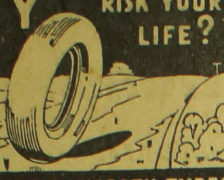


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SIR JOHN MAKES BRILLIANT SPEECH

Churchill Deeply "Impressed" says London Journalist

AT the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association lunch to the Queen, Sir John Kotelawala, Leader of the House of Representatives and Ceylon's representative, made a fine speech which evoked plaudits from the 750 members of the United Kingdom, Dominions and Colonial Legislatures in Westminster. He spoke with such fluency that his speech was praised by Sir Winston Churchill and other Commonwealth leaders, says the London Cor. of the "Times."

Sir John said: "Your Majesty, Your Royal Highness, My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen, we have just heard an eloquent speech from a representative of a Parliament of one of Your Majesty's territories peopled by members of the British race. Perhaps it is fitting that he is followed by representatives of Parliaments of many territories peopled by members of other races; and as such, I have the honour to address this distinguished gathering."

"On the eve of the historic event of the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, I take leave to recall an illustrious sovereign who bore the same name."

THE FIRST ELIZABETH

It is a matter of history that the foundations of the British Empire were laid during the reign of the first Elizabeth, not without great support and encouragement from the sovereign herself. That Empire grew and flourished until it came to be one of the most powerful the world had ever known; but in this case the fate that befell the other great Empires of the past was avoided. For this Empire didn't fall, but evolved into an association of peoples perhaps unique in history and full of promise for the future peace of the world.



Sir John Kotelawala

"The second Elizabeth commences her reign as Queen, not of an Empire but of free nations, each of whom has by individual choice accepted her as sovereign; and it is our hope that during her reign the number of those nations will increase."

"In the month of May, of the year 1937, in this very hall, members of what was then the Empire Parliamentary Association, met to greet their sovereign, George VI, on the eve of his Coronation. Little could they, on that occasion, have anticipated the events which were soon to follow; the grim test which the nations they represented were to undergo in a world war; the agony and destruction involved; nor again the ultimate flowering of the Empire into that of the Commonwealth of today."

...cipated the events which were soon to follow; the grim test which the nations they represented were to undergo in a world war; the agony and destruction involved; nor again the ultimate flowering of the Empire into that of the Commonwealth of today.

"SAME PURPOSES"

"The nations of the Commonwealth are many, their races and religions differ, each having to contend with different conditions and different problems; but the aspirations and purposes of those nations are the same; and the unity of the Commonwealth is characterised firstly by the free and unanimous acceptance of Your Majesty as its head and secondly by the fact that each of those nations has established for itself a system of Parliamentary Government based on the system so successfully evolved in the country which was the original

realm of Your Majesty's predecessor. "The legislature of my own country holds sessions in an unpretentious building far removed from these noble and historic precincts."

VOTE FOR THE TITLES

From my place in our Parliament not long ago, before a Mace of crystal and precious metal, a gift of that Parliament whose traditions we endeavour to follow, I of my free choice and as a representative of my people, cast my vote for a Bill by the authority of which Your Majesty has graciously assumed the title of Queen of Ceylon.

"It is in that title that I greet Your Majesty Elizabeth Second, Queen of Ceylon and wish you success, prosperity and peace for yourself and the Commonwealth in these words of our sages: "Royal splendour. Noble Deeds, Victory over evil."

(Continued on page 3)

Remarkable Revelations of Soviet Sabotage Abroad

New Book Serial Begins Next Week

WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SECURE THE RIGHTS TO PUBLISH SELECTIONS FROM THE REMARKABLE BOOK ENTITLED "THE RED NETWORK" BY JOHN BAKER WHITE.

John Baker White is the author of "Red Russia Arms," "Nationalisation—Chaos or Cure?" "Soviet Spy System," etc.

In the foreword to his latest book that we shall publish in this Journal beginning next week, John Baker White says: "My qualifications for writing it is that I have studied, and fought, Communism for close on thirty years."

"Those who take part in the cold war on the Communist side are very well supplied with a wide variety of training manuals. Those who fight in the democratic cause are very ill-equipped in this direction, and

often the effectiveness of their efforts is diminished by their lack of technical knowledge as to how the Communist machine works. To fill this need is the purpose of this little book."

WHAT IS THIS BOOK ABOUT?

It is a factual account of the methods and instruments employed by the Soviet Government in attempting to exert an influence on the British people. It describes the Soviet Government machine and the international network under its control, the organizations in the United Kingdom which link up with it, the detailed operation of the pro-Soviet network in the United Kingdom and the three levels of Soviet foreign policy which this elaborate machinery is designed to serve. The final sections illustrate some of the standard propaganda techniques which the Soviet Government is thus enabled to use in relation to the United Kingdom.

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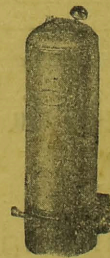
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India and Ceylon—A New Relationship

By Stanley Morrison

PERHAPS this week is the decisive week in Indo-Ceylon relations. Decisive in the sense that India's Prime Minister and Ceylon's Prime Minister will meet to put the seal on the accord which has been arranged by the Indian High Commissioner, Mr. C. Desai. When the Premiers meet there is not likely to be any last-minute hitch since the ground has been well prepared by Mr. Desai, while both Mr. Nehru and Mr. Dudley Senanayake are sincere about their earnestness in seeking a final solution to the problems that have kept the two countries apart all these post-war years.

What is the nature of the solution which these two men will agree to accept? That is yet a secret. But one thing is certain; it will involve sacrifices on both sides. And since sacrifices will have to be made by both countries in order to reach an agreement scope will be afforded to carping critics and the armchair specialists to attack the respective statesmen of India and Ceylon for having made those sacrifices. But they need not fear. The best minds on both sides of the Palk Straits and the vast majority of Indian and Ceylonese people thirst for a settlement and for the dawn of a new era of friendship and political partnership between the two countries. Thanks to Mr. Desai, the old feuds and misunderstandings between Ceylon and India are now a thing of the past. In the very short time he has been here Mr. Desai has dispelled the poisonous atmosphere of distrust and suspicion which has permeated all Indo-Ceylon relations. By his frank, realistic and sympathetic approach to the problem he has inspired amongst all responsible Ceylonese a feeling of confidence and goodwill towards him personally. By his brutally frank attitude towards Indians in Ceylon and his openly expressed sympathy for Ceylon's point of view on this vexed question, he has confronted Indians, who wish to make Ceylon their permanent home, with the necessity to change their outlook towards things Ceylonese and their often selfish conception of their own rights and claims. By the vigour of his approach to Indo-Ceylon problems, the geniality of his personality, and his obvious sincerity he has made the formidable obstacles to an agreement look trivial. In fact, the success with which he has handled these problems and the personalities so deeply involved in them Mr. Desai has given a triumphant demonstration of the value of sincerity, frankness, and withal a bold facing of facts (however unpleasant) by those concerned in evolving a settlement of troublesome and even dangerous problems.

No doubt, we are all too close to the event to appreciate the momentous importance of what Mr.

Desai has achieved in bringing together two neighbour countries which have everything to lose and a great deal to gain by agreeing to sink all differences and to unite for their common good. I am sure the day is not far distant when the grateful peoples of India and Ceylon will show their appreciation of Mr. Desai's services by erecting a monument to him on both sides of the Palk Straits so that when Indians come to Ceylon and Ceylonese visit India they will be reminded of the great Indian Civil Servant who united the two countries in a permanent bond of friendship. The cementing of these bonds is the beginning of that Commonwealth which Shri Nehru recently said he would like to create. All men and women of goodwill in Ceylon look forward to the day when a new Commonwealth will arise composed of India, Pakistan and Ceylon (and perhaps Burma, too). Such a Commonwealth, within the greater Commonwealth to which they now belong, would constitute an immense oasis of peace in an Asia torn by internecine strife and would be one of the most powerful economic blocs in the world—able to command the respect and goodwill of every other nation in the world. Working only for peace and prosperity, such an Asian Commonwealth would insure Asia against war by outlawing war as an instrument of political policy. By doing so, it would convince the Communist regime in China that they would have nothing to fear and that they could pursue their plans for converting China into a great agricultural and industrial State without the risk of being attacked by any other power.

And once Ceylon and India achieve a permanent settlement, it should be to the advantage of both countries to have a common foreign policy and joint defence arrangements. With Ceylon's friendship India would have the use of the greatest naval base in the Indian Ocean, namely, Trincomalee. And if India, Pakistan and Ceylon form a Commonwealth, the defence problems of the three countries would be simplified and the cost of defence be less of a burden than it is now. All three countries would, therefore, be able to breathe freely. A wonderful spirit of comradeship will arise among their peoples. And comradeship means confidence, and confidence breeds courage to face the future together in a great partnership. Such a partnership will mean a great new cultural renaissance for the peoples of the three countries. And a cultural renaissance connotes the lifting of the terrible burdens of poverty and despair from the backs of the masses. The inspiring feeling that they are looking forward to a land of promise will bring a great illumination into the lives of the peoples of this vast region such as they have never experienced except in the greatest eras of their storied past.

S. Anthony's Sports Club, Trincomalee

"Our thirtieth year has been again an year of success. It saw us annexing the much-coveted Lange Cup for a third time," remarked Mr. T. Ahambaram from the chair at the 31st annual general meeting of the St. Anthony's Sports Club, Trincomalee, held on the 23rd ultimo at the St. Joseph's College Hall.

The following were elected office-bearers for the current year:—

Patron: Captain A. C. Kanagasingham, J.P., U.M., M.B.E., Crown Proctor.

President: Mr. T. Ahambaram, J.P., U.M., Chairman, Urban Council, Trincomalee (re-elected for the 9th time).

Vice-Presidents: Messrs. S. Kanagasooriyar, P. M. S. Arulnandam, K. S. Manickam, A. R. A. M. Abou-

bucker, S. Sivapalan, Zain Jeffry, C. E. Grebe, J. R. Ludowyke, E. J. Candappa, A. P. Ratnam, B. J. S. Cadar, S. Shanmuganathan, M. Rasiah, A. Webster, H. Obeyasekera, P. E. Christie.

Hony. General Secretary: Mr. B. C. Johnpillai.

Asst. General Secretary: Mr. Xavier Varunakulasingham.

Sports Secretary: Mr. M. Shanmugarajah.

Ground Secretary: Mr. C. Lucas.

Captain, Soccer: Mr. S. Jamaldeen.

Captain, Volleyball: Mr. K. Shanmugasundram.

Captain, Athletics: Mr. E. John.

General Committee: Messrs. S. G. MuttuRajah, K. M. C. Cornelius, C. Vamadeva, A. Joseph, A. Duraisamy, B. Michael and B. J. Anthony.

A.B.C. PLAN FOR PEACE

By Eardley Gunasekera

IN the United States today there are three large national movements working for a world federation. These three national movements are supported by three private organisations in the Citizens Committee for United Nations Reform, the United World Federalists and the Federal Union. The policies and programmes of the three movements may be different but all agree that world peace could be maintained through an international organisation working on a principle of law underlying the American constitution. The three movements have received the approval of a large section of the American public and an appreciable quarter of the U.S. Senate.

The innumerable international organisations that have sprung up in the past could be broadly divided into two categories—the League type and the Federal type. Organisations of the type of the League of Nations and the United Nations belong to the former. One of the features of the League type of organisation is that the sovereignty of member states remains unimpaired and the central authority, as a result of which the central authority becomes a separate entity itself. Past world organisations have made attempts to instal peace in a troubled world but invariably these efforts have petered out. From the Federal type of international organisation there is some possibility of achieving this end, this statement I make because the Federal type has shown remarkable stability in America and Switzerland.

If then the world agrees to accept the Federal principle we are confronted with (1) whether an organisation based on such a principle would maintain peace; and (2) how we are to reach this goal. Remembering these considerations we must try to investigate what kind of federal structure would be most suited. The Soviet contention is that a world Communist State is the only solution and this the Citizens Committee for United Nations Reform rejects emphatically. It also rejects proposals such as a world socialistic state which was formulated by a special committee at the University of Chicago.

The Citizens Committee for United Nations Reform approaches the question from a different angle and in doing so are conscious of two guiding factors. Firstly whether a proposal could be completed before a third world war and secondly once completed whether it will maintain peace.

The Citizens Committee for United Nations Reform propounded the three-point A.B.C. plan for the overhaul of the United Nations organisation in which they stated as follows:—

POINT A: Elimination of veto right in defined matters of aggression and armament for aggression. Having eliminated this veto the composition of the Security Council had to be changed in order that the six smaller States cannot outvote the five major powers. This was to be effected by giving collective representation to the minor States. They also recommended a World Court to interpret the new revised charter and its jurisdiction would extend over both individuals and governments.

POINT B: Abolition of the atomic threat and the armament race. The committee observed that atomic energy had to be controlled internationally on the lines of the Baruch proposal. In the production of other weapons the larger states will not be allowed to exceed a quota while the smaller states will be prevented from exceeding a collective quota.

POINT C: Establishment of an effective by tyranny proof international police force. The nucleus of this force would be an international contingent controlled by the Security Council and a Federal force comprising of volunteers from the Smaller Member States. The federal force will be armed by the collective armament productions of the smaller states. The armed forces of the five major states would form the national contingents or reserves of the international police force.

By nourishing the United Nations Organisation with these three basic elements the Citizens Committee for United Nations Reform hoped to convert it into a federal organisation having world laws against aggression and a veto-less Council and Court to support them and lastly a police force to enforce the decision of the new organisation.

Sir John Makes Brilliant Speech

(Continued from page 1)

All good fortune. May these be yours for ever and ever."

"Long Live The Queen, My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen, will you be pleased to stand up. I submit to you the toast of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth Second."

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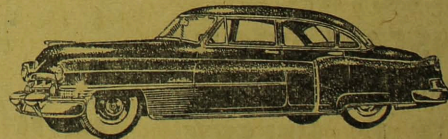
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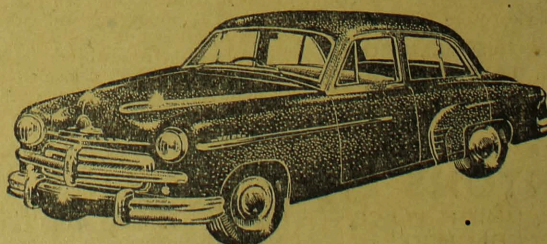
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Friday, June 5, 1953

MUST WE BEG?

Once again Mr. R. G. Senanayake has given the country the correct lead. In a speech at a public meeting at Kandy he said: "We must stop begging. Today, we stretch out our hands in all directions and implore give, give. Did our ancestors in the heyday of their prosperity and glory or in times of adversity, ask help from others in such vein? We have existed for 2,000 years without external assistance."

Mr. Senanayake explained how the people of China wondered at our wanting food from other countries. His appeal to the self-respect and honour of the people is truly praiseworthy. There has been a great deal of soul-destroying propaganda in our country. Always, always, during the last ten or fifteen years, the appeal has been to mercenary, selfish instincts of people.

The criminals who have murdered the better nature of the good people of Lanka are the leftists. They have known no other appeal but that of "wages and food," "wages and food"—all the time. Like vultures, these power-hungry hordes have pounced on every slight occasion available to make propaganda out of someone's misery. They build nothing and have destroyed the one virtue which kept the nation alive for 2,000 years—patriotism. Anyone who becomes a Marxist is promptly purged of patriotism. We have seen how young Marxists feel shy of such "primitive" feelings." It is time to take these Marxists sternly to task. Let us show them up to the nation.

There is no need to deal with them with such caution as we often see our speakers do. Let us launch a fighting campaign. Let us fearlessly appeal to the very heart of the nation, for that heart is still sound and beats with national pride.

APPOINTMENT OF VILLAGE HEADMEN

A series of appointments has recently been made to posts of Village Headmen. Different stories in regard to these appointments are now seasonal gossip in the villages. On this occasion, however, there is more than the usual bitterness in the charge that somewhere along the line bribery seems to tip the balance in favour of some candidates. Persons in high positions are openly named in this regard. While we appreciate the fact that every disgruntled candidate naturally blames everyone else but his own incompetence, we must draw the attention of the Government and the Government Agents in particular, to the need to investigate these charges. It is true that in many cases the highest officials have been chosen to interview and to make recommendations but between such interviewing and the final appointment and even in the preparation of the reports of each candidate on which the selection is ultimately based, much can happen.

Government Agents concerned will know the parties who are traditionally associated with bribery in Kachcheries. They are usually men who are supposedly incorruptible. Very often it is this cloak of incorruptibility which secures for the recipient of unlawful gratification the necessary security from being discovered.

We think it would be useful to invite the attention of the highest authorities to this problem so that they may be able to take steps to try and catch the culprits who are bringing the entire administration into disrepute.

Gandhi was Moved by Ruskin

Mr. Desai on Mahatma's Ideals

"It is historically correct to say that when great men live, the principles they stand for are often over-shadowed by their personality. The principles that Gandhiji stood for during his life time were not perhaps as forceful a source of inspiration as his lived life. He had a great following and drew under his leadership people of diverse faiths and from different spheres of life. His politics appealed to some; his ascetic life to some others. But if one were to analyse the one un-failing factor which roused and fascinated millions of people, it was his essential humanity. It was his concern for the welfare of all the people regardless of caste, creed or colour, that never failed to move all those who came into contact with him.

"Gandhiji has often confessed that he had read very little outside text books and of this little, John Ruskin's 'Unto This Last' and the Bhagwadgita were the main sources

of his inspiration. He found reflected in Ruskin's work some of his deepest convictions and these formed the basic principles of his concept of Sarvodaya. Gandhiji listed them as follows:

- (1) That the good of the individual is contained in the good of all.
- (2) That a lawyer's work has the same value as the barber's inasmuch as all have the same right of earning their livelihood from their work.
- (3) That a life of labour, i.e. the life of the tiller of the soil and the handicraftsman is the life worth living.

"These he made his guiding principles throughout his life and what was later come to be known as Sarvodaya, he described as constructive work," said Shri C. C. Desai, Indian High Commissioner for Ceylon at the All-Ceylon Sarvodaya Conference at Jaffna.

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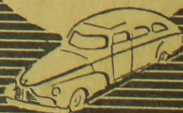
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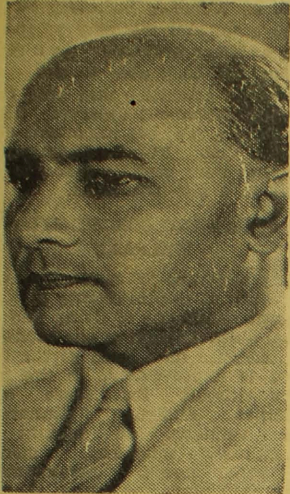


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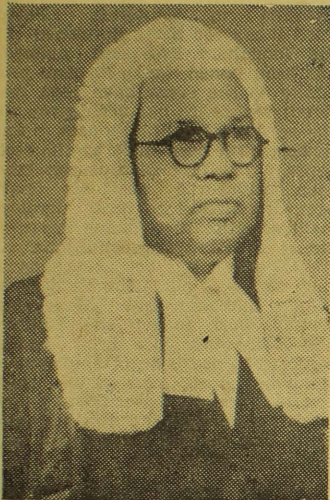
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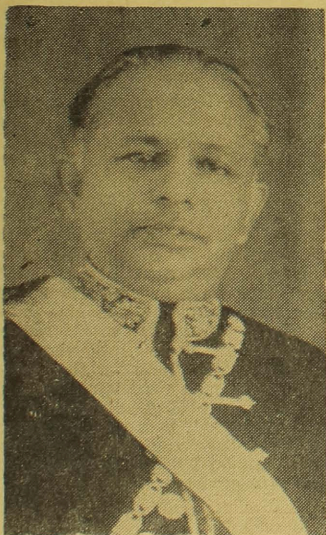
Ceylon's share of Coronation honours includes one Knighthood of the British Empire and two Knights Bachelor. Thirty others are awarded Imperial honours. The K.B.E. is awarded to Sir Ukwatte Jayasundera, while Dr. N. Attygalle and Gate Mudaliyar S. T. P. Rodrigo are created Knights Bachelors.



Sir Nicholas Attygalle



Sir Ukwatte Jayasundera
K. B. E.



Sir Philip Rodrigo

OBJECTIVE CONTROL

By T. M. G. Samat

BRITAIN provided 53 experts out of a total of 137, according to a Colombo Plan Technical Aid report on technical aid to under-developed areas in South East Asia. Only one of these was an Accountant—a Cost Accountant for the Government of Pakistan's Ordnance factories. If that gives a general idea of the composition of experts, it would also give an idea of the lack of appreciation of objective control.

What is the use of all the professional groups in any concern without accountants for objective control?

Objective control is essential to the national structure for it takes more than a block Vote and a group of technical experts to establish and keep running a successful and profitable enterprise. This need was never so obvious in this country as in the press reviews of the Report of the Commission of Government Commercial Undertakings. It will be a good thing if under the Colombo Plan Technical Co-operation for South East Asia or under the United Nations Technical Aid arrangements, Ceylon could get at least one expert in Accounting and Management to advise us on our railways, Municipal undertakings not to mention the Government Commercial undertakings.

There is no doubt methods to achieve economy and effective administration and other advanced techniques in accounting have their place in a country's structure. There are plenty of good men on the spot with training in government accounting and in running the Vote system of controlling expenditure. No one who has used this system would question their value. But these methods only contribute towards objective control. Objective control can only be exercised by the accountant in charge of organisation and management or rather the extent to which he is able to watch over the security and well being of the community of which he is leader.

In this kind of organisation and management the objective that has to be faced is not a process of thought for economy and administration but an effective control of the undertaking as a whole from the national point of view of the structure. At present it could be just a rough and tumble with a complicated set of figures and a mind allergic to any suggestion that the mental approach to the problems could be changed.

An illustration of this point might be found in a Superintendent of an estate who wishes to have all the roads and culverts of the best type constructed for communications within the estate but it is the Accountant in charge of organisation and management who is the

(Continued on page 6)

Gangodawila

Youth Leaguer Gifts Land for Road

Mr. Oliver Perera's Generous Gesture

THE Hony. Secretary of the Gangodawila Branch of the U.N.P. in the Kotte electorate, Mr. B. M. Oliver Perera, has opened a 10-foot roadway through his land for the benefit of his fellow citizens at Gangodawila.

A footpath was in use for a long time through which hundreds of

children and adults had been allowed to get to and from the main road.

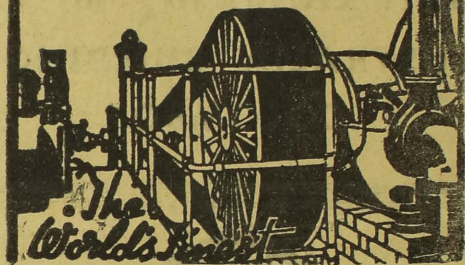
Mr. Oliver Perera has now made a 10-foot roadway with barbed-wire fences on either side. A number of Youth Leaguers joined Mr. Perera in working on the road.

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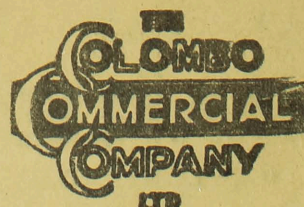


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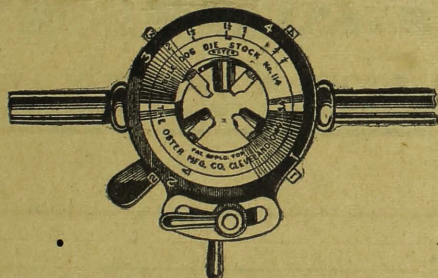


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Progress of Rural Development

Organisational Set-Up Working Well

TO obtain successful results it appears necessary for the more important, better educated and well-to-do residents of the villages to take greater interest and to lend a helping hand to those actually engaged in carrying out Rural Welfare work. The clergy in the villages, too, can help a great deal in this respect. It is heartening to note that slowly but surely these groups of persons are responding to the call. There have been some in the recent past drawn both from the clergy and the laity who have spent a good part of their time and energy in promoting welfare work among the rural population in different aspects with marked results."

The above general observations are made by the Director of Rural Development in his Administration Report for 1952.

The organizational set-up has been working quite satisfactorily. Rural Development officers are attached to the Divisional Revenue Officers of whom there are 107. In the case of Tamankaduwa district in the North-Central Province, where due to the size and the language problem of the area two officers have been posted, one Tamil and the other Sinhalese. The arrangement fits in very well with the framework of Provincial Administration, through which the Department of Rural Development carries on all its activities.

5,562 SOCIETIES ESTABLISHED

Rural Development Societies and Group Societies have continued to be the organizations at village level for all activities. The number of these societies total 5,562 up to the end of 1952. In addition there are 1,696 women's societies (Kantha and Mahila Samities). This represents an increase of 444 men's societies and 475 women's societies during the past year. The progress in women's welfare work is indicated by the fact that in addition to the Mahila Samities, affiliated to the Central Mahila Samiti in Colombo, there have sprung up throughout the country about one thousand other Women's Societies. These, too, have started work on much the same lines and have rendered very useful service to the women-folk, particularly in areas which had not been tapped before. Their work has been voluntary on a very large scale and very little financial assistance from Government or other sources was available to them. The Department has been somewhat handicapped by the absence of women officers for the promotion of

work of Women's Societies, on the same scale and intensity as in the case of Men's Societies. As a result it has not been able to pay the degree of attention that this fast-growing movement deserves. There are quite a few, but important activities that Rural Development Societies have usefully taken to entirely in a self-help basis.

BACKWARD COMMUNITIES WELFARE

The activities in connection with the work of improvements in the present conditions of living and the social disadvantages of the backward communities have been so far confined to improvements in the facilities existing for these communities, Rodiyas, Kinnarayas and Veddahs, at present in agriculture, education, medical and social needs. Arrangements have been made for special schemes for Veddahs, of land alienation to them close to their original habitats in Nilobe, Pollebadda, Kurunduwinna in Bintenna Pattu. Such lands are being developed by the Veddahs. Free seed material has been issued, tanks in close proximity to the areas have been restored; assistance has been given for the construction of houses, and schools have been built by the residents. Visiting Dispensaries have been opened and residents have been organized into rural development societies to continue improvements in their living conditions. A special officer has been stationed at each centre to guide the Veddahs at Nilobe, Dambana and Mullegama. Welfare work among the Rodiyas and Kinnarayas has been mainly confined to provision of employment for able-bodied men among these communities, in Government and semi-Government departments especially the Medical Department and the Local Authorities.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

"In the prevalent world setting of interest by international agencies in the development of backward conditions in South-East Asia," says the Director of Rural Development, "the work of this department and the problem of backwardness in Ceylon have necessarily received the attention of various international bodies such as the International Labour Organisation, U.N.E.S.C.O., World Health Organization, etc. Accordingly the department has had frequent opportunities of contacting and discussing with representatives of these various organizations, the scheme of Rural Development in this country. This has been done at several conferences along with other departments interested in these same problems, and also individually in interviews with representatives of these organizations who have called here for the purpose. The many foreign visitors who came here were impressed with the progress made and indicated that they learned certain lessons which can be usefully adopted in their own countries."

Objective Control

(Continued from page 5)

technical expert in his field who has to devise a way of thought by which the objective of the Superintendent of the estate could be achieved maintaining a stable and secure financial condition with the money available. The accountant would have to contend with such matters as the vagaries of the weather interfering with production and such causes as vagaries in demand due from competitive prices to a change in fashion, in investigating the objective of the Superintendent of the estate. It is a difficult position to the accounting since organisation and management of a high order may be called for.

Overall co-ordination in objective control becomes more and more essential in this age of specialisation where the number of experts are bound to increase due to technical and scientific developments. In other words such a system of objective control would not only result in prompt action but also avoid the holding of inquests long after the event.

Something more than normal accounting, objective control is more concerned in the control of the future. It is a subject which has yet to receive the consideration it deserves so that for University students in Ceylon there is a wide field here for opportunity for increased service to the community.

Essential Conditions for Democratic Government

By S. Sittravel

"OUR Constitution is named a democracy because it is in the hands not of the few but of the many. But our laws secure equal justice for all in their private disputes and our public opinion welcomes and honours talent in every branch of achievement, not for any sectional reason but on grounds of excellence alone. And as we give free play to all in our public life, so we carry the same spirit into our daily relations with each other open and friendly in our private intercourse, in our public acts we keep strictly within the control of law. We acknowledge the restraint of reverence, we are obedient to whomsoever in set in authority, and to the laws we are lovers of beauty without extravagance, and lovers of wisdom without unmanliness. Our citizens attend both to public and private duties, and do not allow absorption in their own various affairs, to interfere with their knowledge of the city's. We differ from other states in regarding the man who hold aloof from public life not as 'quiet' but as useless. We decide or debate, carefully and in person, all matters of policy, holding, not that words and deeds go ill together, but that acts are foredoomed to failure when undertaken undiscussed." Abraham Lincoln defined democracy as the government of the people for the people and by the people. "Democracy", said Lord Bryce, "is a form of government in which the ruling power of the state is vested in the members of the community as a whole." Democracy implies not only a form of government but also a particular social organisation. It naturally required a fitting kind of people and a fitting atmosphere for its success.

A well formed, well informed intelligent and alert public opinion is the first and the foremost essential condition for the success of democracy.

There must be freedom to criticise the government. The people must

have full freedom to criticise the policy and program of the government. This criticism will go a long way in righting the wrong and avoiding the undesirable.

There should exist a proper social and economic atmosphere. By this we mean that there should be the equality of opportunity. The people must be given an equal right to grow in whatever way they like. There should be no inferiority or superiority and everyone should have even the right for contesting for the post of the Prime Minister. So, Franklin D. Roosevelt has rightly remarked that "the very soundness of our democratic institutions depends on the determination of our government to give employment to the idle man."

There should be peace and security in the country. But the place must not be established and maintained by the force of arms, it should have its foundation in the accommodating and peaceful habits of the people.

Democracy is based on the expectation of certain virtues in the people. For, democracy is nothing but the people themselves. So if the people are good, the government is good and if people are bad the government is bad. Therefore, it is essential that for the successful working of government the people should have a spotless character.

People should be public spirited. They should have an idea to serve the public without an interest of their own. In this connection I wish to point out an incident that took place at the Kankasanturai Railway station. Two gentlemen entered a railway compartment. They found that a door was broken and needed repairs. They reported to the station authorities. Now this is called public spiritedness. If they had not reported it was quite possible that someone might have fallen through this defective door. But these gentlemen had a sense of love for public.

People should be tolerant. They should tolerate the opinion of others. Let everyone speak of others. They should be liberty loving. If they have a love for liberty they will never allow a government to take away their rights. "It is liberty which befits men for liberty."

Local government includes in itself various institutions like Municipalities, Urban Councils, Town Councils and Village Committees. It has been found that these institutions have proved to be very beneficial in creating political consciousness in the people. It has been said that local government is the foundation of National government. The local government creates interest in the people. The average citizen is not so much interested in national affairs as in the affairs of his own locality. In this connection I may point out Mr. S. de S. Jayasinghe, M.P. for Wellawatte-Galkissa, who defeated the propaganda chief of the L.S.S.P. at the last general election had his political foundation from the Dehiwala-Mt. Lavinia Urban Council. When people elect members, they see their activities afterwards, when they are in the chair. Thus they distinguish the good from the bad. This helps them in electing the right man for the Local Government and so it has been rightly called as "collar bone of democracy."

It is said, "education breeds democracy." Education is the touchstone of a good government. For, it creates various virtues in the people.

These are the conditions that constitute the right atmosphere for democracy. And it is only by the presence of these conditions that we can refute the remarks of Rousseau that the democracy can be successful in a community of Gods.

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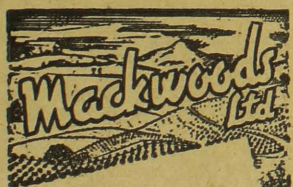
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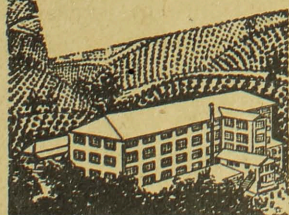


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The operations of this Association are spread throughout the Commonwealth and, besides having Branch Offices in all the capital cities of Australia and New Zealand, it has District Offices in practically every town of note in Great Britain and in South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

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