standards of education in Ceylon have been improving and advancing, slowly but steadily. In the early days, when much importance was not attached to learning, the temples served as the main services of learning. In these cases the monk was the obvious teacher or 'guru' as he came to be known. Later on the pioneer schools came to be the main channels of learning. Hence, it invariably happened that only those who could afford the requisite financing involved were able to obtain the coveted privilege of a school education. Higher education was available in a few of the major schools and it usually happened that the poor were unable to further their studies.

Today, the situation has changed considerably. With the advent of "free-education", sponsored by the Government, education is within the reach of all. The possibility of a poor farmer's son obtaining a satisfactory academic education is no less than that of a Minister's son. The former can ever proceed to obtain a higher education if he proves himself capable of it.

The "Selective Test" is an important introduction together with the other proposals for educational reform. It is very commendable in principle and motive. The selective test aims at finding out those fit for further academic work, and the corresponding diversion of those best suited to other technical branches of study. The selective test was the object of much criticism last year after a series of regretful errors. It is the opinion of many educational authorities that the selective test, in Ceylon, today, is not advisable in view of the immaturity of educational and technical study schemes.

The importance attached to practical study in the new educational schemes is not without due reason. That practical work plays an important part in education needs no emphasis, for, it has been found that the mind is enriched, exercised and stimulated when the hands are used in such creative work. Nearly every school has its handicraft section. This is a very encouraging and commendable introduction.

Today the schools are much more advanced and numerous than they were twenty-five years ago.

Sports are a "must" in any educational programme. Opportunities for sports and recreation are bigger, and greater in number. The educational programme sees that every individual has some form of physical exercise daily.

The education of the masses is as important as the education of the youth.

What of the future of education, in Ceylon? This question cannot be answered as it rests on the present and future generations to further the standards of education. However, this may be said. As long as politics does not enter into education, it is in safe hands, today.

National Dancing in Ceylon

By Wilson Siriwarnasingha

IN recent times a wide awakening of the aesthetic appreciation and signs of a revival of arts are visible in Ceylon. Much has been done by the Government as well as by voluntary associations to launch a number of organizations since the achievement of independence to revive and resuscitate the Island's national dancing—popularly known as Kandyan dancing, that had been lying neglected during the 150 years when Ceylon was a colony. The phenomenal progress Kandyan dancing has made within the course of the past few years was vividly displayed at the celebrations organized in connection with the meeting of the U.N.E.S.C.O. National Commission at the Museum of Colombo recently and the Colombo Exhibition held in February, 1952.

There is much controversy over as to whether the Sinhalese have had any form of dancing indigenous to Ceylon. There are two schools of thought debating on the view that the homeland of Kandyan dancing, the Sinhalese national dance, is Ceylon. The defenders of this view argue that Kandyan dancing is a system of dancing peculiar to this Island and accordingly, it should have been originated in Ceylon, while the opposers of the view try to attribute its origin to India. They are of the tendency to believe that what we term today as Kandyan dancing migrated to Ceylon from India along with other arts, viz. architecture, sculpture and painting, with the establishment of the Buddhist doctrine in the Island.

A historical record that bears testimony to the existence of dancing in Ceylon in those legendary stages of Ceylon history, is found in an ancient Sinhalese literary work by an anonymous writer. This record makes mention of dance performances held in the two villages of

Laggala and Loggala to celebrate the marriage of Polamitta, the daughter of a powerful Yakka chieftain.

Kandyan dancing is one of the facets of the Sinhalese culture that once glorified the island. During the past epochs in the history of Ceylon when the Sinhalese kings ruled the island was overflowing with prosperity, national dancing was given its due place in society and it was held in great esteem. It is said that King Parakramabahu the Great was well versed in all aspects of dancing and he contributed greatly towards the development of the art. Queen Rupawathie, wife of King Parakramabahu, is described as an enthusiastic dancer and she is said to have instituted an academy of dancing known as "Saraswathi Mandapa."

In a later period the independence of Ceylon began to be threatened by a number of foreign invasions that took place in continuous succession, and consequently the development of the country's arts began to be definitely hampered. Educated Sinhalese men, elated by their enthusiastic admiration of Western forms of dancing that were introduced to the island by European immigrants, began to treat their own national dancing with utter contempt. Sinhalese national dancing almost disappeared from the maritime provinces of Ceylon where the Dutch, the Portuguese and the English had established their power in three successive periods, nevertheless, it was preserved in its purity in the Kandyan kingdom that continued to be free from all foreign influences and hence it came to be known as Kandyan dancing.

Oriental dancing is divided into three distinctive departments namely, NATYA, NRITHA and NRITHYA. Kandyan dancing belongs to the last of these three groups.

DANNY BOY



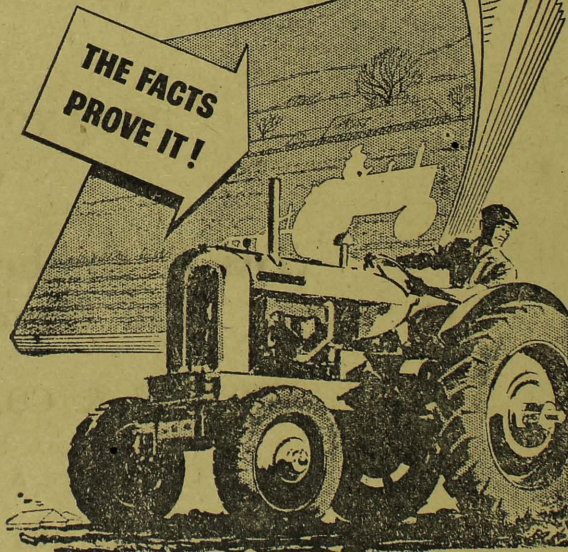
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