

u.n.p.



Opposition Criticism Neither Constructive Nor Destructive—Says Appointed Member Hunter

PROPAGANDA TO STIR UP THE MASSES OF THE COUNTRY

AMONG the speeches made during the debate on the Address of Thanks was a valuable contribution made by the Appointed Member, Mr. L. L. Hunter, who made his maiden speech on the floor of the House as a Member of the House of Representatives. While favouring the removal of the subsidy on food, he emphasized the need for devoting more money and more energy on extensive cultivation and declared that if a start were made in that direction, every inch of available land would be in a position to yield three times the present yield and the country could then reach the stage of self-sufficiency in regard to the food supply of the people.

"The financial position in which the Government finds itself today is due not merely to factors arising out of the food subsidies that had been paid out all these years", observed Mr. L. L. Hunter, Appointed Member, commenting on the debate on the Address of Thanks in the House of Representatives. His only excuse for coming into the debate he said was because he felt, that with the little more knowledge of Governmental affairs which he had, compared to the average back-bencher, it was his duty to help in the debate with whatever information he possessed.

Summarizing the speeches made in criticizing the original proposition as well as those in support of the amendment, he said he found neither constructive nor even destructive criticism in them. "The criticism lends itself to being described as propaganda on behalf of the Opposition to stir up the masses of the country."

ARM-CHAIR CRITICS

"It is very easy for arm-chair critics, without being in the Government or without actual experience of the country, to criticize the position the Government takes up in a situation like this. Patriotism, or regard for the welfare of the people, does not seem to count. What does count is the desire on the part of some hon. members, regardless of the difficult position of the Government, financial or otherwise, to get the utmost possible for their constituents."

He did not suggest that that was a wrong attitude to take up, but in a situation like the present, the position must be faced a little more squarely.

The decision taken by Government to spend out of loan funds large sums for the development of the country, went to the credit not merely of the Cabinet, he said, but of every Member of the House, both in the Government party and in the Opposition. It was not correct, therefore, to say that the Members of the Government party alone are responsible.

WAIVING SUBSIDY ON FOOD

Coming to the time when the subsidy on food must be waived and consideration given to the spending of that money on the development of the country, Mr. Hunter said: "There is no way out of that and there is nobody, either of expert opinion or of public opinion against that. Here I am speaking for the bulk of the population. There is divergence on that point of view that the subsidy on food must give way to development. As a matter of fact it takes us further, that this subsidy should have been removed long ago that it should have been removed at least in the past few years so that we may not have been in the position in which we are now of an increasing deficit. Now as I said, the answer is that the subsidy must be removed."

The question was raised in the course of the debate, "Will our external assets be further depleted by the increase in the import of rice to meet the increased ration as proposed?"

"I want to assure the House from my own knowledge, that with the increase in the import of rice there will be a corresponding decrease of flour estimated at the same amount of 110,000 tons. Even if it does not reach that estimated figure, the conserving of external assets can be made by other sources which will be proposed in the Budget and which have already been put into execution on the matter of Exchange Control and Control of Imports. So that objection or the danger that was foreseen by the Opposition Members who spoke, will not arise," was the reply.

INCENTIVE TO FOOD PRODUCTION

"There is still an incentive to production if there is the human element which is conservative absent except perhaps in the northern peninsula of this Island," said Mr. Hunter, "If we get that patriotism as they also get the need to provide food for themselves, with very little effort we can help cultivators to provide food for the purpose of sales and also for the purpose of increasing their own income. Then we have the urge that will make this country produce that food — produce even three times the present yield by intensive cultivation of paddy."

Referring to a recent land gift movement in India — that non violent social revolution whose object is the voluntary redistribution of the land wealth belonging to rich land-owners, among the poor landless people for the cultivation of food, Mr. Hunter described the Scheme for the rehabilitation of rubber with Government help as one which he suggested might profitably include a clause requiring land-owners owning about one hundred acres of land—even those owning between 10 and 100 acres — to allot a portion of their land on the fringe of their estates for village expansion. That, he said, would be a gesture that would gain the goodwill of the people of this country. It

cannot be gained by mere talk but by action.

His desire was to concentrate on this aspect of food production. In his own time as Government Agent he joined issue with the late Prime Minister on the question of the Government spending so much on new major irrigation schemes while starving the minor schemes and intensive cultivation of paddy. He wished to bring forward that issue again. "Is not the Government prepared to spend as much money in developing the existing paddy fields of about 900,000 acres as they spend on major irrigation schemes?" he asked.

In his experience he felt that the private paddy field owner, the small owner must be helped.

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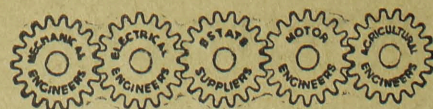
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How Does the 'Comet' Effect Shipping Industry?

Asks Fareed Aniff

BARRING the picturesque sailing boats of the Isle of Maldives that toss about in the vicinity of Colombo harbour, the hub of oriental shipping, generally, the big luxury liners, not to mention, the great freighters that lay at anchor by our port buildings, as if in obedience to a command, is a sight that always strikes the onlooker from time to time.

But what future has sea travel? The introduction of the comet into the aviation industry has made the world a miniature affair. The world was undoubtedly a larger place to live in, without the comet in the air. What an ordinary airplane took a maximum of five days to reach London from Ceylon barely one year ago, today the comet does in twenty four hours.

An up-to-date liner takes more than a fortnight to reach London from Ceylon. This difference in time between that taken by air travel and from that of a sea voyage, matters a great lot for a traveller.

The main idea behind the choice of tourists doing their trips by sea, is because, these trips give them a better chance of seeing places; for steamers on routine services spend at least half a day at each port of call. Chartered Steamers i.e. American globe trotters detain their ships for a longer period. This is not possible in air travel.

RISKS

New innovations to modern liners, without which there would be many barriers to sea travel, has eased the tension in risks a great deal. Risks in air and sea travel plays a vital role. That more safety is assured by sea travel, than by air, is considered by the majority.

True enough, since the new services of the comet to the East, we have unfortunately heard of two ugly air accidents, in which comets were involved.

These accidents took place at Pakistan and India, within a very short interval from the occurrence of each other. There has also been similar accidents throughout the world, taking a toll of many lives.

The latest comet accident that occurred over Calcutta, brought to ashes all its passengers and immediately after the news of this tragedy was splashed throughout the world, one mass of humans had angry comments to make. But the British people, through the medium of the press, stressed further faith in the comet.

I have had the good fortune to

visit some of the outstanding passengers liners that call at Colombo on their routine trips. These ships can be best described as veritable floating "cities". Every facility is found on a good liner.

Their shops are far above the standard of shops that one finds in the Colombo Port. Whilst their facilities for games and other entertainments are most satisfying and pleasurable. The like of such facilities is also found in the new comet-jet liner but of course in a more limited way.

The French and American liners that call at Colombo, on their round-the-world trips, are notable for their novelty in colour, design, arrangement and monotony. They differ vastly from the British ships. There is however, a uniform standard of cleanliness maintained in all steamers.

The 'Comet' has certainly thrown a big challenge to the shipping trade. With more maturity in its services, a greater sense of security in air travel will of course set in. But could we ever fight against nature? It remains to be seen..... if aviation will overwhelm the uncertainties of nature and bring accidents to a minimum, travellers will always prefer the easy way — through air.

This may weaken the shipping trade considerably, but they can still beat the pressure from the air by concentrating more on the transport of freight across the four corners of the world. The latest announcement however, that American Shipping freight lanes, throughout certain quarters had been blocked and that considerable loss has been sustained, is a real blow not only to American Shipping but Shipping as a whole.

Modern was experts too, find that a vital battle can be fought and won with more stress being made in developing an up-to-date Air Force than a Navy. The next world war will essentially be aerial.

The sea is always in the appropriate position to carry very large freight loads than air can achieve. With the shipping passage rates still soaring above the middle-class man's pocket, it is best suggested that shipping should venture more on the capture of bigger freight loads, in all markets, and in all avenues that are opened.

The poor however, cannot at any-time dream of doing their wild imaginary journeys in the lap of the comforts of modern shipping. I modestly belong to this lot. The sailing boat is the only medium I can fall upon. And with an appeal of this sort, the boatman is sure to oblige.

"Ferry me across the water, do boatman do.....I'll pay a penny in a pye, do boatman do....."

HOW HIGH IS EVEREST?

By Dolly

HOW high is Mount Everest?

"Why, it's 29,002 feet high", you'll say. You're right, but not quite. That height is the conventional figure. Experts believe that Mount Everest is much higher than 29,002 feet.

Since Mount Everest was "discovered" a century ago attempts have been made by various scientists to assess its actual height. Last year the Swiss expedition calculated its height to be 29,610 feet. Indian experts believe that Everest is nearer 29,200 feet. Some European scientists assessed it at 29,141 feet. American geographers put it at 29,249 feet. All these people, although they put down the height of the mountain at different figures, as you see, agreed on one point—that Mount Everest is heigher than 29,002 feet.

The controversy regarding the actual height of Mount Everest will, perhaps, be put to an end by the British expedition that conquered it a few days ago. The two men who

climbed to the top of the mountain, New Zealander, E. P. Hillary, and Sherpa Tensing, might have taken barometer readings at the summit which with observations taken at other points may give the correct height of Everest.

The conventional figure of 29,002 feet was arrived at a hundred years ago when observations were taken of the Himalayas during the Great Trigonometrical Survey of India in the 1840s. The Survey was directed by the Surveyor General of India, the British Geographers and Surveyor, Sir George Everest, after whom the mountain is named.

Pioneers who attempted to calculate the correct height of Mount Everest had many difficulties to overcome. One of them was the tremendous draw gravity of the Himalayas. This range of mountains draws all liquids towards itself as the moon draws the tides. This led to erroneous calculations as viewing instruments which were set in the vicinity to take observations were slightly tilted upwards owing to the pull of the liquid in the instruments by the Himalayas.

NOT FACING FACTS

By Stanley Morrison

THE debate on the removal of the food subsidies in Parliament last week was a pathetic demonstration of the Opposition's inability to face facts and their intemperate appetite for converting the Government's difficulties into an electoral slogan. Despite all the criticism of the Government's action in removing the subsidies, the highly intellectual leaders of the Opposition failed to make any constructive proposals for resolving the financial crisis except for the impractical proposal by Mr. Bandaranaike for super-tax on all incomes above Rs. 50,000 a year.

This is an utterly impracticable and injudicious proposal (as Mr. Bandaranaike himself knows) because, in a small agricultural country like Ceylon, a supertax on agricultural incomes would make it impossible for this class of taxpayer to lay by enough financial reserves for the rainy days which so often occur in his economic life. Besides, this is the only class of wealthy man in Ceylon (apart from the handful of rich professional men) from whose coffers the major part of capitalist enterprise in this country is financed. Dry up this source by inordinately heavy taxation and where, for instance, is the Government going to obtain the money for the loans it finds it necessary to raise for its own capital expenditures? And where is the money to come from for the various industrial ventures which foreign capitalists wish to start in Ceylon in partnership with local capital? If the main sources of capital for new enterprises are not to be choked off altogether, the formation of such capital has to be encouraged by a policy of wise taxation. But apart from this consideration, will a supertax yield the Rs. 160 millions necessary to permit the food subsidies to continue? In the present context of things it is doubtful whether the supertax proposed by Mr. Bandaranaike will ever yield such a large sum unless the tax is designed to seize 100 per cent of all incomes above Rs. 50,000 a year.

Today, however, such a rate of taxation would be suicidal, while any but the smallest super-tax would cripple all capitalist enterprise, create unemployment, frighten away foreign capital and create a widespread feeling of despondency. And

one of the most dangerous effects of a supertax at this stage of the country's development would be the frightening away of the foreign capital which is already knocking at our doors, offering to start new industries and to place their invaluable skill at the disposal of this country. There is now in Ceylon a Japanese businessman offering to work in partnership with Ceylonese capital and to inaugurate a rubber tyre-and-tube factory to meet all the local demands. This would mean a saving of at least Rs. 15 millions in imports. And even more important, it will create an appreciable local market for our raw rubber produce and result in the opening of a splendid avenue of employment for our young men and women. And this is not the only industrial enterprise which is being mooted by foreign capitalists, who will place at the disposal of this country their own skill and business acumen as well as the skill of the technicians they will be bringing out to launch the new industries and to train Ceylonese to replace them.

Thus, for a forward-looking economic policy the Government is in duty bound to conserve and encourage those sources from which local capital can be made available for the new industrial enterprises which Ceylon so badly needs if the national wealth is to be increased and employment found for the terrific increase in population with which the country is faced. A stupid policy of supertaxation at this stage would be the deathknell of all future economic progress. Such a policy would only be justified in a Communist state. Although Mr. Bandaranaike has an electoral alliance with the Communists, he is obviously opposed to Communism. Clever man that he is, he believes that he can ride to power on the back of the Communists. But as a student of recent history, he ought to know that the Communists have always proved to be too clever for their allies, for the simple reason that the Communists are always consistent while their pseudo-democratic allies indulge in orgies of inconsistency in the man's quest for power.

RELIGION IN MODERN CEYLON

We in Ceylon who possess such a glorious religious tradition should lay great emphasis on religious activities. The U. N. P. Government in conformity to this tradition has given active support to the development of all religions. But this does not imply that religion has secured a permanent place in Modern Ceylon. I dare say that this state of affairs will obtain in Ceylon only as long as the U.N.P. is in power.

If the Marxists come into power in Ceylon the first to go under their destructive sway will be religion. The Marxists who are essentially materialists and whose primary intention is to degrade man to the level of a beast in order to perpetuate their rule will naturally come into conflict with all religions.

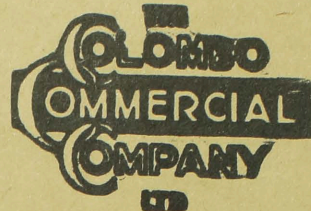
The more gullible among us however seem to be deceived by Mr. Bandaranaike's apparent enthusiasm for intensified religious development in Ceylon. It is evident however to the more discriminating observer that Mr. Bandaranaike's real intention is to use religion as a convenient tool to satisfy his repeatedly frustrated lust for power. No true patriot would have attempted to create artificial cleavages among the people as he did by his demand for a State Religion. His policy was clearly illustrated by his ill-conceived alliance with the avowed enemies of religion at the elections.

Under the thoroughly democratic rule of the U.N.P. however religion securely maintains its rightful place in the life of the nation. The U.N.P. Government actively supports all religious denominations quite irrespective of their size and wealth. It is precisely this policy that has helped to create a united and peaceful Ceylon so soon after the grant of Independence.

BERTIL RANASINGHE.

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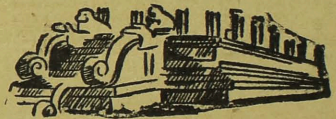


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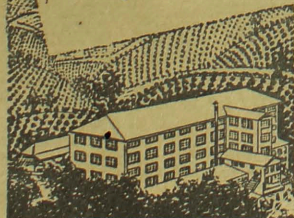
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Friday, July 24, 1953

THE OPPOSITION A SPENT FORCE

THE debate on the Address of Thanks resolved itself in its final stages to a debate on foreign policy. As the Prime Minister very cogently pointed out, while the Opposition was united in its disagreement with the present foreign policy of the Government, they themselves had so many different views as to what alternative policy should be followed that if it ever fell to their lot to form a Government, there would be complete chaos.

There was Mr. Bandaranaike, as Leader of the Opposition, arguing that the foreign policy of Ceylon should be more or less the same as the foreign policy of Switzerland. He was arguing for a complete neutrality. As Mr. Iriyagolle, Member for Dandegamuwa, pointed out, in the context of world politics, while it was in the interests of various contending forces to keep Switzerland neutral, Ceylon was far too important a strategic centre, too prosperous a country to be left alone by the big powers and the very safety and independence of Ceylon depended on her maintaining cordial relationships with such powers as would have the natural inclination to defend and protect the Island.

If Mr. Bandaranaike's contention was the unanimous view of the Opposition, then there might have been some ground for the debate but there was the Member for Colombo Central, Commissar Keuneman, whose one grouse was that Ceylon did not align herself with Red China and the Soviet bloc. His whole speech was a plea for the Soviet Union and might as well have been written in the Kremlin. According to his view the U.N.P. Government was a failure because it had not followed the Soviet line in international affairs. Mr. Keuneman also made the ridiculous statement that Ceylon had failed to extend its sympathy to the people of Asia and the Middle East who were demanding independence and self-determination. Commissar Keuneman has forgotten his geography. What are the countries in Asia that are fighting for independence? As far as we are aware all the countries in Asia and the Middle East are independent today, and many

of them have been independent for centuries. India, Pakistan, Ceylon, Iraq, Iran, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon—these are Asian and Middle East countries, everyone of which is free, independent and a sovereign state. This is precisely what Mr. Dudley Senanayake effectively pointed out to the Voice of Moscow.

The next part of Mr. Keuneman's childish survey of the world scene was a tirade against the United States of America and U.S. foreign policy. One would have wondered whether the Parliament of Ceylon was discussing Ceylon's foreign policy or America's foreign policy. Here was a Moscovite attacking the U.N.P. for what he considered to be the machinations of the United States Government. Some of the members of the Opposition joined in the laughter caused by the Prime Minister's sally that Mr. Keuneman might have been under the delusion that the United States was a dependancy of Ceylon and hence the U.N.P. Government should be held responsible for its far-flung dominions on the other side of the world.

The Opposition was not merely split between these two opposite views of Mr. Bandaranaike and Commissar Keuneman. There was a third pundit on foreign affairs, none other than Her Majesty's recent guest at the Coronation, Mr. C. Suntharalingam, Member for Vavuniya, and all such other parts of the country as he claims to represent. He opposed the Red China Trade Scheme. He said that there were political strings to the Pact. While Mr. Keuneman was obviously agreed that there were no political strings to the pact, he was happy at the opportunity to tie up Ceylon to the political strings of the Sino-Soviet policy. While Mr. Keuneman was peering through the covers of the Cabinet files to discover any American agent hiding between the Government documents, Mr. Suntharalingam was attacking that same Government for not getting wheat from America, as India and Pakistan had done. There seemed to be a stale odour about the Opposition speeches. Frustration and loss of faith in their own battle-cries was apparent in every speech. What with the mighty effort that is necessary to keep on lying to the people and with the further irritating conscience that must upset the members of the Opposition who must surely know that while their policies might get them votes they will lead to destruction of all that is best in Ceylon, it is not surprising that even the Parliamentary speeches should begin to show evidence that they are fast becoming a spent force.

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For Democracy's Sake

Sir,
I am obliged to seek your assistance to reply a humiliating letter which was published in a newspaper that denied me the right of reply. For Democracy's sake, please publish this.

Here is my letter which appeared in the "Times of Ceylon".

BALLROOM DANCING

Please allow me to raise three questions regarding the newly formed Board of Control for Ballroom Dancing in Ceylon, through your journal:

(a) On what authority can such an organization exist? When so many authorities on Ballroom Dancing refused to take part in the so-called Board of Control consisting of four professionals and four amateurs? (b) With so much of experience behind them, the organizers should know that the amateurs who sit with the professionals in a board lose their amateur status. (c) What is the proposed control such an organization can adopt?

W PETER P. DE SILVA

Colombo.

The reply from Miss Sample is as follows:—

COUNCIL FOR BALLROOM DANCING

I very much regret having to ask to use your valuable space to reply to a letter by Mr. W. Peter P. de Silva appearing in your issue of July 1st.

He asks three questions. To the first, another question must be asked in turn. He queries how the Ballroom Council can exist when so many authorities on Ballroom dancing refused to take part. Would he please name these so many authorities? and their qualifications for being considered as such? It would be interesting to know the numbers of ballroom dancers they directly represent. I will be glad to give W.P.P. de S. the numbers represented by the four amateurs and four professionals on the council. I doubt if W. P.P. de S. would be pleased to see the comparative numbers in print.

I will answer the first part of that question: "By what authority can such an organization exist?" One does not need an authority to form a body but it is as a direct issue of conversations I had last year with Mr. P.J.S. Richardson, O.B.E., Chairman of the Official Board of Great Britain, and Chairman of the International Council of Ballroom Dancing the Secretary of the Imperial Society, and several leading London teachers that the council

has been commenced. May I say I consider these people recognised authorities? I wonder if W.P.P.de S. does?

Second question: "With our experience we should know that amateurs who sit on a board with professionals lose their status". With our experience we know that statement is incorrect. We are a Ballroom Council, not an Official Board.

"What is the proposed control the organization can adopt?" If with our activities, we can give no cause for letters of the unfortunate type of W.P.P. de S's to appear further in the press we shall have done some good. I know all qualified teachers and most of the leading amateur dancers of Ceylon but have never heard of W.P.P. de S. figuring in either capacity. My personal feeling is that so many frustrations and failures in enterprises undertaken here are because there are people like this writer who offer no worthwhile contribution themselves to the common good and progress of an art, but are most enthusiastic in their efforts to criticise and disparage the people who are doing the work.

E. MAJORIE SAMPLE

My reply which was rejected on the grounds that the correspondence is closed, was as follows:—

It is most disappointing yet to find in our Democratic little Island, the unfortunate type of letters by writers who consider themselves the judge and the jury. Above all it is common decency to extend courtesy to others by entertaining their views. It is silly for Miss Sample to be a dictator and expect others to follow her blindly. Civility costs me nothing and therefore I do not wish to treat her humiliating letter with contempt. If none of these letters are published in the press, we shall soon find a day when no decent citizen will express his views through the press. If this is the attitude Miss Sample proposes to adopt, I have my doubts of the 4 amateurs in her council having a chance of being heard. I do not wish to correspond in an unpleasant atmosphere of this nature but let me add that her letter which was published in the Times of Ceylon of 3rd inst, displayed such an irritation, which is the direct result of being found out.

W. PETER P. DE SILVA.

(Note by Editor, U.N.P. We have no desire to enter the fray on either side. Both views are here.)

UNIT OF SOCIETY—THE FAMILY

By Eardley Gunasekera

ALL Christians will acknowledge that the basic unit of Society is the family. This is particularly so because Christian thought places a high premium on the sanctity of individuality and in early times Aristotle in his "Politics" emphasised the value of the State more than the individual. The brilliance of St. Thomas Aquinas propounded a unique interpretation when he recognised that the rights of the individual deserve priority. The strength and continuity of the family was a sufficient indication of the stability of society. It is an erroneous conception of modern times that places individuals on a common plane. The intrinsic nature of Christian principles are such that by them we are warned against a course of totalitarianism the necessity to regard family life as a component unit of a stable society need not be warranted by revelation, but by essentials of natural law in relation to Organic Society.

Roman history has maintained and preserved the family and Roman law teaches that no one can be "under his own power", that is no one can be *Sui juris* but *alieni juris* or under the potestas of the eldest male ascendant of the family. If one was a slave then under the potestas

of his master. So that as far back as 287 B.C. there had been an effort to give some coherence and form to Roman society. Besides Romans were keen on continuing the religious cult or sacra of the family and if a family ran the danger of not being able to continue the sacra of the family owing to lack of heirs, Roman law recognised abrogation and adoption. It was in a society on such foundations that democracy flourished and the concepts of Roman and Greek democracy has always been an example for us today.

The natural law demands individuals to effect reform and to introduce innovations for the explicit purpose of restoring the health of society. The desire to do so is always regulated by the fact that it must not undermine the strength of society. The Christian new order therefore observes the strengthening of family life to achieve a stable society. The connecting link of a systematic family life is permanent and indissoluble marriage. This being so it is necessary that every Christian country strengthens and protects the institution of marriage. The institution of marriage and family life are so closely linked that by general approval it is realised that family life is a requisite of a well defined society.

There has been some error, I believe, that marriage is solely a human contract, (though legally it

(Continued on page 6)

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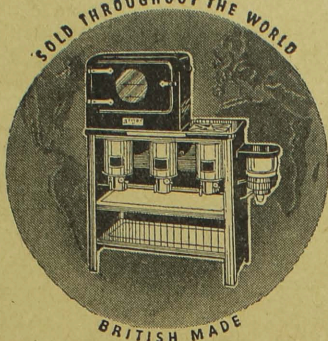
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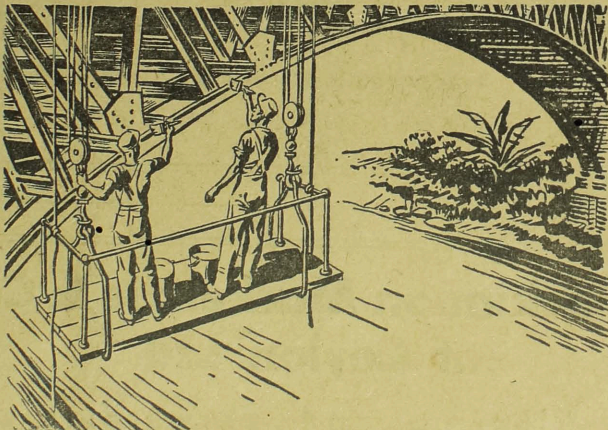
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POLITICS WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY

(From Our University Cor.)

IN an article written to these columns sometime back, reference was made to the fact that Trotskyism with the University is now a moribund force. The close of the last academic year, and the consequent departure of some of the prominent members of the L.S.S.P. high-command has considerably accelerated the process of decay. Thus, today, the C.P. is undoubtedly the most organized party at Peradeniya; the sympathisers of the anti-Marxist parties being unorganized.

Partly, their success could be attributed to the gigantic propaganda campaign carried out by the C.P. sympathisers of the staff of a certain department in the University. The tactics of the C.P. bosses here are in no way different from those of their superiors elsewhere, and there is clear evidence to prove that they have taken advantage of their position to enlarge the rank and file of the C.P. The process of indoctrination starts with the "study classes" at Hindagala, where the students are taught to swallow the sugar-coated pills of Marxism. These classes are conducted every Wednesday evening, and the students have to pay a "tuition fee" of 50 cents, which ultimately finds its way to the party coffers.

To strengthen the bonds of allegiance a "party" is thrown occasionally. It may be only a beer at the Peradeniya Rest House, or, as in the case of last term, a grand "social". Speaking of this "social" reminds me of the fact that it was unique in every sense of the word! It was held at the residence of Mr. T. B. Ilangaratne, under the distinguished patronage of Dr. S. A. Wickramasinghe. Evidently it had a political stigma attached to it (and I pity the "independent" who never realised it, or realised it too late!) Even the indoor games provided for the guests were political in outlook. For instance, they were shown the photographs of some of the top-ranking statesmen of the Soviet Union, and asked to identify them—a people's game, I presume. We have it on good authority that a large percentage of the guests were thoroughly disgusted with this "social". Again our sympathies are due to the "independents", especially to those of Hilda Obeyesekere and Sangamitta, who did not evidently have the foresight to realise that this "social" was intended for propaganda purposes. Surely, surely, even undergraduates ought to know that there should be some reason to hold a social, and that socials are not merely held for no reason at all! And what reason other than political could we attribute to this "social", for otherwise, what business had the doctor to come all the way

from Matara, and why was the "social" held at Mr. T. B. Ilangaratne's, of all places? I wonder whether the undergrads were so foolish as to be convinced, through the medium of a "social", that Marxism was the panacea for all the "evils of capitalism". Incidentally, the C.P. boys are the very people who oppose the introduction of "foreign traditions" to the University, and there has been a marked tendency for them to boycott all social functions. Evidently, even they do not mind a social at another's expense.

The process of indoctrination that started with the training classes at Hindagala is completed with an invitation from the doctor to spend a couple of days at Matara. Perhaps, this is the bait that attracted so many C.P. stooges to Matara during the last vacation, although they maintained that they were rendering "social service" to the downtrodden masses of the Matara District.

Once the unscrupulous undergrads have been reduced to the level of puppets, the C. P. bosses at Peradeniya make use of them to serve the interests of the main party and to support this statement, I give a recent instance. A few days back the C. P. was interested in a certain petition, and bits of information that leaked out from certain quarters reveal that the members of the staff, to whom reference was made elsewhere, taking advantage of their position instigated their victims to fabricate false evidence. Thus last week-end two of these bosses, accompanied by some of their more reliable stooges, left to Colombo to contact their lawyers. Usually very reliable sources inform me that the success of the mission was negligible, for only one had agreed to commit perjury. The others are now in a very precarious position. Being conscientious human beings, (at least, we assume so) they are not inclined to give false evidence, neither can they turn down the request that comes from their own lecturers, for the results of such a course of action are pretty obvious.

UNIT OF SOCIETY— THE FAMILY

(Continued from page 5)

is) or as a matter of fact an agreement between two parties enforceable at law. Though this may be true to an extent there is a deeper meaning in that it is analogous to the immaculate love and harmony which prevails between Christ and his Church. It is not merely a human invention but a divine institution.

Thus it is seen that in conformity with the tenets of natural law we should endeavour to preserve the nature and prestige of family life. The Catholic Church relishes deeply the savour of freedom, love and unity and it is our social obligation to prevent it from decaying.



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Are Accounting Methods A Measure of Progress?

Asks T. M. G. Samat

TWO thousand years ago did we have national Budgets? If we are to assume that roundabout that time the conditions of barter did not justify record keeping and forecasting that have been necessitated by the perplexities of our times, still how could Parakrama Bahu and others before him have achieved so much success in relating indigent problems to Lanka's economic potentiality without some kind of estimates of Income and Expenditure?

Since banks depended then on agriculture of the heaviest concentration such effects are reducing stock markets or securing of markets commendably steady on the approach of a national budget could certainly have not been involved in ancient times. Vainly would we seek for formulas in practice as sales less cost equals profit or rather sales less profit equals allowable costs. Nevertheless, there is no reason to suppose that accounts as written records were non-existent in ancient Ceylon.

Accounts as written records conducted business in the Persian Gulf and the Nile Valley 5,000 years ago. In Lanka's relationship with countries closely connected with these two areas, if not with these two areas themselves, how would 3,000 years later the practice of keeping accounts have found its way to so many civilised countries and not this Island?

In the design and lay outs of Sumerian inventories and Egyptian accounts preserved in the British Museum the general framework has been recognised as almost precisely what present day accountants live amidst and understand. This supports the view that the development of accounting has been functional. So it is not surprising to find that substantial changes in accounting methods did not occur until the 15th century coinciding with the

rise of Venice as a world centre. Only a mere 4000 years ago began the development of the double entry book-keeping. With the industrial revolution in the 18th century came the next notable change when cost accounting and manufacturing accounting became indispensable.

In terms of time space therefore the original methods of accounting dominated for 4000 years, the second phase for 400 years and the third a mere 200 years. In other words while the Iron age, Bronze age and Steel age made substantial progress, accounting methods merely evolved itself to meet the changing demand. There were no inventions in account methods.

The position that Lanka had an advanced stage of civilization which such imposing achievements in engineering as conservation of water by tanks and irrigation schemes of the most complicated order and did not have at least the principle of original accounting methods is a contradiction in terms.

The consequences of a country's development could always be traced in its accounting methods and this might be seen through a measure of progress in mechanised accounting now in general use in our big departments as a result of rapid communications, automatic machines and mechanical processes established in the country. Starting with a relatively small number of figures mechanized accounting can literally compile hundreds of calculations.

Compared with what mechanised accounting is capable of the potentiality of new conception—electronic accounting—is most frightening for it will be possible to do millions of calculations instead of hundreds. It is possible to handle electronically, price lists, table of discounts, details of routes of vans day to day, availability of each line of goods with specified alternatives and further alternatives when the first has been sold out. It calculates all quantity discounts. There is nothing it will not do except make bright guesses and perceive complex situations outside itself and interpret them.

The first electronic computer operating in England was that of Dr. Wiikes of Cambridge University. The speed of electronic computing is so fast that it can assimilate radar data and make the necessary calculations to effect control of a rocket in flight.

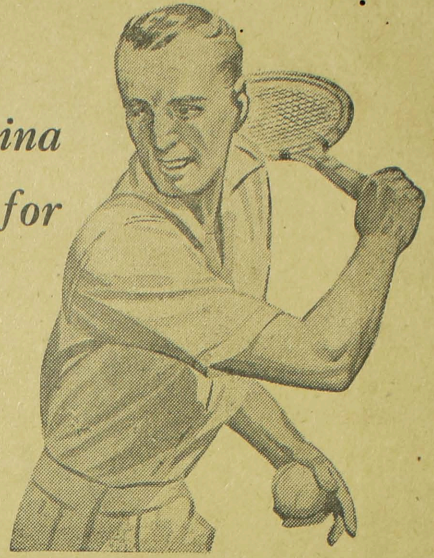
Projects for electronic calculations are taking shape. In other words even accounting methods cannot now remain functional. Do Ceylon businessmen sufficiently recognise that new methods are being rapidly evolved, for accounting methods cannot afford to be outdated while every other line is rapidly on the forward move.

Indeed accounting methods and procedure are now facing more revolutionary changes than they have ever had to face in the history of record keeping.

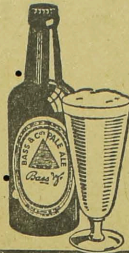
It was in 1830 that Charles Babbage received a Government grant, to build an analytical machine whereby long chains of calculations could be performed. In 1879 Lord Kelvin suggested solving differential equations by machine. In 1925 Dr. Bush of Massachusetts Institute of Technology and his associates began actual experiments with machines for this purpose. In 1939 Dr. Stibitz and Bell Telephone Laboratories constructed a complex computer for multiplying and dividing complex numbers.

It is a little startling to find that machines in general use in the Island are those of a higher stage than those that might have been in use in more advance countries industrially 15 years ago. Some inference of the strides made by Ceylon would seem to be possible in this way. Worthy of attention is electronic accounting with the possibilities of Hydro-Electric schemes associated with expansion of Norton Bridge Power for already our machine accounting system is on the verge of going into antiquity with the facilities offered by electronic accounting.

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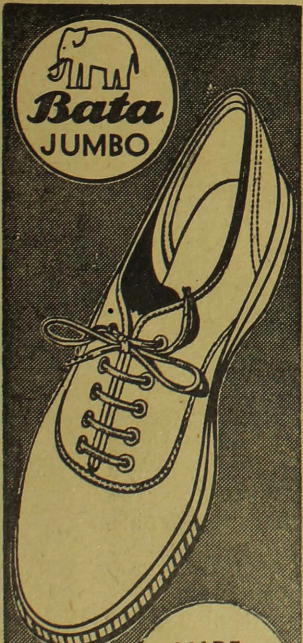
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