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## Spirit of Service Fully Alive in Horana M.P.'s Great Speech in Address of Thanks

Mr. M. D. H. Jayawardane (Horana) moved:

"That this House do present the following Address to His Excellency the Governor-General in reply to his Speech:

'May it please Your Excellency, We the Members of the House of Representatives, thank Your Excellency for the Speech with which you have been pleased to open Parliament. We assure Your Excellency that we shall give our attention to all matters placed before us.'

I regard it as a very formidable privilege and a very high honour that I should have been called upon to move this Address of Thanks. I hasten to say that this is no compliment which has been given to me personally, but rather is it a tribute to the constituency which I have the honour to represent.

Up till very recently all the electorates round the Horana constituency, such as Avissawella, Kotte, Panadura, Moratuwa, Matugama and Kiriella, were represented by Members of Opposition Parties who, I am afraid, have no love for this country. But this country has made a significant advance on the road to democracy, and now most of those electorates, I am glad to say, have chosen the democratic way of life and the Horana constituency has today a chosen democratic representative. I do not mean to say that it is a mere accident, for when we look back upon the pages of our history, we find that Ralgam Korale has produced its share of statesmen, its poets, and above all it has supplied the King's armies with the finest of soldiers, all of whom have added lustre to the pages of our long and eventual history.

The spirit of national service is still not dead; it lives in my electorate; for if you look round the Horana electorate—the Government has not given us the good things that it has given the others—you

**Mr. M. D. H. Jayawardane, the new M.P. for Horana, who moved the Address of Thanks made one of the most brilliant speeches in Parliament last week.**

will see the significant fact that the new hospital at Homagama, the new Maternity Hospital which is just coming up at Ingiriya and several wards both at the Ingiriya and Horana Hospital are due to the philanthropy of the public-spirited sons and daughters of Horana.

In the matter of rural development, my constituency is making great strides and I am very glad to inform the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs that no less than twelve rural development societies are putting up new schools or adding new sections to the existing schools in that electorate.

Everyone will welcome the announcement in the Speech as regards housing. Good housing is as essential for the health of the people as good air and good food. I am glad to find that the Minister of Local Government is now taking steps to have a National Housing Corporation with wide powers to borrow and lend money.

The health of the nation is a sacred trust in the hands of the Government. I should like to congratulate the Hon. Minister of Health on the steps he has taken to wipe off diseases like tuberculosis from this fair land.

It is generally accepted that the infant mortality rate is the best index of the health of a nation. When we look at the figures we find that in 1939 the infant mortality rate was 166; in 1947 it was 101 and in 1952 it was only 82. Similarly, the maternity death rate has been reduced from 20 to 5.4. The general mortality rate which was 21 in 1949 has been brought down to 12.2. These figures, compared with those of England, are fifty years behind, but certainly we can be proud that we have made a significant advance. In the sphere of health we are far ahead of other countries in South and South-East Asia. The Government alone will not take credit for that.

(Continued on page 2)



Mr. M. D. H. Jayawardane

## National Development Will Forge Ahead Queen's Speech Outlines New Lines of Policy

AT the ceremonial opening of the second sessions of the Second Parliament on Tuesday last, the Governor-General, Lord Soulbury, in his Speech from the Throne, referred to the decision to relieve Government expenditure of the heavy burden of the subsidy on food, which has been brought on by circumstances that made it necessary for the Government to concentrate mainly on projects of development to increase

national income. He outlined the Government policy which included the transfer of the management of State industrial undertakings to independent statutory corporations; setting up a national housing corporation; accelerating the introduction of the national languages into public administration and the clearing of slums.

### TEXT OF THE SPEECH

Lord Soulbury said:

Senators and Members of the House of Representatives

"My Government views with great satisfaction the present relaxation in tension in international relations. The situation in the Middle East, however, still continues to give cause for anxiety, but My Government is

convinced that with patience and understanding agreement can soon be reached on the problems of this region.

My Government's relations with the Commonwealth and foreign countries remain cordial. Foreign policy continues to be based on the consciousness of our historical associations and the realities of our geographical position. My Government has endeavoured not only to live at peace and in harmony with other nations but also to make a contribution to relieve such tension as still prevails.

The meeting of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers in London

(Continued on page 2)

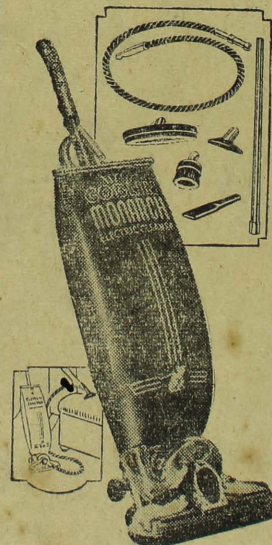
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## Spirit of Service Fully Alive in Horana

(Continued from page 1)

Our Budgets were framed on the basis of these incomes, and as such we planned for expanding social services. Our Education bill, which was a modest one in 1936, is now over Rs. 140,000,000. The Health bill is seven and a half times what it was in 1936, and we have new items in the Budget which we never had before. In the years 1951-52 our subsidies on food ranged over Rs. 300,000,000 so that it is very clear to everybody, clear to hon. Members, and it is clear to the nation, that this Government never lacked in its intention to help the people wherever it could.

In the past few years, passing as we did from a colonial economy to a national economy, this Government, elected by the popular votes of the people, full of feeling for its people, made large grants towards social services. But the time has now come when we must all realize that the future prosperity of this country depends not upon exploitation of the present but on preparation for the future.

The time has now come when we must make great and bold decisions. We who have taken upon ourselves the task of governing must also take our share of the unpleasant and difficult task of teaching people the hard truths and hard facts. No Government can remain in power unless it is backed by people who know the facts, unless it is backed by a well organized party organization and, above all, by a nation which knows the facts of what his Government is trying to achieve for them.

This House will therefore admit that this Government never lacked in its intention to help the people.

There is one other matter on which I should like to speak. There is no reason to panic. There are people who were speaking of bankruptcy. When they speak of bank-

ruptcy they speak with a hysterical mind or it is political exploitation of the worst kind.

England, I may remind you, after six years of Socialist rule found herself in a worst predicament than ourselves. But in one year they were able to change their balance of trade entirely.

The withdrawal of the subsidy on rice no doubt would cause hardship to the poor, but they must remember that when we had money in plenty we spent more than Rs. 300,000,000 on food subsidies and that this imposed a heavy burden on the finances of the country. The people of this country must realize that during the War for no less than a period of four and a half years they were satisfied with a weekly ration of half a measure of rice and without a murmur they accepted that ration.

But today when a national Government is calling upon the people to make a sacrifice on behalf of a national cause and when the people know that this money is required to develop this country for the sake of their children, I am sure they will gladly bear this burden.

This measure has been recommended by the Central Bank several times and also by the World Bank Commission. They warned us not to spend money without thinking of our development works. The subsidy conceals from the consumer the real cost to Government.

We stand united and strong behind our young Prime Minister confident that in our time we shall see not be the decadence and decline but the renaissance of Sri Lanka. In this great task we shall not fail. It is idle for me to say that we shall achieve success; rather we shall command success.

Mr. A. M. Merza (Kalmunai) seconded.

The debate concluded yesterday.

## National Development Will Forge Ahead

(Continued from page 1)

early in June this year provided an opportunity for a comprehensive review of the international situation. The exchange of personal views between Prime Ministers at this meeting will facilitate the conduct of our foreign relations with renewed understanding of the politics and interests of our partners in the Commonwealth.

The trade agreement entered into with the People's Republic of China is working satisfactorily. My Government has established a diplomatic Mission in Tokyo and has agreed to accept a diplomatic Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany.

The International Wheat Agreement 1953-56, which My Government has decided to ratify, will be placed before you in due course.

### IMMIGRATION

The efforts made in the previous year to discourage illicit immigration into the Island have been intensified by the increased use of the Police and the personnel of the armed services on patrol duties. A large measure of success has been achieved in this direction but illicit entry into the Island has by no means been eliminated.

The plan for building the armed service into a compact and efficient organisation is proceeding on a limited scale.

### •FOOD SUPPLIES

You are aware of the steps taken by My Government last year to overcome the difficulties that arose in respect of the Island's basic food supplies. The reduction then effected in the rice ration was necessitated by the difficulty of procuring adequate supplies of rice from abroad and by the fact that the subsidy on food had to be kept within reasonable limits.

The agreement negotiated with the Government of the People's Re-

public of China for the supply of the greater part of our rice requirements and the allocation by the Government of the Union of Burma of a substantial quantity of rice have made it possible to keep the subsidy within the appropriation granted by Parliament.

Ceylon has up to now been in the fortunate position of being able both to finance projects of development and to undertake several schemes of social amelioration. In the present circumstances it will be necessary to concentrate mainly on development with a view to increasing the national income. My Government has therefore been obliged to relieve our expenditure of the heavy burden of the subsidy on food.

My Government, however proposes to make a substantial increase in the ration of rice to all sectors of the population and to make it available at such a price as would largely mitigate if not eliminate the burden that would otherwise fall on the consumer. Flour will be available in unrestricted quantities and at the present subsidized price. There will be no increase in the price of sugar.

### DEVELOPMENT

The situation that has been developing during the past year underlines more clearly than ever before the supreme necessity to increase our local food and agricultural resources by all the means at the country's disposal.

In 1947 My Government set before itself a program for the development, by the end of 1952, of 54,762 acres of irrigable land and an appurtenant extent of 32,935 acres of garden land under various major schemes alone, making a total of 87,697 acres. Despite many difficulties a total of 71,837 acres had been developed by the end of 1952.

(Continued on page 3)

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# National Development Will Forge Ahead

(Continued from page 2)

My Government is now endeavouring to increase the area of development under the major as well as minor irrigation schemes and to raise the productivity of land by the adoption of mechanized cultivation and modern and improved cultural practices.

My Government desires to place on record its appreciation of the assistance received from many countries both under the Colombo Plan and under the United Nations Aid Schemes.

The Paddy Lands Act, No. 1 of 1953, will be brought into operation shortly in selected areas. The Soil Conservation Act, No. 25 of 1951, will be brought into operation in the Kotmale area as soon as the regulations thereunder have received your approval.

## FISHING

A program for the introduction of mechanized fishing operations on an experimental scale has already been launched and groups of fishermen are being taught newer methods of fishing using improved gear and mechanized craft. A Bill for the establishment of a National Fishing Corporation will be submitted for your consideration. Amendments to the Fisheries Ordinance, passed during the last session now provide a speedy means of settling the large number of disputes which arise in regard to fishing rights.

Measures are to be taken to assist the orderly marketing of milk. Facilities for imparting training in practical agriculture and fisheries to educated youth will be increasingly provided.

The estimates of revenue and expenditure for the forthcoming financial year will be laid before you.

## SENATORS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

On the recommendation of the International Bank Mission there has been set up a Planning Committee of the Cabinet assisted by a Planning Secretariat. Certain other recommendations of the Mission relating to the establishment of a Development Advisory Board, a Ceylon Development Corporation and an Institute for Applied Research are under consideration.

In the sphere of industries, the paper, the vegetable oil, and the caustic soda-D.D.T. projects are being implemented. Uneconomic factories have been closed and measures are under consideration for the transfer of the management of State industrial undertakings to independent statutory corporations in which the public will have an opportunity for investment.

## CEYLONISATION

Progress continues to be made in regard to the Ceylonisation of trade. The entire trade with China has been restricted to Ceylonese. Action has also been taken to give the Ceylonese an effective foothold in the trade with East European countries without however disturbing any established trade. Plans for providing adequate space in Colombo for Ceylonese business men are receiving active consideration.

My Government is gratified to note that numerous agencies have recently been passed to Ceylonese Houses and that large numbers of Ceylonese are entering into trade and are being increasingly admitted to staff appointments in non-Ceylonese business establishments, some of which have welcomed the contribution of Ceylonese capital.

Steps have been taken to establish certain minimum standards for our export goods.

A Bill to amend the law relating to Companies will be placed before you.

## CO-OPS.

The Co-operative movement is being increasingly harnessed to accelerate the pace of the country's social and economic progress. Cottage industries, housing and rehabilitation of small-holders of coconut, tea and rubber lands are new activities which, in My Government's view, the people may profit-

ably organize on a co-operative basis, and all possible assistance will be given to this end. My Government is gratified at the useful role played by the Co-operative Agricultural Production and Sales Societies. Through the agency of the rural development societies which My Government will continue to assist, a close liaison has been established between the people and the various departments of Government.

## RUBBER

A scheme has been formulated for subsidizing the replanting of rubber. Plants of the development of the tobacco industry as recommended by the Tobacco Committee of 1952 and for the rehabilitation of the coconut industry are under preparation.

The report of the Salaries and Cadres Commission on salaries has been received and is under examination and their recommendations on cadres are awaited.

The Criminal Courts Commission has submitted a second interim report as well as its final report. The legislative measures necessary to implement such of the Commission's recommendations as may be accepted by My Government will be laid before you.

## HOUSING

You will be asked to approve a Bill to set up a National Housing Corporation. A pilot scheme for resettling families of the lowest income group drawn from the overcrowded parts of Colombo beginning with the slums in Slave Island, has been sanctioned.

A committee has been appointed to investigate the rising costs of Government buildings.

The scheme of provincial administration will soon be reorganised and the present system of having provincial Kachcheries with district Kachcheries subordinate to them will be abolished. It is proposed that in future each Kachcheri should function as an independent administrative unit.

## HOSPITAL

A new General Hospital is to be constructed for Colombo South, and the development of the larger hospitals is being actively pursued. A school for the training of nurses in tuberculosis work is being established at Welisara. Financial assistance is being given to indigent patients suffering from tuberculosis and to their dependents.

The recommendation of the Official Languages Commission, whose investigations are drawing to a close, continue to be implemented. It will be the policy of My Government to accelerate the introduction of the national languages into public administration.

## EDUCATION

The implementation of the Education (Amendments) Act, No 5 of 1951, will be proceeded with. Workshops equipped for practical education will be provided at a number of schools. The medium of instruction in Standard VI of all schools was changed to the national languages in 1953. A special committee has been appointed to make recommendations to facilitate the change over of the national languages in Standard VII and VIII.

The Commission on Broadcasting which was recently appointed has commenced its sittings.

## BRIDGE

Work on the Kelani bridge will commence shortly. Proposals to develop the Ratmalana Airport to international standards are being examined. Satisfactory progress is being made with regard to the development of the Port of Colombo and two alongside berths have already been completed.

Your approval will be sought for a Bill to remove the existing monopoly in the manufacture of matches and to allow increased production with stricter controls.

I commend all these matters to you for your deliberation and I trust that they will receive your most careful consideration.

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Friday, July 17, 1953

### BERIA

LEFTISTS who talk bravely about the "contradictions" in the capitalist system are as yet silent about the newest demonstration of "contradictions" in a Marxist Dictatorship as shown by the sacking and forthcoming trial of Beria. Their silence is due to their ignorance. They await orders from their Moscow Masters as to what they must say. We are not interested in Beria or in Malenkov. It is obvious that the charges are partly trumped up as they usually are when the struggle for power goes on unceasingly in any dictatorship until it is finally resolved by the death of one or the other of the leading rivals. Behind the mask of fighting for the common man, most human beings succumb to the frailty of personal ambition. It is futile to pretend that this ambition is not one of the impelling forces of life. It drives men on to achievement in every sphere of human activity, including politics. It is this human quality which corrupts as it exalts and a mere change of political beliefs does not remove it from a human being. It is idle to pretend that our Marxists are not impelled by ambition. Dr. N. M. Perera thrills to the pooja and prominence he receives as leader of his party just as much as does his rival Dr. Colvin R. de Silva. Both of them might have been rather obscure though eminently able men but for the publicity that politics has given them. Mr. Pieter Keuneman might have been a moderately good Advocate and perhaps a successful writer but in neither sphere would he have got public adulation as in politics. Dr. S. A. Wickremasinghe would have remained in his obscurity as a country doctor if he had not grabbed at the Presidency of his Party.

In our Party too, these frailties must surely show their hand. Mr. Bandaranaike left us because he knew he couldn't be assured of succeeding as Prime Minister after the late Mr. D.S. Senanayake. Various other such outbursts of ambition can be analysed if further proof of

our main contention were necessary. This ambition does not necessarily find aggressive expression, as in the case of Mr. Bandaranaike and others.

It can take different forms, quieter and more subtle. One can sometimes achieve one's dreams by apparently refusing office or allowing oneself to be persuaded or by quietly destroying one's rivals. One can, like our Mayor, Mr. Grero, take it when it comes without any pretence at all.

The record is not always so tawdry. There are men who find sublime pleasure in self-negation and deliberate sacrifice. Dr. Colvin R. de Silva's acceptance of a minor role in his Party; Mr. Keuneman's consistent second-fiddle to Dr. Wickremasinghe and our Sir John's consent to serve under his youthful colleague are examples of an ennobling kind.

There is one tremendous difference between the Communist system and our own. In Ceylon these changes of leadership take place without bloodshed. Behind the scenes activity goes on in every Party but no heads roll off a gibbet. The Prime Minister can sack his ministers but he cannot jail them or cut off their heads. In a Communist regime there is no such bloodless change. They who live by the sword, die by the sword. A Communist government is a self-confessed dictatorship, and a dictatorship must suppress all opposition, and it is itself the judge and the prosecutor. And it fabricates its own evidence. It controls its own Press. It ends in victory for the man who strikes first and the man who strikes first is always the toughest thug.

Beria would have done as much as has Malenkov if he had struck first. If he did, the same newspapers that now attack him would then have attacked Malenkov, for there is one Boss for all Russia and what he says goes. Anyone who resists must die.

The lesson of Beria is a lesson for all of us. Whatever its shortcomings the U.N.P. preserves democracy, and the day it is thrown out of power the people will be subjected to a dictatorship under which the men in power will constantly be at each others' throats.

It is not as if the fight can be confined to the leaders. The people become the tools of power politics without the choice they have in a democracy — of changing the leaders when they lose the confidence of the people.

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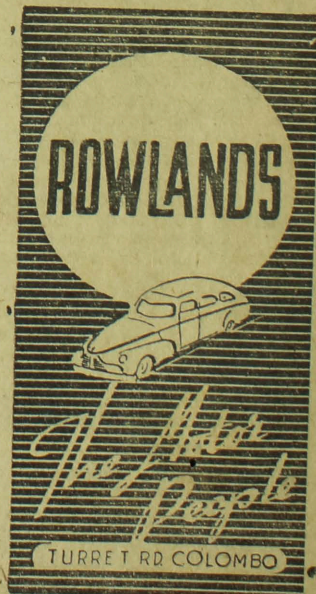
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# EASING THE FOOD SITUATION

By Stanley Morrison

TO judge from the opposition which is growing up to the removal of the rice subsidies, it would appear that the Government's courageous decision will provide splendid propaganda for its opponents for rousing the people against the Government. One way in which the Government could counteract this propaganda is by increasing the supply of food substitutes and making these substitutes available at cheap rates. Also those who cannot afford to buy rice at the enhanced prices should be given the option of buying less than the rationed quantity and surrendering the surplus coupons after cancelling it themselves with some indelible device which should be provided at the co-operative stores.

The fact is that the poorer classes may find it difficult to purchase the additional quantities of rice which the Government is providing when the food subsidies end. These poorer people may find it cheaper to supplement their diet with manioc, sweet yams or some other cheap food. It would, therefore, be a great help to the poorer classes if the Government were to encourage the growing of rice substitutes like manioc, sweet yams, sorghum, kurakkan, gingelly, maize etc. on such a scale that these foods would be readily available on the market. Besides, these food items are more nourishing than the imported white rice. I know that, apart from the poorer classes, many middle class people would prefer to consume these foods rather than the imported white rice. There is no doubt that not enough effort is being made to produce these subsidiary foods. Most of these foods could be grown on the idle lands that could be seen lying fallow not only in the countryside, but also in the suburbs of Colombo. After all, in most of the Pacific islands, the magnificent physical specimens who inhabit them have, as their staple diet, not rice but manioc and sweet yams, and, of course, plentiful supplies of fish and fruit. Unfortunately in Ceylon, although it is surrounded by the sea, fish is an extremely expensive item of food. Is it not time the Fisheries Department, which was brought into existence to make fish plentiful and cheap, justified its magniloquent existence?

And talking of fish, I am convinced that the people who could help us to solve this problem are the Japanese, not Denmark. It is a pity that under the Colombo Plan Ceylon has not been able to recruit a number of Japanese fish trawling experts. One of the most efficient fish trawling fleets in the world in pre-war days was the Japanese trawling fleet. It was reputed to consist of no fewer than 240,000 small trawlers, apart from the mother-ships. These then are the people who could help us quickly and efficiently to organise our own fishing industry. It is a pity that we should always be looking to the West for this purpose. Western methods are generally more expensive whereas the Japanese are extremely efficient as well as far more economical in their way of doing things. I am certain that if Japanese trawling experts are put in charge of our fishing operations, they would quickly make it a paying proposition. And Japan could supply us with the trawlers too, and at a much cheaper rate than the West. Now that the food situation is uppermost in the public mind the question of supplying the poorer classes with plentiful supplies of fish is an urgent one. Fish, as is known, is the best source of both calcium and phosphorus — both essential preventives of tuberculosis and other diseases arising from malnutrition. A plentiful supply of fish, therefore, at cheap rates, will be boon to the poorer classes.

And now while all this opposition is building up against the Government's food subsidies decision, it is more essential than ever to guard against the charge of waste of public funds. This is particularly imperative in respect of the creation of new posts or the filling of vacancies in existing posts on extravagant salaries. This is the best time for the Government to revise downwards the salary scales of vacant posts which now carry very large emoluments. During the present emergency, too, it would be a good thing if the Government abolished all entertainment allowances, at least as long as the present financial crisis lasted. The Government would only be strengthening the hands of the Opposition if it did not mercilessly prune all items of public expenditure which could be construed as being either extravagant or unnecessary. Today every act of the Government is being watched with extraordinary vigilance by its opponents and the public clamour against the Government would grow unless it punctiliously practised the austerity which it preaches.

## CEYLON'S DONATION TO UNION JACK CLUB

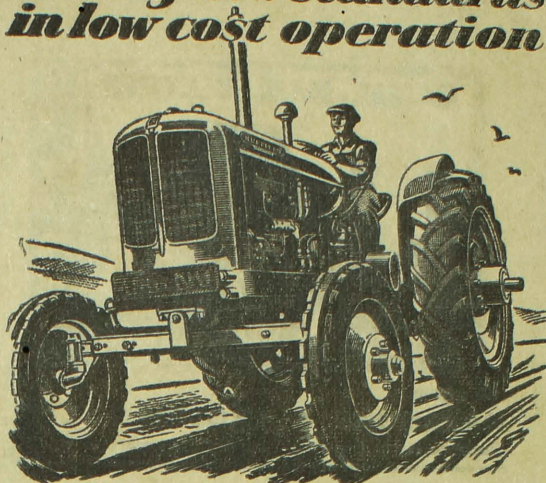
SUPPLEMENTARY provision in a sum of Rs. 1,333 was passed by Parliament for the payment of a grant of £100 to the Union Jack Club.

The Union Jack Club established in 1907 as a National Memorial to sailors, soldiers and marines who had died in the service of the country is open to members of the Commonwealth and Colonial Forces below commissioned rank. Statistics reveal that as many as 2,936 members of the Ceylon Armed Services had occupied this club during the year 1947 till end of September, 1952. The High Commissioner of Ceylon has of late found this Club a convenient place to accommodate the larger members of the Servicemen who have proceeded to the United Kingdom on training Courses. The opportunity has also been availed of to accommodate the crew of H. M. Cy. S. Vileva during the refit and during the period of the Coronation. The finance of the Club is subsidized by the United Kingdom Government on the average of 6d. per head per bed used per night.

An appeal has been launched by the Council of Management of the Club, for contributions from the Commonwealth and Colonial countries to complete the Club's programme of Reconstruction which was commenced after the war. Accordingly the High Commissioner for Ceylon in London had been approached with a view to obtaining a grant from the Ceylon Government.

In view of the fact that members of the Armed Service of Ceylon, below commissioned rank are given accommodation in this Club at very nominal charges and consequently relieve the Government from paying higher accommodation charges elsewhere, it is proposed to make a contribution of £100 in response to the appeal as Ceylon Government's gesture of goodwill.

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# Religion—A Stimulating Force

By Eardley Gunasekera

INNUMERABLE interpretations have been given to the world but most of them have fizzled out. Nevertheless the religious interpretation has still a powerful hold on modern thought. This interpretation itself has an overwhelming confidence of its immense power to render to life worth and dignity. But this confidence rests on certain hopes and assumptions. The moon, the stars, trees, rivers and mountains not forgetting human life itself, are all the creation of a Power understandable only by faith. Human interests rally round man's relationship to this power. This relative union is now moving apart thrusting life into an abyss of inarticulation. The deep thirst, the insatiable avidity is to regain the divine communion now no more, a goal which can only be achieved by a complete transformation of one's own inner life. Only by a moral overhaul in which the primary necessity is a love for that Power and an acknowledgment of his tremendous potentialities could it be hoped to achieve this end. Not only must he give religious fervour and devotion and carefully cherish the grace he has received but also must he be a faithful servant of God ready to establish his kingdom upon earth.

From time immemorial this life satisfied men and afforded spiritual stimulus and consolation. But its authenticity has been closely linked up with the fact that its foundations have never been called in question. Doubts pertaining to religion must invariably break down even though their presence may not destroy it. It is this elementary doubt which has incessantly been working

in the world and proving increasingly formidable to the interests of religion. This doubt which manifested itself in criticism was directed against the doctrinal teaching of religion, and it derived its pungence from the vast storehouses of knowledge man had explored together with the new insight he had won into the interpretation of nature and history. This criticism would never have been able to hold its own or have any serious consequences if the force of faith and fervour were maintained. There was indeed a time when religion was the only stimulating force capable of imparting to life vitality. The world had nothing sublime to offer mankind, its spiritual existence seemed doomed and it could only have recourse to another higher and enlightened world. Faith with utter confidence took this other world to task and brought it to close touch with human life, and constituted it the tribunal before which the visible world should approve itself and justify its existence.

Religion in the midst of the greatest storms of protest and denial is still a recognisable force. We cannot afford to ignore its claims for under trying conditions it has given a solution to many perplexing problems. Its stimulating and invigorating hold upon life must be heeded. To the modern man religion is more a question than an answer. It is itself too much a problem to interpret to us the meaning of life, and make us feel that it is worth living. Let us not be carried away by the various political "isms" as they are popularly called and the curious philosophies of individual people because it is only a universal deed as Religion which can help to illuminate the mysterious depths of life.

## Weligama Constituents Welcome Major Jayawickreme

IN response to an invitation by the residents of Weligama, Major Montague Jayawickreme, M.P. for Weligama and Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Defence and External Affairs, paid a visit to Trincomalee. The highlights of the visit was the ceremonial opening of the Vishnu Devale kindly donated by Mrs. A. G. William Singho a resident of Weligama.

The local U.N.P. Electoral Association grasped the opportunity of throwing a tea-party at the Rest House to honour the Junior Minister. At the social which was attended by many leading residents and enthusiastic U.N.P. supporters, the Major in a stirring speech exhorted them to rally round the Government in this difficult period for the sake of the younger generation. He spoke at length on the various projects which the U.N.P. Government had undertaken and promised once the difficult time was tided over, prosperity was a "fiat accompli."

The Branch Secretary, Mr. Thambiah Ahambaram, J.P., who is also the Chairman, U.C., appealed to the Junior Minister to obtain from Government a four/five lakh loan to build a modern Town Hall to house the present U.C. office and to provide other amenities for the town which was a dire necessity.

In the course of introductions, Major Jayawickreme, wished the Youth League Secretary, Annesley Nicholas all success in the progress of the League; the only one of its kind in the whole Eastern Province.

## St. Joseph's College, Trinco O.B.A. Celebrations

THE Annual Celebrations of the Old Boys' Association of Saint Joseph's College, Trincomalee was held at the College Hall with Mr. Thambiah Ahambaram, J.P. the President, in the Chair. In his presidential address, Mr. Ahambaram thanked the younger strata for the keen enthusiasm displayed which augured well for the future, as a new resurgence was a dire necessity or else the O.B.A. would be a farce. He appealed to them to elect a young and energetic working Committee and leave the 'old bones' out.

The Director, Rev. Fr. Claude R. Daly, S.J., M.A., M. Sc., appealed to those Old Boys who had pledged to finance the College Building Fund, to keep their promises. At present the working on the site for the Greater St. Joseph's had begun, and finance was the only lag.

The following were elected office bearers:—President: Mr. Ahambaram, J.P., Chairman, U.C.; Vice-President: A. V. N. Chelliah; Hony. Secretary: A. D. Claessen; Hony. Treasurer: K. Wambeck; Council of Management: Messrs. Mervyn St. C. Nicholas, A. E. Marcou, Victor Nicholas and J. E. Manuel; Auditors: Messrs. K. S. Manickam and S. Mari-anayagam.

Earlier in the day a Variety Entertainment was staged to which credit goes to Leo Arulanandam and J. K. Joseph, for their grand performances.



# Veteran Politicians Remembered

A VOTE of condolence was moved by the Leader of the House, Sir John Kotelawala, in Parliament on Thursday last, referring to two sad events—the death of Dr. V. R. Schokman and of Mr. V. S. de S. Wikramanayake, two veteran politicians who passed away when the House was in recess.

"Dr. Schokman has been with us from the days of the State Council", said Sir John. "In fact, I knew him from my school days, attending the same school. Dr. Schokman was a medical practitioner who had a lucrative practice. He was also one of those who was out to help his community, particularly in the upliftment of the poorer class of his community. At the same time, he was one of those who never believed in looking at a thing on communal lines. He felt as we do, that this country belonged to no one single community or religion but to all the people living in it."

Continuing, Sir John said that Dr. Schokman took a keen interest in sports, in fact he played cricket. He was President of the B.R.C., of the Cricket Association, of the Amateur Athletic Association and also of the Ceylon Swimming Association.

As a politician he was nominated to the State Council. In 1938, he was Mayor of the Colombo Municipal Council. Next he was a Member of the Senate in the new reformed Constitution and held the post of Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education, which he had to resign owing to ill-health. He was nominated to the House of Representatives in place of Mr. J. A. Maartensz who left the Island as Ceylon's High Commissioner in Australia.

"We, in this House, have lost a good friend, a sportsman and a gentleman", added Sir John.

As regards Mr. Wikramanayake most of the present members of the House did not know him, said Sir

John but the Leader of the Opposition and a few of their elder politicians from the Legislative and State Councils were aware of his record.

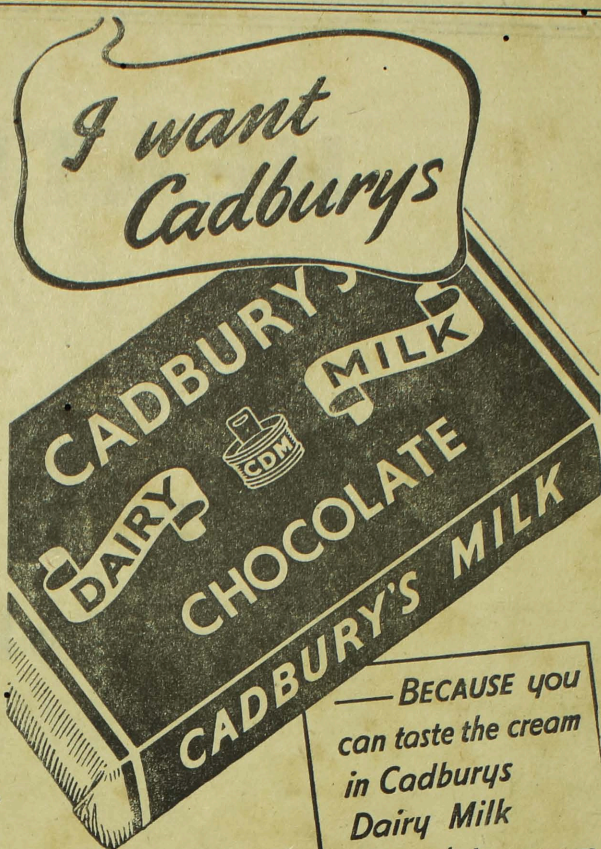
Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike on behalf of the Opposition, warmly associated himself with the remarks made by the Leader of the House on the two sad occurrences.

Dr. Schokman who always possessed a very cheerful and keen sense of humour would crack some joke which would set the House laughing when they were all very tired. All knew Dr. Schokman for a considerable period and his death was a very great loss not only to the community of which he was such a distinguished member but also to the general Ceylonese people as a whole.

Referring to the death of Mr. Wikramanayake, Mr. Bandaranaike said he was personally closely associated with him in the first State Council. He too was richly endowed with a sense of humour and kept them all laughing in the course of very lengthy debates that proceeded on important questions at that time. As a Proctor, Mr. Wikramanayake was also a distinguished practitioner in the Hambantota District. He held a very prominent place as such, and there was not any public cause in that area in which Mr. Wikramanayake did not to the very last play an important part. He did very great service in securing a large number of amenities for that area, at the time he was elected to the Legislative Council to represent the Hambantota district, which had been very much neglected from the point of view of health, postal facilities, roads and so on.

Mr. Bandaranaike associated himself with the motion that their sympathy and sorrow on the deaths of the two elder politicians be conveyed to their relatives.

The Speaker associated himself fully with all that had been stated and requested the Clerk of the House to make a minute of the proceedings and send copies to the bereaved members of the two families.

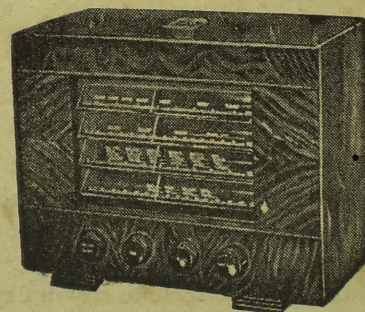


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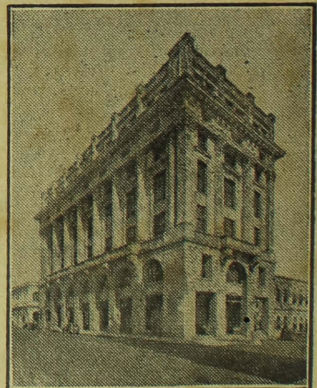
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