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Printing & Distribution of Election Pamphlets Amending Bill to Clarify Position

A BILL to amend the provisions of the Ceylon (Parliamentary Elections) Order in Council, 1946, relating to the printing and distribution of election pamphlets was introduced in the House of Representatives last week. The object of the Bill is to clarify the provisions relating to these pamphlets not bearing the name and address of the printer and publisher. Such printing or distribution under the present law, intentionally or unintentionally constitutes a corrupt practice. The existing law was the result of a recommendation by a Select Committee of the State Council, but this recommendation was based on the erroneous assumption that the Canadian law declared this particular offence to be a corrupt practice. It has now been ascertained, however, that the Canadian law only declares the offence to be an illegal practice and is substantially the same as the English law.

THE ENGLISH LAW

In the Kelaniya election petition case decided early in 1948 it was held, following the English law that an unintentional omission of the name of the printer would not constitute an offence.

Under English law the printing or distribution of pamphlets not bearing the name or address of the printer is not a corrupt practice but only an illegal practice; moreover, it is an illegal practice only if committed by a candidate or an election agent, and not if committed by some other person. In addition, a candidate or election agent can prove as a defence that the omission of the name and address of the printer arose from inadvertence or some other reasonable cause and not from want of good faith.

APPROPRIATE AMENDMENT

As there had been an interpretation recently by an Election Judge different to that given in the 1948 decision, Government considers that it is appropriate to make the proposed amendment of the law retrospective so that the amendments now being effected will be applicable in cases arising on the elections held during the last General Election. Hence there is special provision in Clause 6 which will enable the Supreme Court to review any such cases as may have been determined by election Judges before the amending legislation is actually passed into law.

THE RELEVANT SECTION

The amendments made are to become retrospective from January 1, 1952. The following is the relevant Section:—

Every person who, not being a candidate or an election agent, prints, publishes, distributes or posts up, or causes to be printed, published, distributed or posted up, any advertisement, handbill, placard or poster which refers to any election and which does not bear upon its face the names and addresses of its printer and publisher, shall be guilty of an offence and shall on conviction by a District Court be liable to a fine not exceeding five hundred rupees:

Provided, however, that a person shall not be guilty of an offence under the preceding provisions of this section, in relation to any advertisement, handbill, placard or poster, if he satisfies the District Court that the omission of the name or address of its printer or publisher arose from inadvertence or from some other reasonable cause of a like nature and did not arise from any want of good faith.

Permanent Bribery Commission

ALTHOUGH a formal motion suggesting the appointment of a permanent bribery commission was introduced and unanimously agreed to during the present sessions of the House of Representatives, the Prime Minister announced that legislation has been finally drafted and will be before the House at an early date.

"Why did you not say that all this time?" asked the Member for Vavuniya, who and many other members spoke at great length on the motion.

"I wanted to give every Hon. Member an opportunity to have his say on the subject before I disclosed this fact," was the Prime Minister's rejoinder, who continuing said that members would then have full opportunity of discussing the legislation when it is introduced. Of course, they had to be very careful in framing legislation of this nature.

EARLY STEPS

"As a matter of fact, the moment the Government was formed," declared the Prime Minister, "and soon

after it was formed, it was my intention to see that the idea embodied in this motion was given effect to. But there were certain constitutional difficulties. For instance, as Hon. Members are aware, a bribery commission functioned not very long ago and a certain number of persons were found guilty of certain charges. But the whole procedure had to be gone through again by the Public Service Commission, because under the constitution the authority to take any disciplinary action against public servants is the Public Service Commission. The next step was taken, namely, to explore the possibility of having a permanent organization to do the very things Hon. Members wanted done, that is, the immediate investigation of any irregularities brought to the notice of a special organization to be set up. With that end in view, legislation has been finally drafted, and will be before this House as soon as possible."

Continued on page 3)

Govt. Guaranteed Paddy Purchase Scheme

"WILL the Government consider the early introduction of an Island-wide paddy purchase scheme which will benefit the cultivator and the consumer and which will kill the moneylender, the black market profiteer and the middleman, and also consider a similar scheme for all other grains such as kurakkan, meneri, tana, sorghum, etc., so that the Government will be the sole purchaser of all locally produced grain crops which will be disposed of at fair controlled rates to the public?" is the question posed by Mr. Tutein Nolthenius (Appointed Member) in the House of Representatives. He alleged that the majority of cultivators have to mortgage the crops to moneylenders in order to subsist.

GOVERNMENT OPPOSED TO COMPULSION

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Food replied that if the Hon. Member contemplated the

introduction of a scheme for compulsory purchase, the Government was certainly opposed to such a scheme as it is satisfied that the present voluntary Government Paddy Purchase Scheme has achieved the purpose for which it was introduced namely, obtaining for the producer the best possible price for his produce. The same consideration applied to other locally grown grains.

"There are already 530 co-operative agricultural products societies and 2,500 co-operative credit societies," he added. "Their activities are being expanded and the Hon. Minister has given orders that where C.A.P. Societies deal with unwieldy areas they should be reorganised so that they will have a 100 per cent. membership and be able to give credit facilities to farmers resulting in it being unnecessary for farmers to resort to borrowing from moneylenders or black marketeers.

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SINCE the enactment of the Land Development Ordinance, it has been the policy of the Government to encourage the settlement of middle-class colonists on the land in order to bring "into existence a class of educated men, dwelling among the peasants, sympathising with them in their efforts, alive to all the improvement of modern methods." This was envisaged by the late Prime Minister in his brochure entitled "Agriculture and Patriotism" published in 1935. In short these educated men of the middle-class were to act as the pioneers of a new rural civilization.

In their report on the utilization of Crown lands, the Committee makes certain recommendations based on a recognition of the validity of this statement of policy, even today. With regard to the needs of middle-class colonists in general several proposals have been made. One important point stressed in the case of middle-class allotments, no less than in respect of any other land, is that agricultural development depends to a very great extent on the enterprise of the allottees themselves.

ENTERPRISE NEEDED

There is no doubt that most of the allottees are drawn from the educated class, but it is regrettable to note that their education is not always matched by an equal degree of enterprise which is so necessary for the success of any type of farming. In saying so the Committee do not belittle the efforts of several middle-class allottees who have done excellent work in the field. Their desire is to focus attention on the need for more enterprise and a greater sense of co-operation for mutual benefit among the allottees themselves. Much could be done by agricultural societies formed among themselves. Much useful work could be done if they form themselves into co-operative agricultural products and sales societies for the purpose of obtaining loans to purchase implements, fertilisers, and marketing their produce. Peasants in colonisation schemes are helping themselves through those societies and there is no reason why middle-class colonists cannot follow their example.

MIDDLE-CLASS CEYLONESE DEFINED

The Land Development Ordinance defines a Ceylonese as "a person of either sex domiciled in this Island and possessing a Ceylon domicile of origin." Such a person is deemed to be a Middle-class Ceylonese if his statutory income, being unmarried is less than Rs. 6,000 for the preceding year of assessment, or if he is married, the joint statutory income of both spouses is less than Rs. 12,000. But in the context of conditions today the Committee considers that this definition needs revision. After taking into consideration the value of money today and the cost of labour, equipment and planting materials necessary for development of land the Committee recommends that the income limit be raised to Rs. 12,000 (single) and Rs. 24,000 (married). This, it is considered, will enable a large number of middle-class persons with the necessary resources to be selected for the development of Crown land.

LAND ALLOTMENT LOANS

It is considered important to provide more facilities for middle-class Ceylonese than are available at present, particularly in the case of those selected for dry-farming schemes. The unit of allotment recommended for dry-farming lands is 75 acres or less. The limit of 50 acres as specified in the Land Order should be raised to 75 acres. On the question of loan facilities, it is considered that the present procedure being inadequate for the purpose, it should be revised. Normally a loan granted under the Land Development (Loans) Regulations does not exceed 60 per cent. of the value of the holding. A loan of an appreciable amount of money cannot, therefore, be obtained till the land is developed to a considerable extent and until a grant is obtained for the land. Usually middle-class lands are alienated on permits in the first instance and grants are issued only when the land has been satisfactorily developed. It has been shown that for a 75-acre dry farm a capital expenditure of Rs. 32,000 should be incurred initially during at least the first four years. This amount can rarely be obtained under the present regulations. Therefore it is recommended that the repayment of the loan should be spread over a period of 32 years beginning

D. S. Senanayake Commemoration Day at Moratuwa

DESPITE the indifference of the civic authority of Moratuwa to commemorate the first anniversary of the death of the late Rt. Hon. D. S. Senanayake, the public of Moratuwa demonstrated on the 22nd March in tangible form their affection for the Father of the Nation. Ringing of Church and Temple bells, religious services, alms giving and meetings were organised that day.

The U. N. P. Youth League, Moratuwa held an alms-giving in the morning when nearly 150 families were supplied each with a day's ration comprising of rice, coconuts, dried sprats, dhall and money. A little brochure compiled by Mr. H. V. Peiris, teacher, St. Sebastian's College, Moratuwa, was distributed by the U.N.P. Youth Leaguers. Before the alms-giving addresses on the contribution made by the late Father of the Nation was stressed by Messrs Denis Fernando (General Secretary, Youth League), H. V. Peiris, President, Teachers' Guild, St. Sebastian's College, S. Lucien J. Silva, member U.C., and B. W. Fernando (representing the Labour). The alms-giving was organised by Mr. Herbert Wijesekera, co-founder of the Youth League, Mr. Turin Fernando and Mr. Denis Fernando. Several ladies helped in the distribution of alms under the direction of Mrs. B. C. Dias and Mrs. S. Mandawala. Mr. H. E. P. de Mel, M.P., President, Youth League, and other prominent citizens of Moratuwa were present.

At noon the inmates of the Moratuwa Home for the Aged were supplied with their mid-day meals by the Moratuwa U.N.P. Branch. Messrs. Thomas Amarasinghe, Vice-Patron, Q. C. Fernando, President, S. Lucien J. Silva, Secretary, and Mr. C. Derwin Fernando (Treasurer), Messrs. D. E. W. Perera, Herbert Wijesekera and other leading citizens of Moratuwa were present.

In the evening a public meeting was held at Angulana under the auspices of the Maha Jana Sabha, presided over by Mr. Alfred V. Fer-

nando, J.P., U.M., President, at which relief was granted to the fire victims at Angulana. A sum exceeding Rs. 1,000 was distributed by the President. This was collected from the public.—(Moratuwa Cor.)

A MEMORABLE DAY

For the first time in the House of Representatives on Wednesday, the 25th March, speeches were made in Swabasha without any limitation whatsoever. There were seven speeches in Sinhalese and two in Tamil, the latter by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Food, and the Member for Paddirippu; which evoked a complimentary comment by the Prime Minister.

Said Mr. Dudley Senanayake:

Mr. Speaker, today is a memorable day, memorable in that it is the first day on which speeches in the national languages without any limitations whatsoever have been allowed in this House. Hon. Members will pardon me if I do not follow their very good example on this motion. I do not intend doing so for the simple reason that I want all members to understand what few words I have to say on this very important motion. As a matter of fact, there were, I believe—I could not follow them—very valuable contributions in the Tamil language and I must apologize for not being able to follow a word of what was said.

IMPORTATION OF BRILLIANTS

"It is not desirable to do so," said the Minister of Finance, in reply to a question in the House of Representatives whether the Government will consider the prohibition of the import of brilliants; and gave the figures for 1950, 1951 and 1952, of the quantity and the value thereof:

In 1950 the quantity imported was 1,140 carats valued at Rs. 894,081; in 1951 1,446 carats valued at Rs. 1,309,532, and in 1952, 1,679 carats to the value of Rs. 1,306,376.

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RECENTLY the Prime Minister, Mr. Dudley Senanayake, at a school function deplored the continued employment trend towards white collar jobs, particularly towards that lodestar of the timid sons and daughters of the soil—government jobs. And now, last week, a Deputy Director of Education, Mr. R. J. F. Mendis, speaking at the prize-giving at the Government College, Batticaloa, castigated the government clerical servant. He said (very truly) that "the motto of the Government Clerical Service to-day seems to be more pay and less work." He added that there was a lack of awareness of one's duty to the country among the young men and women of the present day. In the clerical service the output of work was very much less than in pre-war days. If only the young men in this service increased their output of work, he said, several millions of rupees could be saved by the Government.

Who amongst members of the public who have need regularly to come into contact with the average government servant—clerical servant or otherwise—would deny this soft impeachment? And apart from the large sum that could be saved the country if the government servant would get down to doing a real day's work, what about the vast sum being expended in maintaining an establishment which is badly over-staffed—as is patent to any member of the public who watches the perfunctory manner in which the average government servant does his work. On the whole, the female member of the species appears to be much more hard-working than the male and is also much more courteous. How much money does the Government lose every year through having to maintain a bloated establishment on account of the lackadaisical sense of duty of the average public servant, which necessitates two or, sometimes, three men doing the work that one man could do? One has only to contrast the attention to duty of the average mercantile clerk with that of the pampered public servant to realise what a colossal sum of money is wasted early as a result of the do-nothing spirit of the public servant.

WHITE COLLARS STILL AT PREMIUM

By Stanley Morrison

The recent go-slow strike in the harbour aroused the indignation of the authorities since it involved a financial loss to the country. But will the authorities try to compute how much money is lost to the government owing to the perpetual go-slow strike of the public service in general? In most government offices a go-slow strike is on every day. But nobody bothers about it. Letters from the public, however urgent, are never answered at all or are answered weeks later. On race days some government offices are turned into private betting shops and the public must wait at the counters until their so-called servants complete their selections of race-horses before they condescend to attend to public business. The plain fact is that this rank indifference of the public servant to his duty to the public is allowed to go on because the nabobs who preside over these offices as staff officers and civil servants are so wrapped up in a sense of their own importance that they do not deign to come out of their empanelled hide-outs to see for themselves how their subordinates disport themselves. And so the merry whirligig goes round, and the habit of doing as little as possible for as much as possible becomes deeply ingrained in the mind of the public servant. Is it any wonder that the government service job is so attractive to the average Ceylonese, to whom independence means an utter independence from the necessity of doing a proper job of work?

To return to the Prime Minister's denunciation of the clamour for government jobs, it is an unfortunate fact that government policy still encourages this trend. It encourages it by continuing to pay much better salaries to a pen-pusher than to a mechanic or other skilled or semi-skilled manual worker. It encourages it by the utter planlessness of our educational system, which continues to churn out thousands of semi-discontented literates in three languages who scoff at agricultural or industrial vocations. How can

this trend be discouraged by government action? The fact is: the government could do a great deal to change the public thirst for white collar jobs. Among the things the Government could do to make white collar jobs less attractive are the following:—

- (1) Reduce the scale of salaries paid to clerical servants and other similar grades of public servants;
- (2) Establish a large number of vocational training centres at central sites all over the Island to train men and women for industrial and agricultural vocations.
- (3) Inaugurate State-aided dairy farms, orchards and food-growing farms outside all large towns and cities and at rural centres, where the youth of the country would be given a thorough training in these pursuits, so that they would be encouraged to set themselves up in farms of their own (leased or sold to them by the Government at very moderate rates);
- (4) Pay a subsidy to private engineering firms to train a certain number of young men in technical skills;

(5) Recruit skilled staff for Government technical enterprises exclusively from this reservoir of trained men;

(6) Compel private technical enterprises to recruit their staffs from among these trained men;

(7) Organise new State or State-aided industries in keeping with the country's needs to absorb any surplus of skilled labour that is annually left over from Government and private training establishments;

(8) Organise cottage industries on the Japanese model all over the Island and preferably recruit a body of Japanese experts to establish such industries in Ceylon;

(9) But, above all, the Government must fix the salary and wage scales of all skilled labour at a higher rate than the scales of Government clerical servants and mercantile clerks in order to attract educated young men and women into the technical trades and to remove the stupid stigma which now attaches in this country to the men and women who work in overalls as opposed to our jean-clad pseudo-Americans—not to speak of our spruce young women who decorate the women's pages of daily papers and betrays a cretinous lack of social sense or the slightest awareness that there exist in this country thousands of women who live below the borderline of poverty and whose poverty would be greatly relieved if these female society peacocks would sacrifice some of their finery to help their poorer sisters to eke out their lives.

Permanent Bribery Commission

(Continued from page 1)

DIRECT ACTION

Referring to the possibility of false accusations and the need for direct action the Prime Minister said when he was Minister of Agriculture, there were occasions in which certain matters were brought to his notice. Instead of going through the normal procedure of getting reports, he had the C.I.D. put on to investigate certain complaints which were made, and having found them to be correct, immediate action was taken. In certain cases, without any doubt it was proved that the man who made the allegation fell out on some other ground and trumped up a case against the poor person about whom the allegation was made. Such things could occur, he said, and in considering any machinery for effectively stopping bribery and corruption, one had to look at all aspects of the question

and see that the machinery was not abused in the process.

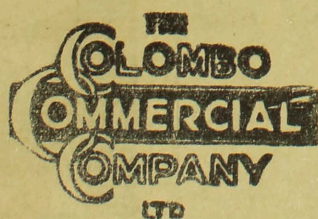
NO RUSH MEASURES

Continuing, the Prime Minister said:

"That being so, this is a matter which could not have been rushed through in the space of a few months, and, as I said earlier, I have already obtained the opinion of the Minister of Finance on the draft legislation because the Public Service is really under him. Very soon legislation will be before the Cabinet and in due course before this House. When that legislation is seen by Hon. Members, they will realize that although it does not provide for the appointment of a permanent bribery commission, it provides for the setting up of an organization to achieve that same object. The spirit of this Motion will be carried out if and when the House passes that legislation."

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Friday, April 3, 1953

BANKING REFORM IN CEYLON

Years after the most important step in the direction of economic independence — the establishment of the Bank of Ceylon by Mr. G. C. S. Corea, then Minister for Commerce and Industry—we now have a debate on certain reforms needed in our banking system. All our reforms in commerce and trade and industry will be of little avail if there is no corresponding and helpful reform in our system of banking. The new Manager of the Bank of Ceylon, Mr. Loganathan, has made an unanswerable case for a monopoly of all local current account deposits in order more effectively to help both the people and the Government. It is a fact that the only bank in Ceylon to be of any real use to Ceylonese nationals has been the Bank of Ceylon. The other banks, some of them nearly a 100 years old, have not bothered to open branches nor particularly to concern themselves with assisting and nursing the growth of national commercial and industrial institutions. The advice that London investors and shareholders may have received in the past may have been the basis of this policy of fear. Legends like the undependability of Ceylonese in business probably frightened the British banks. The equally legendary belief in the universal honesty and dependability of non-Ceylonese business weighted the dice further against the Ceylonese. Whatever the reasons or causes, the result is beyond dispute—that, if there had been no Bank of Ceylon there would be no Ceylonese money to Bank.

The Bank of Ceylon is our greatest national achievement of recent times. It is even more speedy in business negotiations than some other banks: it is more trusting and accommodating to Ceylonese than any other.

It is therefore the duty of the Government to resist the in-

terests which want an American Bank established here. We do not wish to be hostile to American interests: indeed, we are most anxious to assure them of our highest esteem and consideration. There is, however, no reason why we should have an American Bank in Ceylon. The Thai people have had an experience of such intrusion, and one will not go into that on this occasion.

The Bank of Ceylon is capable of handling all the commercial and personal accounts of the Island. It only handles about one-third of that business now. The argument that yet another Bank should be opened on the same basis as the Bank of Ceylon is one of which we should be wary. In banking, to duplicate is to weaken; and such duplication as this proposal urges would weaken both the present Bank of Ceylon and the new one to be.

The argument that carries in most club-room talk is that one must not put all one's eggs in one basket. Those who are swayed by this kind of proverb-quoting might do well to remember that the days when eggs were put into baskets are long past, and, in any case, Banks are not baskets and currency is not a collection of eggs!

The old established Banks in Ceylon, however, should be assured of security and stability. It is up to them to win the support of Ceylonese business by service of a more liberal and wider nature. They may reflect on the paucity of the help and credit they have hitherto afforded to the nationals of Ceylon. In contrast, European and Indian capital have found a ready backing from these Banks.

There is also a slight anomaly in the Central Bank and the Bank of Ceylon being under the direction of two different Ministries of the Government. A more coherent and progressive policy could be fashioned and pursued if one single Ministry co-ordinated all banking activity. Banking is so vital a part of commerce that it seems logical that the Ministry responsible for all our commercial and trade development should be vested with this responsibility. So astute and far-seeing a Minister as our Minister of Finance and our progressive and patriotic "China Dick" should easily be able to effect the necessary adjustment to this problem.

U. N. P. BRANCH IN ANALITIVU

Mr. V. Carthigesu, Propaganda Assistant of the United National Party, addressed a public meeting at Analitivu, Kays Constituency, in the Northern Province, and organised a Branch Association at Analitivu. He explained the policy of the party and the principles for which the party stood. He advised the people to take lively interest in promoting the principles. It was up

to the people to loyally support and maintain the good work done for the economic welfare of the country.

The following office-bearers were elected:—

President: A. Sabapathy.

Vice-Presidents: V. Vaithiyalingam and I. Kanagasabai.

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Communists Still Dream of World Conquest

Says Quintus Delilkhan

THERE is a tendency today for people to watch out for cracks in the Communist system. Already there is talk of disarmament, and, perhaps a wishful tendency towards relaxation in the build-up of power due to the extreme pressure of the economic situation in democratic countries. This is a dangerous tendency to allow to develop in our time. It cannot be doubted that Russia has no intention of making concessions which would ease the existing pressure on the democratic world.

There can be no real amity between the Communist world and the democracies. It is possible that some negligible concession might be made by Russia. This would be for the purpose of creating a good impression in some quarters. All this would be only skilful propaganda. It must be evident that the Russian system is not designed to allow itself to exist side by side with the democratic system for ever. The self-containment of Russia is only a temporary self-containment. There is nothing to prevent it from spreading out any time at any particular point accordingly as circumstances permit. Already it has shown an amazing power of annexing countries which were formerly democratic.

No Russian has ever given up the dream of world conquest for Communism. It is not merely for self-protection that Russia has been building up the second largest navy in the world. Her having done so is an indication of her considered policy. There is no doubt that whilst she has been getting up peace congresses, they are not meant for securing the peaceful progress of the nations. Russia's sole intention was to create the impression that whilst the democracies were arming

for war, she alone was inducing the people of all countries to live for peace without thinking of war. The ruse adopted by Russia is so obviously meant to mislead the world, that it should justly create an opposite impression to what Russia desires in this matter. Russia has no scruple in playing upon the hopes and fears of the peoples of the democracies in any matter which means a gain to her in her campaign to reduce the democratic world to a condition of servitude sooner or later.

Negotiations with Russia, if such are deemed necessary, should have very definite objects and be dropped the moment it is realised that the Russians are merely trying to use such negotiations for their peace propaganda purposes. The lesson of Korea should not be lost on the democracies. If the negotiations did not take place, the Chinese would today have been in a much worse position than the allied forces and might have been even driven back. But today they have built up an immense strength and observers believe that a position of almost permanent stalemate has been created. It is surprising how quickly the democracies fall into the traps laid for them by the various Communist bodies with which they are brought into contact. The democracies should not be slow to learn their lesson. It is necessary to take a firm line of action with Russia and the Chinese if any result is to be gained. In times of peace, there appears to be a general paralysis of democratic statesmanship.

It must be realised that every Communist country acts under a general plan which is framed in Russia and is consistently followed. This gives strength and momentum to Communist action. China does not act without the co-operation of Russia. Every Communist country acts according to a re-arranged plan. In the meantime, the democracies, being free, are divided. Russia is always able to throw a spanner into the works. There is no reason to believe that Malenkov is less skilled in doing this than Stalin. We should not be too sanguine that the declared policies of the past for which Russia stood have undergone any change. Russia has been much too successful in the past to make it necessary that she should be disposed to forego the advantageous position which she now enjoys in her dealings with the democracies.

The strange part of this whole business is that the democracies should go on blundering and hoping that something would turn up to their advantage. By this attitude of mind the democracies have fostered in the Russian leaders the impression that they are invincible. It is a frame of mind which is extremely dangerous to the very cause of peace which the democracies have at heart. It aids the war aims of Russia which will strike at once if there is hope of success. It is always possible for Russia to take the lead in all matters which tend to her creating the impression among the Communist nations that the democracies are afraid of her strength. This has enabled Russia to maintain her position of growing power and secure for herself the loyalties of her satellite governments.

The Communist system is strong in a very real sense, and it is therefore necessary that the democracies should go on arming themselves until they are able to meet Russia on more than equal terms. If the democracies are fully armed, they will adopt a very different tone in negotiations. The cold war which Russia has been waging successfully for so long will then lose its force and effect. It is this habitual uncertainty which leads to the present humiliating position of the democratic world, willing to wait upon the slightest signs of Russia's alleged changes of heart. The more the democracies re-arm the better will be the quality of independence and effectiveness in their diplomacy.



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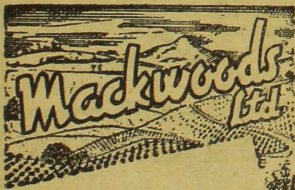
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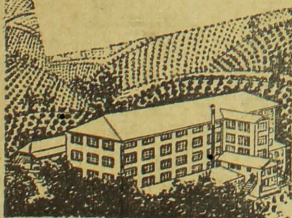


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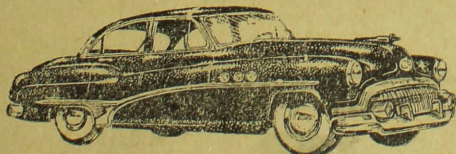
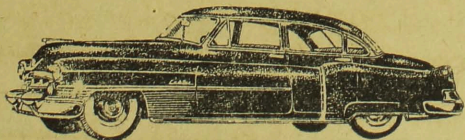
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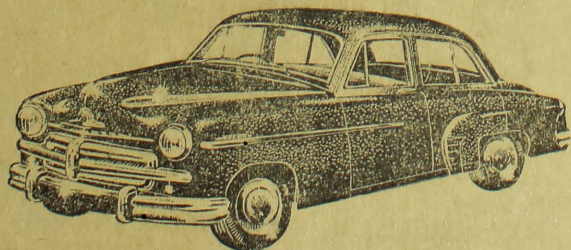
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BEHIND CLASS STRUGGLE— THE COLOUR AND POSTS STRUGGLE

(By Our University Correspondent)

THE Trotskyites have cooked their own goose. Gone is the time when they were a powerful force in University politics and could stand on their own feet. Today they have to resort to all kinds of shady alliances and shameless compromises. The term before marked a sweeping victory for the Trotskyites on the bogus ticket of "foreign traditions" and with a "United front" with the C.P. Having come into power in almost every hall and completely dominated the Students' Council they played out the C.P. and found it discreet to forget about foreign traditions. Indeed, in certain cases Trotskyite presidents were the stoutest champions of such "obnoxious" foreign traditions as high table dinner. Not surprisingly the undergraduate electorate last term gave the Trotskyites a thorough beating. Even their erstwhile allies, the Communists, thought it better to sever all connections with the Sama Samajists and in one Hall it developed into an open clash between "punchi" Stalins and "punchi" Trotskyites.

To win at the Student Council election the Trotskyites now made a new alliance. This time with cricketers and ping-pong players, but this tactic brought them only two out of eight posts—a narrow win at the presidential election, and in the case of the Editor, the Trotskyite stooge had to depend on the casting vote of a political acrobat and intellectual turn-coat.

But the new manoeuvre was to put the Trotskyites in a tough spot again. Their nominee, Mr. V. Krishnadasan, soon showed that he was not going to toe the party line and run the risk of antagonising the Vice-Chancellor (the ultimate authority on the society constitution and the Chairman of the Civil Service and various other interview boards).

Every motion brought forward by the Sama Samaj tin-pot boss Ariyasinghe and his henchmen was ruled out of order by their own nominee.

In exasperation the Trotskyite group wanted to pass a vote of censure on the President hoping of course that the right-wingers led by Mr. Mervyn de Silva (the defeated right-wing presidential candidate) would automatically support them. But the right-wing group made no pretences as to how they would stand—"not personalities but principles" as one of them put it after the crisis. The vote of censure idea was quietly dropped.

INFORMED circles in the University, however, say the crisis was really the result of a split in the Trotskyite Party between the theoretical pandits (the 'parlous Bolsheviks' in the phrase of the "living Trotsky," Mr. Phillip Gunawardena) and the rank and file members led by Ariyasinghe.

What is really happening is that the trend in national politics is being reflected in the University—so the "Pothayguras" accuse Ariyasinghe of taking the role of Phillip Gunawardena and playing second fiddle to the C.P. Soon the C.P. will crush the Sama Samaj group in its deadly embrace and the pseudo-dialecticians frustrated by their own mediocrity and without a following will do what is historically inevitable—look towards the Civil Service—the land of hope and glory. Indeed already one such "dialectician" was caught defending the Jennings Constitution on the night on which Jayatilke Hall passed a vote of condolence on the death of Stalin.

THE Economic Society Elections were a farce. Its President who was elected last year on Right-wing and Independent support against a Trotskyite was intimidated into collaborating with the Trotskyites this year in their usual technique of the indirect purchase of votes whereby candidates pay the membership fee and enrol miscellaneous individuals. This term some undergrads who probably did not know the existence of the Economic Society suddenly found their names in the membership list. All genuinely interested undergrads boycotted the elections under protest and in disgust. Thus for the first time every post in the Economic Society went uncontested and fell into the lap of post-hunting revolutionaries.

(To be continued).

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Death of Her Majesty Queen Mary

Vote of Condolence

IN the House of Representatives, Sir John Kotelawala, Leader of the House, moved the following motion—vote of condolence on the death of Her Majesty Queen Mary:

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

"We, the Members of the House of Representatives of Ceylon, request that Your Excellency be pleased to send a Message of Condolence to Her Majesty the Queen in the affliction and loss Her Majesty has sustained by the death of Her Majesty Queen Mary, and to assure Her Majesty that we participate in the universal feeling of sympathy with Her Majesty on this sad occasion."

He said: Honourable Members of this House will recall that the Queen we now mourn was the distinguished Princess Mary of Teck who, in 1893, married Prince George of Windsor, Duke of York, and that this Royal Couple became King and Queen of England in 1910. Older members of this House will also remember the visit paid to Ceylon by the Duke and Duchess of York, when the future Queen Mary endeared herself in our hearts with her quiet dignity and the touching simplicity of a good woman. The death of King George V in 1936 brought to an end a reign of twenty-five years and separated a Royal couple whose devotion to each other was exemplary. As Queen Mother, Queen Mary saw two of her sons as successive reigning sovereigns of England.

Queen Mary endeared herself to the people of Great Britain by taking an active part in social service activities, both as Queen and later as Queen Mother. She was a connoisseur of Oriental art and freely lent her valuable collection of antiques and pictures to various exhibitions

which were held in London from time to time.

We in Ceylon join with the rest of the Commonwealth in condoling with Her Majesty the Queen and other members of the Royal family on this sad occasion. We can readily understand the sense of affliction and loss the people of England must feel when they mourn the death of this noble woman, whom they knew more intimately, as Queen, than others in far flung parts of the Commonwealth did.

Now, rich in years and crowned with reverence, she leaves us; all we may do today is to pay our most sincere homage to her memory and respectfully offer to her granddaughter, our Queen, our condolences and our consolations.

Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike (Leader of the Opposition): I wish to associate myself with the Hon. Leader of the House in the Address of condolence which he has moved on the death of the late Queen Mary. During a very long and full life Queen Mary, both before the late King George V became King and during his long reign of 25 years and thereafter as Queen Mother, had a very full life in every sense of the word. During that long life she had to face many crises both of a public as well as a private nature in Britain. I think all will be agreed that she exemplified in herself the best qualities that are typical of British womanhood.

I associate myself with the motion before the House.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT BY THE QUEEN

The Speaker read the following message he had received from Her Majesty the Queen in acknowledgment:

"I am sincerely grateful to you for the message. Please assure all members that I deeply value the message.—ELIZABETH."

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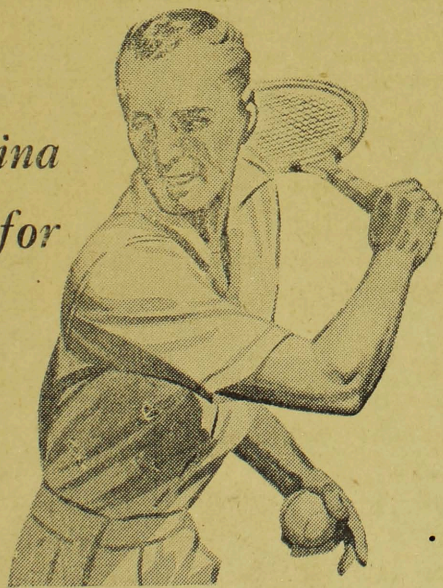
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